

CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
JANUARY 9, 2023
7:00 pm

Call to Order [7:00:18 PM](#)

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Mike Hopkins and Sterling Blackwell.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Randall Hibberd, Mike Campbell, Margaret Taggart, Ron McDaniel, Natasha McDaniel, Carl Smith, Bill Taylor, Lonnie Chambers, Mackenzie Kissell, Pete Ney and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Christina Stanley, John Aegerter, Brian Dalton, Lisa Collini, Tony Edmondson, Phil Janquart, Dennis Lance, Theresa Rasmussen, Shanie McLaren and Ian Ross.

Invocation was given by Reverend Ian Ross. [7:00:45 PM](#)

Pledge of Allegiance, was led by Mackenzie Kissell. [7:01:19 PM](#)

Commission Reports – None. [7:01:41 PM](#)

Committee Reports – 7:01:46 PM

[7:01:49 PM](#) - Sterling Blackwell, Library Report. Year End stats from 2022:

1. The Library was open for 2,496 hours.
2. They had over 10,000 visitors.
3. 12,607 Adult Books were checked out.
4. 1,422 Young Adult Books were checked out.
5. 14,116 Children's Books were checked out.
6. 2,095 DVD's were checked out.
7. 536 Audio Books were checked out.

Wonderful things happening at the Library, we love to see our community using it. If you haven't been you should go.

[7:02:44 PM](#) – Layna Hafer, Cat Committee Report. We have received some preliminary drafts of possible ordinance language for the City to use in the future. The Weiser River Animal Shelter and Rescue have sent their nonprofit paper work and it is being reviewed by an attorney. They are hoping to get that back here by next month and get it filed with the State. They are still pursuing possible land and building locations for an animal rescue shelter.

Department Reports were presented by Mike Campbell. [7:03:53 PM](#)

MINUTES [7:07:20 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Alicia Fowler to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on December 12, 2022 as presented and place them on file.

[7:07:48 PM](#)

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Mike Hopkins and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS 7:08:04 PM

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

7:08:16 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Layna Hafer, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins, Alicia Fowler, Larry Hogg and Cliff Barberis

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES OF PLANNING AND ZONING 7:08:28 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Cliff Barberis to approve the minutes of one Public Hearing on October 17, 2022 and one (1) Regular P & Z Meeting on October 17, 2022 as presented and place them on file.

7:08:57 PM

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Mike Hopkins and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

7:09:03 PM – Sterling Blackwell, these minutes are from October, what took so long for us to get these? Mayor Hibberd, I can not answer that off the top of my head. Sherri Breau explained that the P&Z have their meeting, Briana types the minutes, the next month the P&Z approve those minutes then the next month they come to the City Council for their approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Action Item. 7:09:45 PM

Tony Edmondson, 598 Pioneer Road, Weiser Idaho. Historic Preservation Commission Presentation. This is the first time we have actually had the opportunity to present to you in thirty-five years. It's maybe kind of an odd way to start this conversation, but I'm going to start it this way, anyway. I prepared kind of what I want to share, cause there's a lot to cover and I want to make sure I hit my points.

7:11:01 PM – So, my first question to you folks is, when you think of Weiser or when someone asks you to describe it, what are the images which come to your mind? I wager it's not McDonald's or the Sinclair Gas Station. It's actually those things that make us unique. Is it the people? The natural features like rivers and mountains? Are there certain land marks, natural and built that come to mind? For example what comes to mind if I say Italy? Or narrow it down a bit to Paris or Rome, what comes to mind? What about Washington D.C. or even Leavenworth Washington? Certain images come to mind. It doesn't matter if it's large or small. One of the things I learned long ago from my involvement with the Department of Commerce in Community Development, that you may have too, is that what makes us unique are often the key components of community vitality.

7:12:01 PM – Historic Preservation has a long association with community development. Unlike the discipline of history which one often associates with events, documents and ephemera contained in archives and museums. Historic Preservation focuses on the natural and built environment in our landscape; our buildings and things like that which usually can not be housed somewhere. As such they are subject to both the environmental and man made challenges. If they're to be preserved they must be protected.

7:12:34 PM – If I say, “The City of Trees,” I assume most of us would associate that with Boise. That didn't happen by accident. They've enacted ordinances to protect and cultivate that identity. It's a huge tool in their community development portfolio. It's no different with Historic Preservation. Sometimes we've been blessed with natural assets and sometimes we must create them, but we can lose them if we don't value and protect them. Tourism is Italy's largest or second largest economic industry. There government has a large investment in protecting and promoting those resources and you won't find a

McDonald's in the Forum or in St Mark's square, I know first hand.

