

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

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

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 September 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., there being present upon roll call the following members:

Sandi Bloem, Mayor

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

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

**INVOCATION:** Invocation was led by Pastor Dave Roberts.

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

**AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:** Motion by Edinger to add to the agenda of September 20<sup>th</sup> a public vote for McEuen Project. Motion died for a lack of second.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

BICYCLISTS : Roy Wargi, 2022 E. Coeur d'Alene Ave., asked about the City's headway on bicycle control. Mayor Bloem noted that the City has a Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee that has been sending out informational announcements and the schools are also educating students. Mr. Wargi commented that at 21<sup>st</sup> and Sherman there are two motor homes which have not moved in months. Mayor Bloem will contact Code Enforcement on this issue. Councilman Bruning noted that the Ped./Bike Committee meets once a month and this month it is on Wednesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and invited Mr. Wargi to attend.

UTILITY BILLS: Dan Gookin, 714 W. Empire Avenue, commented on the city's utility billing system and that the City should consider sending out their bills electronically.

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

1. Approval of minutes for August 16, 2011.
2. Setting the General Services Committee and the Public Works Committee meetings for

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. respectively.

3. RESOLUTION 11-031: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO AUTHORIZING A STATE AND LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT WAY FROM DALTON AVENUE TO HANLEY AVENUE.
4. RESOLUTION 11-032: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO REPEALING THE POLICY FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS TO CONSIDER ANNEXATION SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION NO. 07-078.
5. Award of Bid for purchase of Water Department Standby Power Source.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

COUNCILMAN HASSELL: Councilman Hassell announced that he will be out of town next week attending a Public Works Conference so Councilman McEvers will chair the Public Works Committee.

COUNCILMAN GOODLANDER: Councilman Goodlander announced that with the completion of the most recent upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant staff will be hosting an Open House on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

COUNCILMAN EDINGER: Councilman Edinger announced that this Friday night September 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. at the Blackwell House the Carousel proposal will be on display. Rita Sims-Snyder commented that the Committee will have six horses and six panels on display along with serving traditional carousel food and music.

COUNCILMAN KENNEDY: Councilman Kennedy introduced the Boy Scouts who are in tonight's audience and who are working on their citizenship badge.

COUNCILMAN BRUNING : Councilman Bruning noted that he would like the Mayor to consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee, between 7 and 9 people, to fight the determination by the Army of Corp of Engineers regarding the issues relating to the Dike Road. He believes now is the time for the City to draw a line in the sand and say no to the Corp of Engineers. He noted that he believes that the City will prevail as we have science on our side. Motion by Bruning, seconded by Edinger to add this item to the September 20<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Motion carried.

COUNCILMAN EDINGER: Councilman Edinger noted that the City had received a letter from Roger Smith asking the City to keep the citizens informed of the process regarding the Dike Road and recommended that the Press do a weekly article on this issue. Councilman Bruning also recommended that the City post information on their web site and also do an e-mail group mailing.

MAYOR BLOEM: Mayor Bloem commented on the new round-about in the Education Corridor and how it gives a preview of what this site will look like in the future. In the meantime, she thanked citizens for their patience during this construction phase.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:** City Administrator Wendy Gabriel announced that this is our first year under the new election laws whereby the County conducts elections and the county has decided that they will NOT provide satellite in-person absentee voting sites as has been done in the past. Therefore, there will not be any absentee voting available at City Hall this election. Any in-person absentee voting must be done at the County elections office on Third Street. Citizens always have the option of requesting a mailed ballot from the County. Cd’A Fire was among the first responders to the recent tragic accident in which a family of four slipped off the embankment of Fernan Road as the driver tried to back up and pull away from the shoulder. As Deputy Chief Greif stated to the crews involved, “You all responded to a terrible accident and reacted exactly how I would have expected. You ‘risked a lot’ to ‘save a lot’ and that is the business that we are in .... thank you!” We applaud CdA Fire’s exceptional service and we thank them for once again answering the call and putting themselves in harm’s way to serve others. The 15<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction project is estimated to be completed by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, installation of the signal at 15<sup>th</sup> & Margaret hinges on the delivery of the equipment from NW Signal. For more information, please call Project Manager Chris Bates at 769-2228. Re-Tool Box, computer literacy help sessions, return in this month. To reserve a spot contact the foundation at 769-2380. On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a tribute to all who perished on 9-11. Speakers include Police Chief Longo, Fire Chief Gabriel, and Brigadier General Shawver. The ceremony is hosted by the Coeur d’Alene police and fire departments and military services. At 2:00 p.m., there will be an Emergency and Armed Services Open House from 2 – 5:00 PM hosted by Panhandle Kiwanis. Volunteer opportunities currently available are on the: Arts Commission, Parking Commission, Planning Commission, Natural Open Space Committee, Noise Abatement Board, and Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities please visit our website at [www.cdaid.org](http://www.cdaid.org) and click on Volunteer Opportunities on the left menu, or contact Amy Ferguson, Executive Assistant, Municipal Services Department, (208) 666-5754.

