

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 3, 2009**

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 March 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., there being present upon roll call the following members:

Sandi Bloem, Mayor

John Bruning)	Members of Council Present
A. J. Al Hassell, III)	
Deanna Goodlander)	
Mike Kennedy)	
Woody McEvers)	
Loren Ron Edinger)	

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bloem.

INVOCATION was led by Youth Pastor Joe Tuttle, Heart of the City Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilman Bruning.

PRESENTATIONS

STUDENT ATHLETE RECOGNITION: School Superintendent Hazel Bauman introduced the vice-principals for the two high schools. She announced the athletic teams that have had 100% participation in the drug testing program. Tonight the following teams were recognized: Coeur d'Alene High School 2008-2009 Boys Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman Basketball teams and the Varsity Cheerleaders and Junior Varsity Cheerleaders; Coeur d'Alene High School 2008-2009 Girls Junior Varsity, Sophomore, and Freshman Basketball teams; Coeur d'Alene High School 2008 Girls Junior Varsity Soccer; Coeur d'Alene High School Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball teams, Coeur d'Alene High School Freshmen Wrestling team; and, Lake City High School Varsity Cheerleaders.

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM: Deputy Fire Chief Jim Washko presented an overview of the new Technical Rescue Team that has been organized using Federal grant funds. The City has one of the three task forces for Collapse Search and Rescue Teams within the State. Their goal is to treat this the same way as the Hazmat Teams for deployment of large incidents. He reported on the progress of this group, which includes identifying the teams, training and procurement of equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kathryn Kinsel, 621 Foster, voiced her concerns regarding the 4th Street project and the closure of that street during construction impacting the traffic flow on the side

streets in residential areas. She requested that speed bumps be placed on all residential streets parallel to 4th Street to control the speed of vehicles during the construction of 4th Street.

Harold Hocker, 1413 E. Spokane Ave. commented that speed bumps mean nothing to motorists. He noted that speed bumps are also a bad situation for emergency vehicles. He had called 15th “little I-90” as motorists travel 50 miles per hour and turn corners on two-wheels because of the speed at which they are traveling. He also commented that the MC 13 gang is taking over all the other gangs and if those gangs don’t join them they kill them.

Jim Brannon, 1310 Bering, commented that LCDC has polarized this town more than anything else. He noted that the Council was elected to provide oversight of LCDC and asked the Council exercise that oversight to assure ethics in government.

Susan Snedaker, 821 Hastings, asked the Council to tape and televise Officer Mark Todd’s presentation on gangs.

Dan Gookin, 714 W. Empire Avenue, commented on the lease renewal for the University of Idaho. He opposed the city leasing the space for \$10.00 per year when Lewis Clark State College, the State Forensic Lab and other entities pay several thousand dollars a year to University of Idaho to sublease portions of Harbor Center.

Mary Souza, 4153 W. Fairway Drive, Coeur d’Alene, commented that LCDC member Charlie Nipp failed to file a disclosure form declaring a conflict of interest with the City regarding the property he owns within the LCDC district and that he serves on the Board of Mountain West Bank. She commented that only when the City received a request for information, did the City scramble to get the disclosure documents signed. She stated that she is not here to complain about Mr. Nipp’s disregard in filing the disclosure form, but believes that the Mayor and Council need to remove Mr. Nipp from the LCDC board immediately because the Mayor and Council are responsible for the public’s trust.

Councilman Goodlander said she has served on the LCDC Board for the past 7 years and she has never witnessed Mr. Nipp do anything but what was best for the community. She finds the character assassination and the continual attacks by a small group of people offensive. She stated that she can no longer sit quietly by and let this small group of people including Jim Brannon and Mary Souza continually attack those citizens that try to serve for the betterment of their community.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bruning to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

1. Approval of minutes for February 17, 2009.
2. Setting the General Services Committee and the Public Works Committee meetings for Monday, March 9th at Noon and 4:00 p.m. respectively.