7:13:20 PM - So I'm going to leave data which might help you better understand the value of Historic Preservation and what it brings to our community. As a discipline historic preservation in our country came into it's own with the passage of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Act in 1966. It was none to soon, by the 1970's cities across America were dealing with urban blight in the sprawl of suburbia which undermined the economic vitality of downtown's big and small. Slums and decaying buildings were determined to be the problem and urban renewal was their solution. Grand scale demolition of core districts followed. Some were left as empty lots for years, others were replaced with sterile modern boxes. Boise was no exception, and guess what? It didn't fix the problem. Often it made things worse because the very uniqueness which gave a community it's identity, were lost.

7:14:19 PM – To address this wholesale demolition of historic resources the National Trust developed an economic restructuring strategy called the “Main Street Program.” Soon small and large communities alike were coming to understand that there was value in those old buildings, especially if the challenges confronting the businesses within them was addressed. There are plenty of communities across the country who have benefited from this program which has evolved into the “Main Street America Program” some of you are exploring presently. I will say we've attempted a modified version of the original Main Street Program here Weiser about twenty years ago, but we weren't up to the challenge to make it successful. Having been active in community affairs at that time, I have my insights about why it failed. There are things to be learned from that experience but now's not the time to share them.

7:15:19 PM - Within this context historic preservation took root in Weiser in 1983 when a fire swept through a couple of our downtown buildings. Our Central Business District was already a shadow of it's former self, particularly with the loss of the Hotel Washington in the mid 1970's. Now we were about to lose the last of three corner turrets which once graced State Street. Several of we Snake River Heritage Center Board Members were compelled into action. We began negotiations with Al Lightfield the owner of those buildings in hopes of avoiding a weedy lot at our primary business intersection. Some City Officials however, were concerned about public safety associated with the now unreinforced second floor wall of that building. I was told they didn't want another burned out hulk left standing like the Hotel Washington, just a few years earlier. So before any structural report or engineering analysis could be compelled, Mr Lightfield was compelled to remove that second floor. While we all lamented the loss, we were successful in convincing Mr Lightfield to maintain what was left.

7:16:31 PM - Out of this experience the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee was established as a standing committee of the Museum. Good thing, as just two short years later I got a call one evening from a preservation colleague in Payette that Union Pacific had just demolished their Depot and that the wrecking ball was literally headed to Weiser the next day. We wasted no time getting into action. Next to the Hotel Washington, now gone, and the Pythian Castle, our Depot was perhaps the most intact and recognizable historic building in our downtown. Any future revitalization efforts would be greatly compromised if the anchor to our Commercial District were to become another vacant weedy lot. We immediately engaged with U.P. Officials to stave off demolition and began fund raising to underwrite the cost of a professionally developed reuse and sight plan, we presented to U.P. which was subsequently implemented and still in use to this day, thirty-five years later. Anyone who has dealt with U.P. will tell you it's like dealing with another country. It took two years of negotiations and just when we had an agreement in place U.P. informed us they would not donate the building or enter into a long term lease of the underlying property with the Museum. It seems they had done so in the past with well intentioned organizations, who subsequently disbanded or were unable to maintain the property, which then became a liability. They would only transact this agreement with the City of Weiser. We immediately began negotiations with City Officials who saw no value in acquiring this building. In fact there was opposition amongst some to even considering it. Quietly we negotiated an agreement where the City would accept the donation of the building and enter into the lease, then Quitclaim Deed it all over to our Committee. So in 1977 the City completed the transaction with U.P. and within a year Quitclaimed the building and lease to us, the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee. So began the long restoration path for this building, which started with construction of the security fence behind the building, again funded by W.A.P.C.

7:18:48 PM - That same year W.A.P.C. approached the City of Weiser and Washington County to both enact Historic Preservation Ordinances. Once in place, that was how the Commission was created, which I'm now going to talk about. So, there's two different organizations; W.A.P.C. a nonprofit kind of sponsoring commission is the official organization which belongs to you guys and to whom we now report once every thirty-five years. Once in place we applied to become a certified local government or C.L.G. That would enable us to apply for grant monies. More about this in a minute. By 1999 with a

new City Administration, the Downtown Revitalization Project was conceived and implemented. Not only was the Vendome Events Center part of this project, all of the street improvements and lighting were as well. The Depot was the source of \$200,000.00 of those funds obtained through an ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) Grant which was a Service Transportation Act. They were part of our local match for other funding sources on this project. Suddenly the building which had no value to the City, was now the conduit for part of our revitalization monies.

