

Regular Council meeting of December 17, 2013.

Present were: Mayor Spieth, Councilmembers Naillon, Neal, Hart and Roley.
Absent: Koepke.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Spieth. Pledge of Allegiance given.
Copies of the December 3rd meeting minutes were read and approved.

Public hearing on the final draft of the 2014 Budget. Clerk Jones highlighted items included in the budget: Carry-over of the N.E. reservoir tank installation and the Central and Cherry Street STP and TIB funded street overlay with water main replacement funds. The city will continue to provide fire and ambulance services to the local rural districts and will also continue to host the Bldg. Official/Permit Admin. Program, sharing time with Okanogan and Tonasket. Also included as a carry-over from the 2013 Budget is the city's share of the new ambulance being purchased along with EMS Dist. #1. Other continued programs include the Stonegarden Grant and a child passenger seat safety grant. All employees were approved to receive a \$90.00 per month wage increase, aside from a couple of small wage adjustments. At this time, there are no proposed increases for water, sewer, or garbage utilities and no employee layoffs are required to balance the 2014 Budget. Motion by Neal and seconded by Hart Ord. #833, setting the 2014 Budget in Summary form, be adopted as read and a summary be published as required by law. Motion carried.

Bid opening for the 2014-2016 Fuel and oil products. Only one bid was received. Motion by Neal and seconded by Naillon the 2014-2016 Fuels and oils bid be awarded to Romine Fuel, Oroville, noting that all requested information was supplied and price was acceptable. Motion carried.

Library Committee and Mayor set meeting to discuss Library Reading Room uses and will have a recommendation at next meeting.

Council was informed that the application submitted to the Transportation Improvement Board for 2014 Small Cities Pavement Preservation funds was not selected for funding.

Supt. Noel reported that the NorthEnd Reservoir project has been shut down due to cold weather and the fact that the tank was delayed a week or so. The contractor is attempting to do some preliminary water main testing in order to receive payment for the line materials and installation costs and is working towards some type of agreement to at least get payment for the tank purchase. More information will follow.

Noel also reported on the conference call city staff had with Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting, and Melissa Downs, Dept. of Ecology about the status of the city's water right transfer and the challenge made by CELP. Another conference call has been scheduled for January 7th to hopefully find out DOE's decision.

Glenda Harvey submitted written complaint about the blowing sand/dirt from the Prince property where Gold Diggers Warehouse stores apple bins. Statements in her complaint include:

1. Thousands of dollars being spent over the last few years for:
 - Raising irrigation sprinklers twice and now need it again
 - Having to vacuum the lawn (and the need to hire professionals the years when the task is too much for her to handle)
 - Her yard has gone from lush lawn to dirt
 - The sandblasting effect of blowing sand/dirt has necessitated Painting the house every 5 years instead of the customary 10 years

- North windows cannot be opened for air circulation
- Three month air furnace filters often need to be changed within a month
- Allergen HEPA filter vacuums are required due to the fine silt that settles everywhere in the house
- She has health concerns regarding allergies, sneezing and sinus drainage after mowing her lawn and the clouds of dust created from the accumulated sand/dirt
- Her porch and gazebo serve no practical purpose except to gather dust and dirt
- The loss of resale value of her property. Her neighbors had to leave their home and perspective buyers decide not to buy because of all the dirt inside and outside the house.
- Mail from inside the mailbox needs to be dusted as it is too grimy to handle.

Mayor Spieth shared 12 photos he had taken earlier today of the excessive buildup of sand/dirt in the yards of a couple of houses on the south side of 5th near the bin lot. While Gold Digger Warehouse does attempt to keep the dust under control, water trucks can't be used during cold weather and aren't used on holidays, weekends or nights when the wind blows from the north. Jon Neal, a home and business owner also on 5th, and who has issued numerous complaints to the city and to the state Dept. of Ecology, said that the blowing sand/dirt often affects his business (auto body and paint) and the Mayor noted that one of the photos includes the "third" load of dirt being swept off of Neal's driveway pavement. Neal also stated that Gold Digger Apples does make token efforts and also moves the bins to create a "wall" to try to help block the blowing dirt but then all you see out your windows to the north are bins. Supt. Noel stated that something permanent needs to be done, and now..... He certainly wouldn't live under these conditions and no one else should have to either, especially since complaints have been received for a number of years and that it was only about two years ago when he and other city reps met with both the property owner and the warehouse manager about eliminating this problem. Noel said when the recent cold north winds were blowing, 5th Ave east of Fir Street looked like it was in the middle of a desert sand storm.... You couldn't see anything. Efforts to permanently resolve the issue will take place.

Ed Naillon will deliver the 2014 AWC Quality Communities Scholarship information to the High School Counselor's office.

Motion by Neal and seconded by Naillon the Dec. 15th payroll of \$39,833.71, #16425-16446 be approved, that vouchers #16447-16489, \$67,359.05 be paid and the meeting be adjourned at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes approved _____

Mayor

Clerk