3. RESOLUTION 09-011: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO AUTHORIZING THE BELOW MENTIONED CONTRACTS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE INCLUDING APPROVAL OF A LEASE AGREEMENT EXTENSION FOR MEMORIAL FIELD CONCESSION; APPROVAL OF A LEASE RENEWAL WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO FOR HARBOR CENTER; APPROVAL OF A WAIVER OF OPPOSITION TO ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH CORY AND JUANITA TRAPP; APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WELCH COMER ASSOCIATES FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WAY PROJECT; APPROVAL OF A INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SHARING LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION AND BID AWARD AND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH SHANNON INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE 2009 WWTP – STORMWATER LIFT STATION UPGRADE.
4. Approval of maintenance and management of Prairie Trail.
5. Approval of cemetery lot repurchase from Susan Mallory.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Wendy Gabriel reported that over the past 10 years, a group of interested citizens have been working toward providing access for higher education to the community. Today, the agreement now includes North Idaho College (NIC), Lake City Development Corporation (LCDC), Stimson Lumber Company, Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway, Bureau of Land Management, Lewis and Clark State College (LCSC), the City, and the University of Idaho. She noted that the University of Idaho approached this group about opening a facility close to NIC. The city saw this as a continued collaboration with the University of Idaho, NIC and LCSC. She noted that as part of this lease the University of Idaho pays for the maintenance of the facility at Harbor Center which totals approximately \$200,000 a year including \$30,000 set aside for future maintenance of Harbor Center. The four universities that use this facility (LCSC, University of Idaho, Boise State College and Idaho State College) employ in excess of 60 employees. These four institutions serve over 1,600 students. Additionally, the University of Idaho provides training to city staff. Overall they have provided over 300 hours of training to City staff. For example, five employees are either currently taking or have completed the GIS program which is a total of 15 credits per person at a rate of \$35/credit. The University of Idaho also provides a city employee their Executive MBA program which is a \$35,000 cost. She noted that as we face stricter water quality standards the University of Idaho is looking for a multi-million dollar grant for a state of the art research and education opportunity with the City's wastewater treatment plant. On a final note, she believes this partnership is a great opportunity to the residents of our community to be able to receive university level training at a local site.

Mayor Bloem commented that Mr. Gookin had suggested that the City make reasonable and justifiable decisions and she believes that the City Administrator showed that the city is doing just that. Councilman Kennedy noted that not all city programs may pencil out in a business formula, but some projects such as the education corridor bring much more value to the residents of the city than just dollars.

Councilman Goodlander also noted that although the city has been criticized about placing the universities next to the WWTP, it is more of a partnership between the City and the University of Idaho and the university wants to use the plant for university level education. Councilman McEvers noted that for him the biggest benefit of having the universities here is that children in the community have an opportunity to attend a university whom might not otherwise be able to do so. Councilman Bruning commented that other cities would “kill” to have the universities in their community and we are very fortunate to have them in ours. He also noted that with the cost of education going up it helps that the students can stay at home while attending higher education facilities.

ROLL CALL: Kennedy, Aye; McEvers, Aye; Bruning, Aye; Edinger, Aye; Hassell, Aye; Goodland, Aye. Motion carried.

RE-APPOINTMENT – SIGN BOARD: Motion by Hassell, seconded by Edinger to re-appoint Jeff Connaway to the Sign Board. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: City Administrator Wendy Gabriel announced that the City held its first Health Fair today with 25 vendors from several businesses. She gave a special thanks to the members of the Citifit Committee that put on this event. City The Water Department is looking for volunteers to allow us to conduct coliform bacteria testing at their homes and/or businesses. If anyone is interested in participating they are asked to contact the Water Department at 769-2210. The Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization is doing a transit center location study with a focus on operational efficiencies and transfer connectivity. The study is anticipated to be completed by July. Ironman is looking for volunteers for the July 21st event. The Kootenai County Environmental Alliance announced that Jim Markley was given this year’s President Award for his water conservation efforts. Dirk Kempthorne will be speaking at a luncheon on March 5th. The city received a grant from Gametime Equipment for Northshire Park and as soon as the snow melts the new equipment will be installed. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a You-tube contest with North Idaho College and Lewis and Clark State College in which the contestant will produce a video on “How to get to higher education in the areas of professional technical programs”. The deadline is March 23rd for any submittals. Coeur d’Alene was ranked No. 2 in “Best Cities” in the Greenstreet Real Estate Partners for 2008. The March 10th Upbeat Breakfast guest speaker will be Steve Griffitts from Jobs Plus who will be addressing the value of economic growth. Congratulations to Tom Hiltenbrand who was selected as the Fire Department’s employee of the year. There will be a Town Hall meeting on March 14th between 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Library Community room. Our local legislators will be here to comment on this year’s legislative session. McKenzie River Pizza collected \$3,000 at their grand opening for the Specialized Needs Recreation Program. Also, Mrs. Gabriel announced that the Specialized Needs Recreation Board needs members, so if anyone is interested in serving on that board to please call City Hall. This year’s Parks Day Celebration will be held on June 11th and we still looking for volunteers. The Arbor Day button contest deadline is Friday March 6th. The annual Library Writers Competition’s deadline is March 31st. Entry forms are available at the Library or through