7:20:07 PM – About this same time the Weiser Lodge of the Knights of Pythias decided to disband but wanted to ensure the preservation of their building. They approached W.A.P.C. who graciously accepted their donation of the building. By this time the Museum was still struggling in the aftermath of the fire several years earlier. Their future being uncertain, W.A.P.C. elected to legally separate it's association with the Museum and incorporated as an Idaho nonprofit becoming W.A.P.C. Inc. In about 2006 the Idaho Heritage Trust, an organization created by State Statute following the 1990 Centennial of Statehood relocated it's offices to Weiser. With their help we were able to secure the last T-21 Grant awarded in Idaho. This \$500,000.00 Grant allowed us to complete the renovations to the Depot you see today. I think all would agree that our Depot is certainly one of the most visible landmarks in our community. W.A.P.C. continues to manage this property as well as the Pythian Castle. Through the years W.A.P.C. has sponsored numerous educational and other events there, tours and speakers and played host to numerous functions, not the least of which is becoming the host site for the Farmers Market.

7:21:29 PM - That too came with it's challenges, when the Market folks informed the City of their plans to close the street in front of the Depot during Market days, City Officials denied their request. When we explained that this was private property owned by U.P. and leased by W.A.P.C. who had been paying the annual lease since 1987, City Officials apparently realized they didn't actually own the property anymore. They immediately terminated their no cost city water to our building and little park. They also installed a separate electrical meter for their flag and holiday lighting though W.A.P.C. had been paying all electric fees from the start. Though we've appreciated our relationship with the City throughout the years it's not been without it's challenges. While this is a vast over simplification of forty years of activity in our community, it brings me to the focus of my presentation tonight which is the Historic Preservation Commission I previously referenced.

7:22:25 PM – Whereas W.A.P.C. is the private nonprofit funding raising entity, much like Friends of the Hospital or other private organizations affiliated with sponsoring government entities. The Commission is the official government arm of Historic Preservation in Weiser. I'll bet some of you didn't even know you had one. This isn't all together surprising. Weiser, Cambridge and Washington County account for three of the forty city and county Historic Preservation Commissions around the State, which are qualified as certified local governments and therefore eligible for Preservation Grant assistance through SHPO which is the State Historic Preservation Office. This funding comes to the states through the Department of the Interior and is allocated on a formula based on national registered properties within each state. In Idaho, the Idaho State Historical Society, the Board on which I served as District Rep for ten years, three as it's chairman, is the funding conduit through SHPO the State Historic Preservation Office. Back in 1987 the lions share of the money went to a hand full of mostly big communities who had established commissions and become certified. We in other smaller communities were encouraged to claim our share of this limited funding, which was the motivation behind us petitioning our sponsoring governments to create a commission.

7:23:53 PM - Unfortunately, we like the ordinance which created us, have been somewhat invisible these past thirty-five years. As I've considered how this happened, it probably started with where our ordinance was placed. Unlike other cities such as Boise, Nampa and Caldwell who place their Preservation Commission Ordinance under their Board & Commissions title with the Planning & Zoning, Airport and other commissions. Weiser placed ours under Title 4, Building Regulations. We're not alone, the City of Payette placed theirs under Title 15, Building and Construction. Interestingly counties are even more curious. Ada County lists their Commission under Title 8, County Zoning Chapter 7, Administration, Article D. Canyon County lists theirs under Chapter 6 Building Regulations, Article 3 and Washington County puts us under Roads and Public Ways. Is it any wonder we've gotten lost? It probably explains why for the past thirty-five years I've had to request our sponsoring Board to make re-appointments as terms expire instead of them automatically being handled like P&Z. Speaking of which, I dropped off a re-appointment request to the City in November, has anybody seen it? Mayor Hibberd, I saw it this week. Tony, OK.

