

City of Weiser  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
55 West Idaho Street  
Weiser, ID 83672  
Monday  
MARCH 10, 2014  
7:00 pm

REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

Call to Order 7:02:09 PM

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Cliff Barberis, Layna Hafer, Virgil Leedy, Dan Randleman,  
Perry Plischke and Sherry Young

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Diana L Thomas, David Tate, Nate Marvin, Chuck Kroll, Deb  
Dawson, Greg Moon, Rod Millbrook, James Edwards, Bill Taylor,  
Pat Malay, Dennis Cooper, Sherri  
Breux and Karen Penner

**Guests:** Judy Potts, Larry Potts, Stefanie Potts, Michael Campbell, David Furt, T.O. Clifford,  
John Hutchison, Signa Hutchison, Rick Pennell, Jim Felton, Patrick Nauman,  
Dolores Larsen, Heather Echeveste, John Evans and Sandy Cooper.

**Pledge of Allegiance, was led by local Girl Scouts. 7:02:48 PM**

**Additional Items to the agenda - None. 7:04:16 PM**

**Commission Reports - None. 7:04:24 PM**

**Committee Reports - None. 7:04:33 PM**

**Department Reports were presented by Clerk Tate. 7:04:40 PM**

7:07:07 PM - Mayor Thomas asked a representative from the Water Department to inform the Council about the award they are to receive Thursday night. Bill Taylor informed the Council that the Weiser Water Department had been awarded Source Water Protection System of the Year from Idaho Rural Water.

**MINUTES 7:07:57 PM**

Motioned by Dan Randleman and seconded by Virgil Leedy to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on February 10, 2014 and one (1) Special City Council Meeting on February 17, 2014, as presented and place them on file.

7:08:47 PM

**AYES:** Perry Plischke, Dan Randleman, Layna Hafer, Virgil Leedy, Cliff Barberis and Sherry Young

**NAYES:** None

**ABSTAINED:** None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS 7:08:53 PM**

Motioned by Perry Plischke and seconded by Layna Hafer to approve the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and present them to the Treasurer to have warrants drawn for payment.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Perry Plischke, Layna Hafer, Dan Randleman, Cliff Barberis,  
Sherry Young and Virgil Leedy  
NAYES: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MINUTES OF PLANNING AND ZONING 7:09:37 PM**

Motioned by Layna Hafer and seconded by Cliff Barberis to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular P & Z Meeting on January 21, 2014 as presented and place it on file.

**7:10:09 PM**

AYES: Perry Plischke, Dan Randleman, Layna Hafer, Virgil Leedy, Cliff Barberis and Sherry Young  
NAYES: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #626 INCREASE WATER RATES 7:10:19 PM**

Mayor Diana L Thomas explained that this is the point in the meeting where you have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and the testimony you have heard.

**7:10:47 PM** - Council Member Dan Randleman stated that it was enlightening to know the cost for businesses, it is a tough pill to swallow and he is not sure which is the best way to go. In some cases a per cubic foot price would work out for the business, in other cases the meter rate would be a better deal. When you do the math for instance for the man with 60 units a \$5.00 per unit increase that would be a \$300.00 increase on his base rate which is all ready \$1200.00, that is before you add the per cubic foot rate. Council Member Leedy addressing Council Member Randleman's comments stated that he thought he was looking at the issue in the wrong direction. There are 62 units there, so, if you took a few blocks of town and you took 62 homes they are going to pay the same thing, you are looking at 62 individual dwelling units. Council Member Leedy explained that if you take your fixed costs, which is your base charge and start blending that into your variable you do not receive the revenues you need to pay your fixed costs. Della Manor Apartments with 32 units will go from \$608.00 to \$768.00 for base rates, so it is all proportional. What is not proportional is we said we were going to raise each meter, not by the multiplier, but by a \$5.00 straight across the board fee. Council Member Leedy then did a power point presentation showing how the rate increases would affect a customers overall bill. Council Member Leedy explained that if you look at percentages, the \$5.00 increase to the base rate would be about a 40% increase. For an average home their bill will increase approximately \$13.00 per month. Discussion was held throughout the presentation.

**7:25:30 PM** - Council Member Layna Hafer asked Council Member Leedy if the \$620,000.00 was the amount the Public Service Committee was trying to come up with. Whereas the Committee agreed to fund \$250,000.00 for construction projects and \$370,000.00 for depreciation is that a starting point?