their website. Mrs. Gabriel also announced that the Library has access to tax forms through their website. The City Council will be meeting with the Planning Commission and Mark Hinshaw regarding the design of East Sherman Avenue. The public is invited to attend this workshop to learn about the proposal. Regarding the 4th Street Improvement Project, Mrs. Gabriel noted that there be one lane open at all times during construction. She also noted that the US 95 construction project is not a road construction project but rather a fiber optic installation project that does not entail disruption to the roadway. There will be a Midtown Open House from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th and it will be held in the old Council chambers at City Hall. March 14th is the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade beginning 4:00 p.m. Entries can be obtained from the Downtown Association.

GUIDED TOURS AND KAYAKING – TUBBS HILL: Councilman Edinger presented a proposal from Peter Grubb, owner of ROW Adventures, to provide commercial guided tours of Tubbs Hill and kayaking around Tubbs Hill. Councilman Edinger noted that the Parks Department and associated volunteers have provided guided tours around Tubbs Hill in the past and upon request if personnel were available. Usually volunteers were called upon to do the tours. The City does not provide kayaking services as there is a vendor at Independence Point that rents kayaks. The tours are not provided with the rental service. The walking tour would end at 11th Street where the tourists would get their kayak and continue the tour. He noted that an RFQ would allow the City to invite qualified firms to an interview and have that firm share how they would approach this venture and to explain to them what our expectations would be with regard to access, clean-up, staging, etc.

Councilman Hassell asked if the City was going to look at other types of walking ventures other than guided tours. Councilman Edinger noted that he and Councilman Bruning had concerns about having kayaks unloading on the west side of Tubbs Hill due to the current traffic and congestion on that side of the Hill.

Parks Director Doug Eastwood commented that he believes that the idea has some merit since this is an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to visit this hill in a guided tour setting and kayaking is becoming a more popular sport. This does have the opportunity to generate some revenue which could go to the Tubbs Hill Improvement Fund. He also noted that if the City does not manage the commercial venues using Tubbs Hill, there could be conflict with noncommercial users of the Hill. Mr. Eastwood outlined the routes of the guided tour on Tubbs Hill and the kayaking tour. Additionally, he noted that the City could regulate the size of the tour groups.

Councilman Kennedy commented that he is torn between keeping Tubbs Hill as a public space and possible conflicts in using Tubbs Hill for commercial activities. Mr. Eastwood responded that he has never heard of or witnessed any conflicts between the public and commercial activities. He believes that guided tours to educate the public on the sensitivity of the Hill would allow the public to gain a better appreciation for the Hill.

Councilman Edinger reiterated his concern of the kayakers going onto the west side of the Hill and would prefer they turn around at the point and return to 11th Street. Mayor Bloem noted that the City currently has for profit activities at Phippeny Park, scuba diving lessons being taught from City Park, and believes that this would open up a can of worms and believes that the City needs to look at all the public spaces being used for commercial uses and then develop a consistent policy for all public spaces. Mr. Eastwood responded that commercial activity is currently not allowed in City parks; however, the City does not have the staff to police every park all hours of every day. Councilman Bruning noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission is currently looking at the entire public waterfront property for commercial usage.

Motion by Edinger, seconded by Bruning to authorize staff to solicit for Request for Quotes (RFQ's) to consider the idea of providing a guided hiking and kayaking service on Tubbs hill and along the shoreline of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Motion carried with McEvers voting no.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Edinger, seconded by Kennedy to recess this meeting to March 17, 2009 at 12:00 noon in the Council Chambers for a joint City Council/Planning Commission workshop regarding East Sherman Gateway Zoning District. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Sandi Bloem, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan K. Weathers, CMC
City Clerk