



BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON CITY OFFICE
45 N 1st West
January 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Attendees: Roy Bunderson, Mike Knapp, Philip Ward, Dan Porter, Cindy Piggott, Marilyn Wilkes, Debbie Thomas, and Shanna Spuhler.

BADC Attendees: Wayne Lloyd, David Bee, Rob Allred

Community Attendees: Shawn Turner

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Roy Bunderson

INVOCATION – Councilman Mike Knapp

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilman Philip Ward

Motion made to amend the agenda and move Charlotte Marx to the front position on the agenda.

- Motion by Philip, Second: Dan, Vote Unanimous

Charlotte started by saying she knew most of us and we knew her. When her son passed away, the laws had changed and she was unable to get into her family home. She has just been able to get into her home with the help of locksmith. When she entered the home, she found that pipes had burst and water and ice were everywhere. She stated she didn't know about the water bill not being up to date. She said she couldn't pay all off the bill tonight, but asked if she could pay \$70 tonight and each month until the water bill was caught up.

Roy stated that the city is not a finance company, but we won't shut off the water if she continues to pay the \$70 each month until paid off.

Charlotte stated the water has been shut off because of the damage.

Roy then stated we would turn the water on when she needs it as long as she is paying on her bill. Late fees will not be waived.

She will give notification before she uses her water key and turns the water on.

Marilyn shared an offer from a private individual who will pay \$195 of her bill and bring her current. She refused this offer.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Motion to approve minutes as written: Cindy, Second: Philip, Vote unanimous with Roy and Mike abstaining because of absence that evening.

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Roy: on line 233, 7.1 He understood we were going to take out the "deprivation of water services" part of the ordinance, but it has been left in.

David Bee explained we changed the word "shall" to "may."

It was also explained that we need to leave that wording in because there are other ways people can harm the sewer system. Some examples are listed in 6.6 of the ordinances. It is just not because of non-payment that deprivation of water services may take place.

Roy: 6.7 How do you propose to police that one? This section states concerns with sump pumps dumping into the sewer system.

Wayne: We left that part in as a deterrent.

Roy asked Shawn how he felt about that. Shawn stated It's just what they used to do.

Wayne: I think our feeling was it needed to be in there.

It was decided to leave that section prohibiting sump pumps in the ordinance.

Roy stated that 7.1 is probably not a bad idea to leave it in, in case the city runs into someone who is non-cooperative.

Wayne Lloyd stated that once again the word "may" was used.

Mike: 5.3 I know that it says we can only have one hook up, but this section makes it sound like you have to hook up and some properties can't.

David: In 3.1 it explains that each home in the city limits must hook up if municipal sewer service can be provide.

Mike: 4.3 is talking about giving access to city employees to make sure fixtures are okay.

Marilyn: What outside fixtures might there be? Grinder pumps and frost-free hydrants are examples of outside fixtures.

Wayne: There really should be no reason to go onto private property.

Rob: What if you suspect someone is dumping oil or paint thinner down the drain?

Mike: I understand that there may be a need, but why would we give cart blanche onto someone's property?

Shawn: As we take water samples, we go onto people's private property to take water samples. We have to go to five different homes to take those samples.

Mike: Can we add language that says emergency circumstances or by appointment, and can we eliminate the word fixtures?

All agreed the word fixtures will be taken out.

"For emergency situation or by appointment" will be added to 4.3.

Philip asked what about the person who won't respond.

Under 4.3, "access is allowed under emergency situation or by appointment" will be added at the beginning this sentence. Marilyn will wordsmith this sentence.

Roy: Can you live with that?

All agreed that was a good change.

Mike also had a concern with coming into conformity within 15 days.

Roy suggested we add "or within a term mutually agreeable by both parties."

All agreed to add this clause.

Mike: 7.2 is my biggest concern, "Criminal Penalties." I can't live with threatening to put someone in jail for being non-compliant with their sewer system.

David said he was thinking this would concern someone who vandalizes the system.

Roy asked how the council felt about this section.

Philip and Dan both said there has to be a better way to word this.

Cindy and Roy suggested “subject to criminal prosecution under local or state laws” be used instead of jail time.

Marilyn: do you want to leave the “fine” language in?