Council Member Leedy replied that this was just part of it, with the balance being for the increased cost of making water into deliverable water. Council Member Hafer then asked how much more of a short-fall we would be looking at if we did not take the entire increase and how would we make up that short-fall? Council Member Leedy stated that the Committee had looked at a larger increase than this. The depreciation was at least twice that, which is what the auditor asked for. Council Member Hafer clarifying stated that when we are talking about depreciation, we are referring to depreciation on our existing water system. Council Member Leedy further stated that it is to repair or replace pumps and motors or water pipes. He informed those present that water lines have an average life of 20 years and the pumps and motors are usually rebuilt after about 5 years and have been rebuilt several times. When water reservoirs have to be refinished it is a million dollar project.

**7:28:05 PM** - Council Member Dan Randleman for clarification asked if the \$250,000.00 was spent during the year for maintenance and operation, upgrading and everything else? Council Member Leedy agreed but added that it also covers construction projects. Council Member Randleman clarifying, so, this does not cover the day to day operation correct? Council Member Leedy affirmed. Asking about the \$370,000.00 dollars, Council Member Randleman asked if this is money we put away so we can rehab the water tanks at one million dollars a piece? Council Member Leedy affirmed.

**7:34:03 PM** Michael Campbell, 1115 E Main, Weiser ID 83672. What he was looking at was the increase from \$1.25 per 100 cubic ft to \$2.00 per 100 cubic foot which he calculated is a 60% increase and the \$5.00 increase in base rate he calculated is a 26.31% increase per meter. Mr Campbell's main concern was the 60% increase all at once.

**7:34:47 PM** Council Member Cliff Barberis made the comment that when you have that kind of money setting in a plant you have to spend money to maintain it. We have to meet guidelines from the government and you have to update to meet those guidelines or get fined for it. Rates could have been raised 1% per year, which would have been a 9% increase. People get sick and tired of watching their bill go up every, so they thought they would give people a break and not give them an increase and just try to bump it up a little at a time instead of hammering them every year. We are not throwing money away, we are not wasting money as a Council we made these decisions for everybody, we do not like to raise rates but there is a time when we just have to do it and like Dan said it is a hard pill to swallow.

**7:36:39 PM** Rod Millbrook, 905 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Weiser ID 83672, Water Department Supervisor added that the City of Weiser has a relatively new water plant and it is functioning quite well. Rod stated that one of the biggest problems they face now is that they have over 30 miles of pipe in the ground that is dated 1912, so 102 years old. It costs approximately \$25,000.00 per block for 8" pipe and we have a lot of pipe that is larger than 8" so the price goes up there. Rod stated that the distribution system is where the money is really needed at this time.

**7:38:01 PM** Council Member Sherry Young stated that some of the unforeseeable costs that we have is a trickle down affect. Any time you see the fuel costs go up, water pipe costs will also go up. Contrary to what some people believe or know of this diesel has a lot to do with the production in regards to the pipe we use. It is not an easy thing to increase prices to anybody, but, we can not stop the increase in costs to us. So, sometimes we have to meet our increases with an increase.

**7:39:43 PM** Council Member Perry Plischke stated that he does not know how many years he has preached that every enterprise fund that we have should be raised yearly just to keep up and we would not be in this boat if we had done that. Therefore, he stated that he is having a hard time voting for this. He believes we could have alleviated this if we had been paying attention a little bit more. We seem to have to manage by crisis a lot as we have done since I have been on the Council, which is a long time.

**7:40:23 PM** Council Member Dan Randleman stated that it is a tough pill to swallow and asked if we were trying to put too much into the construction and too much into depreciation? Lets say we cut

those in half, then cut the rates in half and come back next year and start raising rates every year like Perry was saying? Council Member Randleman invited everyone in attendance to take a tour of the Water Plant and Sewer Plant stating they would be really impressed. Council Member Randleman stated he is very proud of both the Plants

[7:47:57 PM](#) Perry Plischke

[7:49:29 PM](#) City Clerk David Tate read resolution #626 in full

[7:52:06 PM](#)

Motion Dan Randleman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Leedy

No Plischke

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

[7:52:57 PM](#) Patrick Nauman

STEVE'S HOMETOWN MOTORS REQUEST CITY WATER OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS [8:01:43 PM](#) - No representative at meeting.

#### WICAP FUNDING REQUEST FY2015 BUDGET

[8:02:02 PM](#) Heather Echeveste

#### ROSE ADVOCATES FUNDING REQUEST FY2015 BUDGET

[8:14:55 PM](#) Delores Larson

#### ENGINEERING DESIGN OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

[8:28:06 PM](#) Nate Marvin

[8:30:17 PM](#) Motion Dan Randleman 2<sup>nd</sup> Layna Hafer Motion carried

#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

[8:31:26 PM](#) Ken Baker

Motion Randleman 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbaris

[8:33:03 PM](#) , to adjourn. Randle man

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT [8:33:17 PM](#)

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L. Thomas, Mayor

Diana

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David Tate, Clerk/Coordinator