**CHERRY HILL OFF-LEASH DOG PARK PROPOSAL:** Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bruning to approve the installation of an off-leash dog park at Cherry Hill Park with support from the Kootenai County Dog Park Association. Motion carried.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 11-1018  
ORDINANCE NO. 3420

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COEUR D’ALENE, IDAHO, GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO FATBEAM, LLC (“FB”) TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, WITH ALL NECESSARY

FACILITIES, WITHIN THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO "(THE "CITY"); SETTING FORTH PROVISIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF THIS FRANCHISE; PROVIDING FOR CITY REGULATION OF CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AND USE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS; PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS OF ITS PROVISIONS; AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Motion by Bruning, seconded by Edinger to pass the first reading of Council Bill No. 11-1018.

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

Motion by Edinger, seconded by Bruning to suspend the rules and to adopt Council Bill No. 11-1018 by its having had one reading by title only.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING – V-11-5 – VACATION OF UTILITY EASEMENT IN FAIRWAY FOREST, 3<sup>RD</sup>:** Mayor Bloem read the rules of order for this public hearing. Gordon Dobler, City Engineer, gave the staff report.

Mr. Dobler gave the applicant's name as Richard McDonald and the location of the vacation request as a twenty foot (20') utility easement that extends along the length of his westerly lot line, which is the common lot line of Lots 6 & 7, Block 2, Fairway Forest 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition.

Mr. Dobler reported that of the 139 lots in the noted addition, only Lots 6 & 7 have this utility easement. Also, this easement terminates at the southerly boundary and does not extend into the developments south, therefore, negating any real purpose for the easement. Neither the City nor the private utility companies have any facilities located in the easement, nor is there any intention of installing any. He reported that there were 31 notices of tonight's public hearing sent out with 6 responses being received - 5 in favor, 1 neutral.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor Bloem called for public comments with none being received.

**MOTION:** Motion by Goodlander, seconded by McEvers to approve vacating the utility easement located in Lots 6 & 7, Block 2 of the Fairway Forest 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2011-2012 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS:** Mayor Bloem read the rules of order for this public hearing. Troy Tymesen, Finance Director, gave the staff report.

Mr. Tymesen noted that the Council has set the preliminary Budget at \$77,972,509. He presented an overview of the proposed budget including: Capital expenditures for citywide automation, police patrol vehicles, Streets Maintenance front-end loaders, Parks sign machine and office space for the Legal Department. The plan also includes facility energy upgrades which should result in savings in utility costs, library e-books, Self-insurance Fund Balance, construction of a well in the Northwest quadrant of the city, Wastewater Ammonia Control Improvements, and Stormwater levee maintenance. He listed such revenue items as foregone balance which is at \$2.2 million as a result of the City not taking its full 3% over the years; new growth is at \$344,913; and a Fund Balance of \$3,500,000 which is 11.8% of the total city budget. He reported that Property Tax dollars totaling \$18,036,843 will go towards the General Fund at \$15,555,673, Library at \$1,189,170; Retirement Fund at \$152,000 and GO Bond Debt of \$1,140,000. He presented the General Fund budget including the revenues obtained from sources other than property taxes. He reviewed Personnel budget which is down 10 FTE's from 2008. He noted that wages and benefits include merit increases at \$280,000; a 3% COLA at \$452,734, Dental Insurance at \$36,866 and Unemployment at \$46,000. The Financial Plan also includes revenue from new growth of \$345,270; Annexation Fees at \$133,000; School Resource Officers at \$90,297 and a decrease in Overlay of \$250,000, and no increase for health insurance. He commented that the City has not incurred any new debt. Special Funds include Parks Capital Improvements which include: Cherry Hill at \$240,000; McEuen \$225,000; Fernan Property payment at \$62,500; and Eagles Property payment at \$52,000.