Roy: The sum of \$300 is typically the language used as punishment in Idaho. We can just take out that language because the State of Idaho takes care of that.

The language now reads, “Such offence is subject to criminal prosecution under local or State laws.”

WATER ORDINANCE

Wayne said they brought the water ordinance in line with the sewer ordinance. He asked the council to take the Water Ordinance home and go through it and be ready to discuss it.

David: Line 90 in the Water Ordinance – we changed the word premises to building.

Water ordinance will be gone through and brought back and talked about.

David: Be prepared to have a big discussion on wasteful use of water.

Roy suggested if anyone has any changes, they could email them and they can be changed and brought back to the work meeting on February 1st already corrected.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT – None

Forest Service Grant Update

Wayne said Jerry is not here tonight; we are still searching for definite ideas that we want to go for. We have talked about the signs, but are there other things that we want to apply for.

Roy asked what is the scope of that grant and is it an annual or a one-time thing.

Dan said that Jerry told him the grant amount was around \$10,000 to \$15,000, and these funds are just a gift.

Roy said with the snow plow truck we have; we are almost at the max as to what it can do.

We’ll continue to hire Rick for \$1000 each time we hire him to wing back the roads.

Roy shared that the County Commissioners just got two more COVID monies for a total of \$872,000. Roy visited with Amy today and he is in the process of trying to get a determination as to what services we get from the county. He is theorizing If you take a good hard look, over 50% of the property taxes paid to fund the county are from the cities of Paris, Bloomington, St. Charles, Georgetown, Montpelier. Can you tell me what services we get for the county? They don’t gravel our roads or help in anyway.

The sheriff does not want to continue the arrangement we have with the deputies, which is we pay for 20 hours of patrol per week.

As Roy was talking with the sheriff, he suggested that the cities get together and go to the county and support them in hiring two more deputies to patrol our incorporated cities. Roy was not happy with this. He turned it around and said, “What I think we need to do is ask you to hire two more deputies so you can provide the service we expect.” He stated we are going to stay on top of this because we’re probably not going to get anything this summer.

Wayne said he thinks the city gets short-changed by the county.

Roy stated there are other resources we need to look at to get some funding for our little city.

Jerry called Wayne tonight and brought up the snow plow. He agrees with Roy that we need to do something more for years like this. The truck just doesn’t have the weight it needs.

Marilyn asked what we want the committee to work on next, ADUs, Nuisance, RV Ordinance?

Wayne said there's been a lot of work done on the ADU.

Roy said the ADU is one of the things that has the most bearing on people being able to maximize the use of their property.

All agreed that the ADU would be the next ordinance the council wants the BADC to work on.

ROB SHADOWING SHAWN

Roy shared that Rob has been going out and plowing out the city fire hydrants. Roy thanked Rob for his service and stated that we would like to reimburse him for his service. Rob asked how he would like to do that? Roy stated we would pay him as an independent contractor.

Wayne will share a map of the fire hydrants with Rob. Rob mentioned that some hydrants don't have flags. Shawn stated the city has some.

Roy: Another thing we may want to do is to put out an email about picking up their garbage cans as soon possible as we don't know exactly when Rick will show up should his services be needed again. We would also remind them to park their cars off the road completely.

Wayne Lloyd said the BADC will be checking on the Forest Service Grant, snow plow, parking lot, and ADU.

Dan shared a bid on the movable sign. The cost is \$3300. It can be put on another U post and moved when necessary.

WATER

Report on DEQ Grant Application: Kyle did submit the application to DEQ for the one-time grant. The grant is 12 pages long. This is just an application so nothing is guaranteed. We will go through the points process to see if we qualify.

The city applied for:

- Need for increase size on transmission line from storage tank booster pump station
- New chlorination building
- New chlorination system
- Power for chlorination building
- Replace flow meters to and from water tanks

Shawn: There is one thing I have a concern on: it does suggest that we will increase our rates if we get the grant.

Roy: Is that mandatory?

Shawn stated no, but it will improve our chances. We have until Friday to make changes if we need to.

Shawn said there are other things we need to ask questions about. Are we going to have to spend \$22,000 to get this grant?

Dan asked if Kyle sent Philip a bid on replacing the valve.

