

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,  
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

August 15, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d'Alene City Library Community Room on August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

James Hammond, Mayor

Dan Gookin ) Members of Council Present  
Dan English )  
Woody McEvers )  
Amy Evans )  
Christie Wood )  
Kiki Miller )

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilmember Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

**WATER USAGE UPDATE PRESENTATION:** Water Department Director Terry Pickel presented an update on the current usage of the public water system. He said as the City continues to grow, water usage and availability had been at the forefront of system development and expansion. He said the Water Comprehensive Plan estimated average growth rates and have scheduled new production and storage facilities in anticipation of growth; however, irrigation requirements were difficult to quantify. He mentioned schedules have had to remain somewhat flexible and over the past several years, Administration and Water Department staff have discussed issues regarding steadily increasing water usage, especially in the terms of irrigation of green space, as well as the cost of facilities sitting idle for two-thirds of the year. He said the last two (2) rate studies had imposed stepped rate structures in an unsuccessful attempt to curb the excessive irrigation use, and had promoted irrigation efficiencies and low-water use landscape. He noted irrigation currently accounted for nearly 75% of summer use which begins in mid-to-late May and runs through September. He said a more aggressive approach may be required in order to slow the increasing use. He mentioned that while there was sufficient capacity to manage the overall daily demands, the peak hourly demands for early morning irrigation exceeded the City's pumping capacity and rapidly depleted the 8-million-gallon storage capacity. He noted construction of new public water infrastructure was expensive, a new well typically costs \$1.5 million dollars, and water storage tank construction was \$5 to \$9 dollars per gallon to construct. He noted that finding a new facility site was almost impossible unless it was included in a new subdivision, and new sources required an application for new water rights. He said the state had recently looked at changing the process for granting new water rights which may significantly impact development of new water sources. He mentioned the key issue was irrigation demand as turf required a