Councilman Edinger asked where the \$225,000 is coming from for the McEuen project. Mr. Tymesen responded that that is coming from the Parks Capital Improvement Fund which is revenues received from parking fees, boat launch fees and parks use fees. Councilman Kennedy clarified Councilman Edinger's comments regarding this funding source is from fees and can be considered public money but the funding of McEuen Park is not from property taxes. In regard to other Capital Project they include McEuen at \$2,677,000; Government Way (Dalton to Hanley) at \$2,700,000; Government Way (Hanley to Prairie) at \$418,000 and River/NW Blvd. at \$1,750,000 - all of which are not being funded from property tax dollars but other sources such as state funding, grants and LCDC.

He reported on the Levy Rate which is based on property value. In 2010, the City's assessed value was \$3,075,554,135 and in 2011 it was at \$2,875,186,256. New growth is at \$63,639,468. Current levy rate at \$5.76/\$1,000 and is projected at \$6.27/\$1,000 for this coming fiscal year.

In summary this budget includes 0% increase in property taxes, minimal capital acquisitions, and contract personnel agreements.

Councilman Edinger commented that the City is close to working a deal with the Eagles. He asked when this item is going to come before the City Council. Mr. Tymesen responded that he is not sure of the exact date but it will come before the Council. Councilman Edinger asked about the merit increases to personnel. Mr. Tymesen responded that merit increases are based on a Wage and Compensation Plan which includes pay grades and wage ranges for each position with a minimum and maximum for each pay grade. Merit increases are based on performance and longevity until an employee reaches the maximum in their pay grade. COLA is an adjustment to the Wage and Compensation Plan which adjusts according to the cost of living.

The City did not do a COLA last year. Councilman Edinger commented on Mr. Robert Cliff's letter to the Editor in the Press. City Administrator responded that the City has shared with the Cd'A Press prior to the recent editorial that merit increases have been given which was provided through copies of the employee contracts and in Council meeting minutes indicating that comments were made regarding both Merit Increases and COLA's as well as an e-mail from Reporter Tom Hasslinger who commented he understood that there were both merit and COLA increases. Councilman McEvers questioned how property taxes could go up if the City does not take the 3% budget increase as allowed. Mr. Tymesen noted that due to decreasing valuations of assessed property, if a property's value has not decreased they may see an increase in their taxes due to the levy rate. Councilman Goodlander asked about the cost for software. City Clerk Weathers explained that this is an upgrade to the basic Microsoft programs that operate computers and that the City is currently using on an older version that will no longer be supported by Microsoft, thus the cost for upgrading the basic computer software operating program packages.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Robert Cliff, 1301 E. Lakeshore Drive, spoke in opposition to merit increases and the COLA for city employees. Susan Snedaker, 821 Hastings, questioned the need to purchase a dump truck for the Water Department, questioned the need for a Legal Department consolidation into a city owned building instead of leasing, questioned the need to collect funds for public art and funding for public art maintenance, and can't understand why the city does not enter into a MOU to purchase Person's Field from the school district.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 11-1021  
ORDINANCE NO. 3421

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011" APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$77,972,509 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE FOR SAID YEAR; LEVYING A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATION IS MADE; LEVYING SPECIAL TAXES UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITH SAID CITY FOR SPECIAL REVENUE PURPOSES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF SAID CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF

Motion by Hassell, seconded by Goodlander to pass the first reading of Council Bill No.11-1021.

ROLL CALL: Goodlander, Aye; Kennedy, Aye; McEvers, Aye; Bruning, Aye; Edinger, No; Hassell, Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Goodlander, seconded by Hassell to suspend the rules and to adopt Council Bill No.11-1021 by its having had one reading by title only.

ROLL CALL: Goodlander, Aye; Kennedy, Aye; McEvers, Aye; Bruning, Aye; Edinger, No; Hassell, Aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Goodlander, seconded by Kennedy that there being no further business before the Council, this meeting is adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

---

Sandi Bloem, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Susan Weathers, CMC  
City Clerk