Wayne Lloyd shared the fact that Kyle submitted this application at no cost to the city and this grant does not have any engineering use in it, so it would not be using Kyle's company.

Roy: Kyle has been an excellent resource for the city. All agreed.

Dan: We need to be moving in the direction of earning points, so we can improve our chances of getting a grant. Kyle is an excellent resource to help us bring up our points.

Shawn – we did have a positive hit on chloroform levels in December. He thinks that we have been running at such low levels all summer and not filling up our pipes. Now we are running at higher levels, we are rushing some of that stuff down and cleaning out the pipes.

If indeed we do get this grant, and if we would redo the chlorination building that may get that problem out of the way.

Wayne: We were really tight to get this grant application in. In the future we need to be more prepared and get things done sooner.

Roy: Another thing he would like to see the city do is have a 5- or 10-year budget plan, not just a one-year budget. If we would have been reserving money for a snow plow truck, we could have saved enough to purchase one. You are supposed to spend all your budget each year, but if you put a caveat out there that you're reserving for future purchase, you can do that.

Philip: We need to have a file with Shawn's license number in it so we are more prepared.

ROADS

Dan stated we have no chance of applying for a grant through LTAC without a Transportation Plan. We do have a record of what work has been done on what roads. Dan had been trying to pursue crack seal. Kyle told him that is not the way to go. We need to chip seal every 5 years. We need to get the county on board with helping us chipseal.

Roy asked if that was something we have enough money to do this summer? If we do, we need to arrange through the county for chip seal in March or April, so they can get the oil or the chips.

Dan stated he doesn't think we are ready to do that. We need to complete our transportation plan. Kyle is working on it now. Our next step, once the weather warms up, is to hold an open city meeting and invite all the land owners and business owners and explain what's going on. Kyle will help us set that up when it's time to do that. This meeting will serve as the road committee.

Dan suggested when we talk about receiving forest service funds, we need to earmark their monies to Canyon Street.

Roy said there is nowhere for water to go on our roads. It can't run off the side, and that is hard on them.

Philip: I think we should use the money from the Forest Service for chip seal instead of another radar sign.

Dan said the signs we have now are not enough protection for our residents up Canyon Street.

Roy: the county gets PELT Funds. The reason they get that money is to compensate the County for all the untaxed property that resides within the borders of our County. That is one of the reasons they qualified for the COVID Funds. I don't think it's out of the ordinary, or that we are treated as if we're just putting our hand out. We are the people that put up with all the traffic to get up to Bloomington Lake. Paris to get to the ice cave. They take those funds and use them for all their goodie projects. The cities have got to get together and help the county understand they wouldn't get those monies if it wasn't for the resources up our cities' canyons.

SEWER

Mike stated we think we have the problem with the breakers kicking on our lift station. Tyler Warner came over and fixed them. They were set at a pretty low break.

Mike will do the as built owed to the city on the Smith home in the spring.

CITY HALL / OFFICES

Cindy is concerned about the removal of snow this winter. It is very difficult to shovel off the ramps as you need to throw it over the railings. She asked the council if we can get a snow blower in the city?

Roy might know where we can get one donated.

TREASURER

Payment Of Expenses

Dan made a motion to pay the expenses as submitted, Second: Mike, Vote Unanimous

Delinquent Accounts

Marilyn: We have very few who will get a delinquent email.

Roy shared his appreciation for Marilyn and her work. This is the best he's ever seen the accounts receivable.

CLERK

Peterson Plumbing

Shanna shared the order for the meter kits have been canceled. They said they lost all our documentation. We are now working with another individual. Shanna is going to Logan tomorrow and will talk with them directly.

Shanna and Shawn will go over the cut sheet and make sure Peterson's get the right cut sheet.

Wayne: We need to look in the shed out north of town. Could we move everything from there to the back of the ambulance barn?

Shawn suggested keeping some things in that shed as it does serve a purpose.

Dan will move some road signs he has to the back of the ambulance barn.

Philip and Shawn were assigned to work together on getting a metal detector.

MAYOR

Mayor Bunderson offered his services to anyone who needs them if they will just give him a call, as this is an unusual snow year.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS - none

Motion to adjourn: Cindy, second: Mike, vote Unanimous

Adjourned: 8:37

Next meeting: February 15, 2023