7:25:24 PM – Backing up a bit to that C.L.G. Grant Funding, you will recall it's based on the number of National Register Historic Properties in any given state. So what is a National Register Property? An over simplified example I often use is this: Properties must be at least fifty years old and either

posses unique architectural features or styles or be associated with an historic event. We often assume it's glorious mansions, but it could be an out house George Washington plotted a battle in during our war of independence. More often however, these properties demonstrate unique architectural styles such as Queen Anne, East Lake, Stick, Bungalow, Modern and more recently having passed the fifty year age criteria, it could even now be Ranch Style, believe it or not. Some of us are old enough. If a property appears to meet these qualifications a nomination is prepared and submitted to the State for review. If they agree it's forwarded to the Feds who will again review and make a final determination. Generally speaking, properties must retain 75% of their original exteriors. So, if a trailer house door, plastic windows, plastic siding and other materials have replaced original materials and not just covered them up or windows and doors have been removed or altered, eligibility may be compromised. It may look like an old building, but it's lost most of what makes it historic. I sort of liken it to the collector car hobby. It's like comparing a 1957 Chevy that is still wearing it's original factory items, where it's been restored to factory specs verses one that has a Buick clip on the front, been lowered or chopped or rotted. Is it still a 57 Chevy? At one time National Register Status gave private property owners access to grant monies that could be used for restoration work, but those were defunded years ago. Nowadays there are tax credits for commercial property restored to Secretary of Interior standards. For most of us designation is a matter of pride. Contrary to some beliefs there are no restrictions placed on private National Register properties. We can remodel or even demolish them. There are a handful of exceptions, most notably these: If a local jurisdiction decides to create a Historic District, one in which the majority of properties in a designated area are either on the National Register or meet a locally defined threshold, certain restrictions might apply. Generally these are not things like paint colors but more often things like fence styles, remodeling design, choices things like that. Think of the North End in Boise, they have an overlay zone, they're in a Historic District and if you want to do something you've got to apply and it has to be reviewed. Usually these relate to ensuring that the overall fabric of the District remains in tact. Usually this also results in higher property values since owners are protected from insensitive remodeling or changes that compromise the integrity of their neighborhoods.

7:28:32 PM – Presently there are twenty-nine properties on the National Register in Washington County, most of them within the City of Weiser. I should point out with pride that a significant number of our properties were designed by Tortellotte & Hummel the premier architectural firm in Idaho who among other commissions designed our State House and Admin Building at the U of I. I've been told that outside of Boise, Weiser has the largest number of Tortellotte & Hummel design properties in the State. Years ago the State nominated all those properties to the National Register which met the standards for fabric integrity on the basis of there association with that Firm more than necessarily their architectural style.

7:29:17 PM – The other exception for restrictions on National Register Property or deemed eligible is if they are government owned or on projects that involve federal funding. The Cove Bridge Project is one example which I'll talk about in just a minute.

7:29:33 PM – So what has your Commission been up to these past thirty-five years? Well, I'd invite you to read your own ordinance to see what we're responsible for doing. You'll see there are five Commissioner's, two of whom also sit on the County H.P.C. Dennis Lance here, is actually, he and I sit on both the City and the County. We usually wear more than one hat though, since all of us are also members of W.A.P.C. That's why sometimes you don't know which hat I'm really talking under, and it's usually both, cause I talk out of both sides of my mouth. Here's a few highlights in the meantime.

7:30:11 PM – Back in the 1980's and 90's we completed a whole bunch of reconnaissance level surveys here in town. Anything that looked old, not people, we photographed and completed a survey document on which included a brief history and description of the property. We've also nominated properties to the National Register and completed restoration work on both the Depot and the Pythian Castle. We've assisted with funding a new roof on the Institute Pump House on the Galloway Ditch up by State Street to name just a few. All of these and a dozen or so more were all done with C.L.G. Grants. The match for which amounting to more than \$40,000.00 were all provide for by in-kind services or out right cash raised by our nonprofit arm W.A.P.C. Though many larger communities not only provide Historic Preservation Commission Staffing and Grant matching funding our work hasn't cost the City of Weiser one extra dime, except for the staff time needed to add a grant line to your budget, signing appropriate paper work and then accepting grant award and issuing a check to W.A.P.C. to reimburse us. If you go to our Library you'll find two whole shelves that contain not only the surveys and nominations, but all of our meeting minutes and agendas, news clippings, events, and related accomplishments. I apologize that I've not presented to you more often, but it's not for our lack of trying. I'll leave it at that and get to my purpose for presenting now.

