

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

October 15, 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 October 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

Christie Wood ) Members of Council Present  
Dan Gookin )  
Amy Evans )  
Kiki Miller )  
Kenny Gabriel )

Dan English ) Members of Council Absent

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

**INVOCATION:** Paul Van Noy with Candlelight Christian Fellowship led the invocation.

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

**PROCLAMATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2025**

– Mayor McEvers proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Councilmember Gookin presenting it to Leslie Johnson Director of Communication with Safe Passage. Ms. Johnson accepted the Proclamation and stated that safe passage has been around since 1977 responding to and educating people about domestic violence. Year to date they have assisted the community with 1,116 calls into help line, 91 hospital response calls, 153 forensic interviews at the children's advocacy center, 2,617 safe nights and they have provided in court advocacy to 401 victims. She thanked the community, law enforcement, and the Prosecuting Attorney's office for their shared mission of creating a community free from violence.

**PRESENTATION REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION** - Chief Deputy

City Attorney Ryan Hunter noted Safe Passage is indispensable to the community and prosecution with the services they provide. He noted that Domestic Violence Awareness month began in 1987, with the continued themes of mourning those lost, celebrating those who survived and connecting with those working to end it. He provided a brief history of the laws surrounding domestic violence, noting that 32 people experience domestic violence every minute, equaling 16 Million people per year. The total charges for the city prosecuting attorney's office so far this year is estimated at 146, which is likely an underrepresentation due to a change in software they are using. He expressed concern for the number of batteries that are happening in front of a child. Mr. Hunter noted that in 2013 the County created the Domestic Violence court with provides for a centralized

process of handling misdemeanor domestic violence cases. In 2020 the Court was awarded the National Mentor Court status which means that the court met the highest standards for national domestic violence. The Courts was selected to teach other courts how to implement and properly conduct/manage a Domestic Violence Court. The work continues through victim support agencies such as Safe Passage and police victim advocate Averi Hughes, prosecution support volunteer victim coordinator Susan Koerner and adequate resources to aggressively prosecute. He noted that that the national domestic violence hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE or text START to 88788. Councilmember Wood noted that prosecution of these crimes is critical work and noted that there were policies in the past for citizen arrests to be made due to a lack of laws. She appreciates the efforts and policies that exist today and thanked Mr. Hunter for his work with the Police Department. Councilmember Miller noted that she has been a board member for Safe Passage over the years and asked for the status in overturning of the warrantless arrest case that is inhibiting arrests. Mr. Hunter stated that there has only been shoring up of the decision with no efforts to overturn foreseeable in the near future. Mayor McEvers asked how much of the prosecution workload is related to domestic violence with Mr. Hunter stating that DUI's and domestic violence are the largest part of the workload; however, domestic violence is the hardest to prosecute due to victim hesitance.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Joseph Deacon, Coeur d'Alene, spoke in reference to the honor flight program that has been in existence for 20 years. This is a program that sends North Idaho veterans to Washington D.C. Due to a lack of funding they had to cancel the flight this month. They are hosting a fundraiser at the Eagles Club November 8, 2024. He noted that one flight costs \$250,000 and they need local support. More information can be found by contacting Mr. Deacon at [jspheacon@gmail.com](mailto:jspheacon@gmail.com).

Nancy Phillips, Coeur d'Alene, noted that the Lake City Center has been a non-profit since 1973 with a mission to provide services to seniors that include food with a facility to prevent social isolation. They have a program that provides delivered meals at no cost for those with disabilities. However, recent budget cuts have occurred and many of those in need have been placed on a wait list, which is prioritized on a point system with seniors from 5 other counties. They get their funding through grants, donations, and fundraisers. She noted 15 seniors are on this wait list as of October 25, 2024. Every donation makes a difference. Councilmember Evans asked what the financial gap is in order to cover the costs of those on the waitlist with Ms. Phillips stating that it takes \$7.00 per meal, so every ticket they sell for their holiday fundraiser will feed one senior for a week. More information can be found at [www.lakecitycenter.org](http://www.lakecitycenter.org).

Linda Wood, Coeur d'Alene, stated that she is a member of VFW and wanted to request a bench to be placed at the bus stop outside of the Veteran's Medical Clinic, as there is a bus stop but no bench for the veterans to use while waiting for the bus. Mayor McEver's asked the City Administrator to follow up on this request.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Councilmember Miller welcomed the new Library Director Elizabeth Westenberg. She noted that the Library recently received a children's early learning grant. Councilmember Miller stated that