

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Lava Hot Springs, Idaho held Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., Lava City Hall, 115 West Elm Street, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

Present:

Marshall N. Burgin, Mayor  
Michael Vice, Councilman  
Newton J. Lowe, Councilman  
Phillip Beeson, Councilman  
Katherine Smith, Council member

Canda L. Dimick, City Clerk

Guests: Dr. Robert Rush, Evelee Hill Rush, Nancy Turecek, Patrick Mixdorf and Brooke West.

Mayor Burgin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Main Street Planters

Project is too big and expensive. Business owners need to be involved and do not seem to be supportive. Businesses need to be queried and city needs feedback from the Chamber and there needs to be some in-kind commitment. Plan is to eventually work with business owners to improve and correlate their planter areas into the project. There were concerns with the initial capital improvement cost and the fact that it will take three months of the tax collections annually to cover upkeep costs. The project is labor and cost intensive and there are liability risks. Brook West clarified that the project was not her project that it is Lava Pride's and that she will be responsible for the maintenance with some backup and that Lava Pride is committing a lot of volunteer labor. An optional flag project to eliminate maintenance costs was suggested. It is questionable if the 1% tourism development promotion tax can legally be used to fund beautification projects. The purpose of the tax is to build tourism in the off seasons. The local tax ordinance reads exactly like what was voted on the ballot. All agreed Main Street needs a face lift. City officials are working on forming a 1% advisory committee. Committee member representation needs to be diversified. Evelee has obtained research information from other communities on how their tax committees were established and administered. Councilman Vice, Evelee Rush and Londa Palmer are meeting Friday to compile a list of prospective committee members as asked by the council. Scaling back to a pilot project may encourage community participation. Lava Pride, Lava Chamber and Horizons all need to meet and coordinate efforts. Projects need

Main Street Planters cont.

to be unified. Lava Pride has been in contact with Pocatello Chamber and gleaned some information from their project. Planters will run perpendicular with Main Street. Evelee explained the efforts of the Lava Chamber of Commerce's advertising committee to conduct a Lava branding study primarily related to the commercial district. Dr. Rush supported a long term project to brand the town and understood need to quit tapping funds. It was advised that those working on the branding project should be working with the Comprehensive Plan Committee. There was a considerable amount of discussion regarding height restrictions, interference with seasonal flags and maintenance equipment. Council all agreed that the committee needed to be established first and that project approval needed to be postponed. Motion was made by Councilman Vice and seconded by Councilman Beeson to hold off on funding the project until the committee is organized. All voted aye. Unanimous.

Public Restroom Maintenance

Evelee Rush informed council she has hired two Chinese college students to work for her May through August and that they may be interested in some additional income. The college students are visiting on a special VISA so the city would not have to pay any FICA, or workmens compensation; when the students return to their country of origin they apply for federal and state withholding refunds. Employment procedures will have to be researched. City would like to fund the restroom maintenance expense from the 1%. Job description is on file. Breakdown of last year's expenditures was reviewed. Council member Smith recommended hiring two positions because the job duties are too time consuming for one. City of Pocatello pays \$7.35 to \$10.47 p/h for employees who clean restrooms, mow, clean flower beds, etc. \$9.00 p/h for twenty hours p/w for thirty weeks would cost the city \$5,400 just for labor costs. Positions could help with mowing, trimming, emptying trash cans and cleaning restrooms, etc. Restrooms need to be checked at least twice a day. Supply costs unknown. Hiring minors will require adult supervision. Mayor Burgin reported that the Lion's Club has met and their revenues are down and they are not able to assist the city with the expense. Portable toilet facilities may have to be rented until the problem is resolved. It was suggested to contact the individual who cleaned last year to see if she is interested in returning and if she needs help, and allow her to hire a second position. The city is not going to pay the \$750 bill to the Lava Senior Citizens and South Bannock County Historical Center. The city is going to use the \$,1500 to

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Public Restroom Maintenance Cont. purchase supplies. Total budget \$5,000. The city will do a pilot project this year, hire two individuals not to exceed twenty hours total per week. City maintenance personnel will continue emptying the Main Street garbage containers. Extra bags are placed in the bottom of each container. Chamber members will be made aware of the extra bags. Business owners and citizens have permission to empty containers if they are overflowing. Motion was made by Councilman Vice and seconded by Councilman Beeson giving Councilmember Smith permission to contact Patricia Minor and to pursue any of the other options discussed. All voted aye. Unanimous. Restrooms need to be opened for the annual Easter Egg Hunt then closed until mid May.

Wastewater Improvement Project DEQ is pleased with the progress of the project since the city has been awarded the \$250,000 federal appropriation for engineering services.

(Scope of Work) Proposed scope of work for selection process contract was reviewed. Keller Associates' proposed contract to relook at all the different system options already addressed in the initial facility plan study. Keller is willing to refine the contract and focus on a lagoon system with land application. Council's interests were to review land application alternative sites identified in the study, provide updated cost estimates and evaluate other location alternatives including the golf course. The city's operator license will have to upgrade two classification levels to apply water to a golf course. Discharging to the river will no longer be permitted. Discussion followed regarding the inflow and infiltration of hot water. Inflow from a spring in the basement of the Blue Moon Bar was discussed. It was questioned if there was a leak in the city's water system. The street was lowered several years ago because it was believed that drainage from the street was causing the problem but it did not resolve the sub water situation. There is water standing in a meter base across the street and the area where a repair was made last year seems to be sinking again. No matter where the water is coming from it needs to be taken out of the sewer system and piped to the storm drain system. The inflow/infiltration study will be conducted during two different seasons. The main trunk line will be evaluated during the spring run-off season. Having Keller revise their scope of work to focus solely on a land application system then meet was suggested. Keller doesn't

(Scope of Work cont.)

feel that they have been given a clear direction even though they received a copy of the facility plan study and have had a year to review it. Keller guaranteed the city that they would familiarize themselves with the history of the project for free. Keller need an opportunity to address questions and the project needs to keep moving forward. Keller has contacted the city questioning the status of the selection process contract. The contract was sent to the city attorney but tabled awaiting input from USDA. USDA has advised the city that they have a new program that the city could apply for to fund the contract. There were some concerns and comments expressed regarding Keller's recent termination from a Soda Springs project. Keller will be advised to be careful when Lava's project goes to bid. There are a lot of contractor's looking for work now which should be a benefit. A questionnaire was received from DEQ for stimulus funding. Discussion followed regarding rates and the need to look at them again this year. Current rates do not include repayment of any projected debt. Last year's increase covered depreciation as projected by a Boise State University consultant. Comparing Lava's rates to national and state averages is not fair. Mayor will contact Keller to schedule a meeting with them next week.

Motion was made by Council member Smith and seconded by Councilman Vice to adjourn. All voted aye. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Canda L. Dimick, City Clerk

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Marshall N. Burgin, Mayor