7:31:53 PM – Several years ago the State Historic Preservation Office notified all C.L.G.'s that grant requests would essentially be declined until the community enacts and adopts an Historic Preservation Plan. What is a Historic Preservation Plan you might ask? It's sort of like what the Comprehensive Plan is to the City or County Planning Commission. It's a vision statement that not only describes who we are, but what our resources are, and what priorities we want to set for the future with guidelines and goals and objectives for achieving those priorities. Essentially this SHPO, the State Historic Preservation Office wants to make sure that those limited grant dollars are not being invested helter skelter in well meaning but often fractionalized projects. A Historic Preservation Plan compels our community to prioritize our projects and provide SHPO insights to our vision with which we are seeking assistance. These plans can cost upwards of \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Fortunately several years ago Washington County decided it was time to replace Cove Bridge. Back to that now.

7:33:04 PM – Since they will be using Federal Dollars in that project and the Bridge qualifies for National Register status. Section 106 of the 1906 Antiquities Act compels them to mitigate that loss through no negotiation with the local entity. That's where your Preservation Commission steps in. Weiser and Washington County have had several of these mitigation negotiations through the years. For example, when ITD replaced the Hwy 95 Bridge twenty years ago or so they were just going to give us a generic replacement like you see in Fruitland or Ontario and other places. But through this mitigation process W.A.P.C. and your Commission negotiated with ITD for the railing and lighting enhancements you now see on that bridge. Some of you might have wondered how that happened. It's the gateway to our community and we proved it was warranted which is why some of us are concerned about what development goes near that approach, but that's another matter. Another small bridge replacement on Hwy 95 south of town prompted another mitigation process. We negotiated for the restoration of the stained glass window in the Pythian Castle. It was deteriorating but further damaged by the compaction street work done by the State a few years earlier. That settlement came to about \$10,000.00.

7:34:29 PM - So given the need to develop Historic Preservation Plans for both the City and County we used the Cove Bridge Mitigation requirement to negotiate for both a City and County Historic Preservation Plan, a survey of Historic Properties and the creation and installation of an Interpretive Sign near the bridge site for a total of \$60,000.00. When it came time for signatories an unfortunate misunderstanding prompted the City to decline participation. We had to write them out of the project leaving the County the sole beneficiary of this mitigation project. That draft of the County Plan officially got underway in October last year with the completed plan presented to and adopted by the Board this past November. The property survey work is already underway and the field work will begin in Spring. The sign component will likely be completed this year.

7:35:25 PM - I'm leaving a copy of this plan with you for review and can provide more if needed and here's why. It was a major amount of work for we Commissioner's as we strive to have large public input through the process. I'm proud to report our public survey garnered even more responses than Canyon County's or even the City of Weiser's recently completed Comp Plan. We'll be back as your budget time approaches seeking your approval on another C.L.G. Grant to write a Historic Preservation Plan for the City so that we can continue grant funding in the future. It's estimated this Plan will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000.00 half of which we'll now have to match. Whether W.A.P.C. feels we can afford that remains to be seen. Perhaps they'll be another mitigation project in the next year or two we can parley into covering the entire cost.

7:36:17 PM – I'd like to close my presentation with a few thoughts to keep in mind. First, while historic preservation is a passion for some of us, it's but one of a number of economic and community development tools our community should not squander, but this opportunity is fleeting. Just as it takes ordinances and rules for a community to call itself the "City of Trees." It's going to take more than a "Historic Weiser" street flag. We need rules and incentives to help guide property owners in making better choices in how they renovated their properties. More historic properties are lost each year not like demolition or neglect but by insensitive renovations that unknowingly property owners undertake. Often these outcomes undermine community resources and investment. Conversely there are modified building standards we could adopt that would save renovation costs. Our Commission is prepared to work with both the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Council to come up with some design review and other standards that can be a win win for everyone. I provided a couple of many examples of economic benefits which come from well enacted preservation actions.

7:37:27 PM – Secondly, if you're not aware, cultural tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of tourism, accounting for 40% of all tourism worldwide. History and Preservation fall into that category. How many communities our size have a museum the size of ours, much less a historic campus? For a number of years we've hosted an annual railroad tour group at the Depot. Peggy Munson formerly of

Weiser has organized Boise group tours of our historic properties. We get countless inquiries from near and far about our historic properties. We host our own guided walking tours, W.A.P.C. and the Commission have developed tour brochures we've left with the Chamber of Commerce, but this is not enough. I don't attend Chamber meetings, but I doubt preservation ever pops up on their agenda. I was excited when I heard your economic development folks were exploring the possibility of bringing another Main Street America Program to Weiser and seeking funding to join that organization. Several times I consulted with one of the leaders of that group about how we could assist but have never heard back. This is a program conceived by the National Trust For Historic Preservation. W.A.P.C. is the second oldest nonprofit Historic Preservation Organization in the state and we don't have a seat at that table much less an outreach? Saying nothing of the City and County both having Historic Preservation Commissions? Well, hopefully we're invisible no more. I know we're all busy and we should have been making more of an effort. W.A.P.C. does have a website, our W.A.P.C. and Commission meetings are all zoomed, thanks to the County our meetings are all announced in the paper, we can all do better. We want to be a partner in our community development. We're all getting older, please take advantage of us before our clocks run out.

