

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

May 21, 2024

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 May 21, 2024, at 6:00pm., there being present the following members:

James Hammond, Mayor

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

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

INVOCATION: Chaplain Steve Slover of the Salvation Army led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember McEvers led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Hammond read the Proclamation declaring May 18-24, 2024 as National Safe Boating Week in support of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deb Mitchel, Coeur d'Alene, thanked the Council for bringing the moratorium on demolition to tonight's agenda. She announced that the museum will do a walking tour of Fort Sherman on Saturday, May 25, at 11:00 a.m.

Linda Coppess, President and CEO of the Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber, thanked the Council for the partnership and support on bringing together the community's 4th of July celebration. She thanked the staff for planning meetings and stated that it gets more efficient and smooth each year. Mayor Hammond said that the 4th of July Parade is a challenge, and he thanked the Chamber for their efforts as well.

Richard Dance, Hayden, provided a brief introduction on the electric and gas audit for the City that is part of tonight's agenda. He said that the City pays about \$300,000 per month in electricity and gas, with 20 invoices coming from Avista and 15 from Kootenai Electric. Mr. Dance noted that 90% of the City's electricity and gas comes from Avista and 10% from Kootenai Electric. He pointed out that in the Avista invoices, there are items such as area lights and city tax while in

Kootenai Electric invoices, there are items such as service availability, power cost adjustments, demand charges, power factors, franchise fees, minimum charge difference, and a wood pole. He stated that TRI Utility Cost Reductions has 35 years of experience and seeks to get the lowest rate for electricity and gas for the City of Coeur d'Alene based on industry usage and demand.

Joan Woodard, Coeur d'Alene, submitted a document regarding design review procedures which was taken from the city website under Informational Documents. She pointed out that Section 3, titled Submittal Requirements, outlined that there will be three meetings with the Design Review Board. She said that while she recognizes that the code has changed, the public assumed that this city document will be the standard for the proposed Marriott project. She added that most residents will not read the code but rather look at information documents which outline a very clear and logical process. Ms. Woodard explained that in the case of the Marriott Hotel, it was only presented at only one Design Review Board meeting where the public could have assumed that it will be presented three times with an opportunity for the applicant to address the concerns of the residents before the Design Review Board made a final recommendation. She added that there are many factual deficiencies in the application.

Walter Burns, Coeur d'Alene, spoke in support of the moratorium on demolition in the downtown core, downtown overlay, and downtown east overlay. He stated that the Historic Preservation Commission is working on a review of the downtown core development standards and infill overlay standards with a task group composed of city staff, representatives from the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, Design Review Commission, Downtown Association, and others. He added that the group will have their initial meeting tomorrow. Mr. Burns shared that the Historic Preservation Commission is also studying ways to amend the current demolition permit process to allow review of demolitions of historic structures and to provide a mechanism for discussion with property owners. He pointed out that the demolition moratoria would allow the Commission the time to come up with responsive and effective recommendations to the Council.

DISCUSSION ON DEMOLITION MORATORIA:

Councilmember Miller noted that there is enough reason that an action item regarding enacting a moratorium on demolition permits be brought to the June 18, 2024 Council meeting. She explained that there are plausible reasons for a moratorium such as: the task group for the downtown core review and design needs enough time to come up with recommendations; a demolition "permit" does not exist because the code only follows the Idaho Building Code process, hence enough time is needed to discuss if change is warranted; and there is also a need to put together answers in order to address public anxiety and their desire for preservation efforts as more buildings are coming down or being threatened. She stated that the Council has to agree that this item will be included in the June 18 meeting agenda. As such, the staff will be directed to create a report that outlines the interim ordinance to include defining the area or buildings that the moratorium will apply to; describing creating a permit review process; consideration of adding a demolition code; describe consideration of voluntary historic overlays; and include requirements of the moratorium that the Council needs to know should they pass it. Councilmember Miller said that if the motion passes on June 18, then the Council will need to state the reason for initiating the moratorium and approve the outline of the ordinance that will require staff to execute the plan