7:39:31 PM – Layna Hafer, so we have the Historic Preservation Committee in our list of Committees, haven't we had a representative from the City? I know we've appointed, that's part of our appointments. Tony Edmondson, that's the Commission you appoint. Mayor Hibberd, right. Layna, but we've not had any type of reporting or we've just appointed and those people go to your meetings? Tony, most of the time they only get appointed because I've reminded you guys it was time to reappoint us. Layna, because usually we do that in January. Tony, I have no idea because nobody ever tells us once we've been reappointed. Layna, OK, so we have some communication disconnect. Tony, I had a conversation with Randy and he was kind enough to invite me here tonight, we're starting the new year off on a positive note. You know who we are, you know where to find us, I hope. Put in "Preservation Weiser" and you'll find our website. You know where I live, we want to work together, we want to be part of the solution. There's a lot of opportunities, there's a lot of knowledge and experience. We've been at this thirty-five to forty years in our community we don't need to reinvent the wheel. We want to be part of the solution, so I believe this is the beginning of a new relationship.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE. 7:41:23 PM

Mayor Hibberd asked Council Person Hogg to give the Council an update of where we are with the Comp Plan, as it went back to the Planning and Zoning.

7:41:47 PM - Larry Hogg, there's presently a draft copy from our consultant based on input that they received community wide. That draft copy was presented last month to the Planning & Zoning Commission and what our Planning & Zoning Commission decided to do was to table any action on it and to take some time and review it. First of all make some decisions on or have time to make some decisions on how they want to go about that review. Whether it's piece by piece or all in one glob or however they ultimately decide. They wanted to take some time to think about how they wanted to go about it so what their intention is, is to review it again at their next meeting which is next Monday and have further discussion on the process to review that document and allow for some additional thought and additional input prior to submitting that to Council for final approval.

7:43:50 PM – Mayor Hibberd, would I be incorrect in saying that they wanted to review it to draft it and tailor it to exactly what Weiser stood for and what we wanted, rather than a rather generic form? Larry Hogg, right, they didn't really leave much off the table.

7:44:22 PM – Larry Hogg, to give you some background, they were given a few months ago a preliminary and short version of what what had happened to that date, probably fifteen or twenty minutes of going through what the process was and what the intention of the company that we'd hired to do, asked for their input at that point, after a matter of minutes to consider anything. Then the next time they heard about the Comp Plan was this draft. The consensus was that that was not adequate time for them to make a good decision. So they intend to take the time and go through it and make it something that, number one, they can use, and that we can use, when anybody comes to them with a proposal. I think they want to have a better document than we currently have to be able to make decisions with. So that's their intention, I don't know what time frame, but it may be a few months before they actually get a final document that they're willing to sign off on and present to Council. I believe they're going to go through it and try and make it something that's more beneficial to all of us.

HWY 95 AND MAIN STOP LIGHT – Action Item. 7:46:45 PM

Mayor Hibberd, we have received a commitment from the State to put a stop light at Main and Hwy 95, the trouble of it is it's in FY2029. In talking to the State I asked if the City were willing to donate monetarily to that project if it could be moved up. They indicated that it could possibly be moved up to

2026, which is half the time. The trouble of it is that this Council can not commit to something that far in the future. Would it be acceptable to talk to the State and just say we are willing to consider that, but we are not willing to commit to a dollar amount at this time, or any dollar amount simply because of constraints of governing bodies?

7:48:23 PM – Cliff Barberis, are we having a lot of problems down there at that intersection? Mayor Hibberd, there are quite a few accidents there. The other thing is that it's hard for vehicles to get across Hwy 95 and particularly pedestrians. I don't know if you've ever tried to walk across the highway. Cliff, no not there, but that's why we have the crosswalks and they need to be nailed if they don't stop for them. Mayor Hibberd, right, but it's also hard to see the crosswalks. Actually the only crosswalk I believe is at the school. Mike Campbell, the north-side has a crosswalk. Sterling Blackwell, there's one on Weiser River Trail. Mayor Hibberd, at the same time there are people who cross at Main Street who don't want to have to walk clear down to one end or the other of the street. Mayor Hibberd asked Chief Smith to talk about the accidents.

7:49:42 PM – Police Chief Carl Smith, Mayor and Council that probably is the most dangerous intersection we have in the City of Weiser. That's where we have a majority of our accidents. The Maverik is right there, the turn lanes, it's a dangerous intersection. We do have crosswalks but it's a four lane road. We've had pedestrian accidents there where traffic couldn't see that somebody's actually crossing because another vehicle stopped and they were blinded by that vehicle. So it is a dangerous intersection and it does need to be addressed, sooner rather than later, if possible.

7:50:29 PM – Layna Hafer, so this would be a letter to the State Highway? Mayor Hibberd, yes, to ITD. I'm just thinking about the transition of their staff and our staff, so is it an application or just a letter of intent to support? Mayor Hibberd, just a letter of intent.

7:50:59 PM – Larry Hogg, do you have any idea as far as dollar amount? Mayor Hibberd, that would be up to you. What dollar amount is it worth to move that forward. It will cost, at this point it was put in, a little over a million dollars if I understand correctly. The Electrical Department, which we can justify it coming out of there and does have funds for a project of this type. I was thinking in the neighborhood of \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00, is that worth moving it up three years. So we want your opinion.

7:52:01 PM – Layna Hafer, I think the struggle I'm having with it is, is that a formal commitment that bumps other projects or is it something that would be revisited every year and if that's the case can we just submit it each year with the existing Council? Because you could have different Council Members and in two years they could go, well we're not going to pay anything. Mayor Hibberd, exactly, but, all it would do is move it up on ITD's schedule. Layna, does that tie us legally? Mayor Hibberd, No. We couldn't be tied legally because this Council can not commit to that. I'm just trying to understand what the letter is committing us to. If we can't commit to anything, maybe a little legal direction would make me feel more comfortable before I could commit to something like that. I just think, it's so far down the road and that's a big sum of money. If they readjust their schedule based on something we've provided I do think there is a little bit of tangible commitment there. Mayor Hibberd, it's just that they are committed to fully funding it in 2029 and would consider moving it up. The way I understand it, if 2026 came about and we didn't have the funds to do it we'd simply be moved back to 2029. Layna, could the wording of such a document be brought to us at maybe the next Council Meeting with maybe a little eye over by our legal council just to make sure we're staying within our boundaries? Mayor Hibberd, affirmed. Layna, that would be my recommendation.

7:54:25 PM – Larry Hogg, if memory serves me this has been something we've been trying to negotiate with ITD for pretty much forever. I think that at one time their solution was to put a round-a-bout in there. Mayor Hibberd, and it would be a painted round-a-bout. Larry, although 2029 sounds like a long ways off, at least we're on the list, so it is actually progress. I agree with Layna we need to make sure we're not making a commitment that we shouldn't be, but I think it's worth pursuing.

UPGRADE CURRENT BUSINESS CREDIT CARD TO COMMERCIAL CREDIT CARD – Action Item. **7:55:42 PM**

Margaret Taggart, City of Weiser Treasurer. I come before you to talk about upgrading from the business credit card we are currently have to a commercial card. In September David Tate, Mike Campbell and myself met with Zions regarding this possible upgrade. The new card is designed to streamline purchasing and to earn a revenue share back based on our monthly spend. One of the most important features of this new card is the ability to adjust individual card limits as needed. Cards can even be turned off or turned on as we need in real time in our own office. This creates control and flexibility we don't currently have. The current card has an overall limit that is divided between a card

in the Mayor's name, Carl Smith's name and five purchasing cards with limited credit limits. In the past we have had situations where the individual limit on a purchasing card was not sufficient so the Mayor's card was required to be used by an employee outside of the City Offices. For instance they went to Home Depot to purchase something, the purchasing card wasn't sufficient so they had to use the one with the Mayor's name on it. This is cumbersome and should we need to do an individual card increase it's difficult and I've been told in the future those kind of requests will not be able to be handled by the local branch manager. This new product would allow us to utilize the full limit on any given card, which is the biggest feature that we see to be a benefit. The product also offers revenue share back to us based on the spend. Currently we do not receive any money back, any cash back benefits on our current card and this would be a ... there's a consortium of municipalities that are using this card and based on that consortium's spend we would receive cash back. Zion's is estimating that the City could receive approximately \$1,400.00 a year back on revenue share. That is paid out annually based on our prior years spend. There are also other increased reporting options that we might find beneficial. There are several options that are probably beyond the scope that we need for our purchasing, but they do exist, and as we grow those options would be available. I do have additional information if you have questions, but right now I'd like to ask that you authorize us to continue to move forward and accept this change of card. It's a new authorization, it's a new application so I would ask that you authorize the Mayor and myself to sign that new application. Do you have questions?

7:58:58 PM – Layna Hafer, do we see if there a different fee for using the commercial verses the business? Margaret Taggart, there are no fees associated that I'm aware of, that's a great question, I will follow up on that. We don't currently have any fees, we manage our card in a way that we pay it in full every month, we have no interest. Our current card is not requiring that, the new card does require that, so that's no difference in the way we operate. There was one other thing, they required an automatic payment every month direct drafted from our bank account and that's not something we are comfortable with. We like to be able to get our statement in and make sure that we've got all the proper paperwork to support those purchases before making a payment. I went to Zions and they were able to negotiate and waive that requirement so we will still be able to make a once a month payment after we've reviewed everything, so there won't be an automatic draft.

8:00:07 PM – Sterling Blackwell, I love the idea of this because I know the Library has had many struggles with being unable to buy books when they're ready for it...Margaret Taggart, may I interrupt you, there card is different than our card is. Sterling, so it wouldn't be a part of this, because that was my question. Margaret, now that's not to say we couldn't look at incorporating that, but there card is currently separate.

8:00:32 PM – Mayor Hibberd, what's the current limit? Margaret Taggart, \$25,000.00. The card in your name is \$15,000.00, the card in Carl Smith's name is \$5,000.00, and each of the purchasing cards have a \$2,000.00 limit. Mayor Hibberd, just so you know I don't think I've ever touched the card that is in my name even though it's been used. Margaret, the cards are all housed in the vault and they are checked out with documentation of who has the card, and what the intended purchase is.

8:01:01 PM - Larry Hogg, so if we sign on for the new plans, though there's no additional fees that you're aware of, we have access to a potential rebate I guess, we have authority to make changes needed to make those cards work the way we need them to work. What kind of structure or authorization do they have for the person making changes in card limits or authorizing different individuals? Margaret Taggart, that would have to be something that we would develop in house, they don't have a requirement. Larry, is our communication with the credit card company on-line? Margaret, correct. We would have a portal where we would be able to access that account, increase or decrease a given card limit, turn a card on or off. So, if one of the department heads were heading out to make a purchase and we knew it was going to be \$3,000.00, we could increase that card for that day. Once the purchase was made we could take it back to zero. So, in my opinion it helps some of the fraud issues that we've encountered, if that card's sitting at zero they're not going to get any kind of an authorization. In the last year and a half we've had at least three times where we've had small amounts under \$200.00 authorized on cards that have been fraudulent, that have canceled the card, and been cumbersome. Whereas, if this is sitting at zero, they wouldn't get an authorization. Larry, so then the credit card company allows us to set up our own system of who has authority to make those changes or if it takes more than one person to make those changes? Margaret, correct. Larry, they allow us to do whatever we deem fit? Margaret, it's my understanding, yes.

8:03:30 PM

Motioned by Layna Hafer and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to authorize you to complete the application for a Commercial Credit Card for the City of Weiser and allow the Mayor and City Treasurer to sign it.

8:03:45 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Layna Hafer and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF NATASHA MCDANIEL TO CITY CLERK – Action Item. 8:04:20 PM

Mayor Hibberd, as you know we have recently had a resignation in that department. In looking over the duties of the City Clerk position, which is one that's required by law that we have a designated person as the City Clerk. I couldn't think of any better person to handle clerical duties than Natasha. She will not be handling all of the duties that resided at that desk in the past, we're splitting those up. I would like to have Natasha McDaniel be my appointment to the City Clerk's position.

8:05:24 PM – Layna Hafer, I don't want to assume, but you have visited with Natasha and she is interested in this appointment? Mayor Hibberd asked Natasha to come forward and confirm that she's OK with this.

8:05:51 PM – Natasha McDaniel, 643 Whiting Ave, Weiser Idaho. Yes, the Mayor has visited with me and I am interested.

8:06:05 PM – Larry Hogg, are the details and the specific duties still being worked out? Mayor Hibberd, no. That job description has been given and accepted pending Council Appointment.

8:06:25 PM – Cliff Barberis, will we get a copy of the job description? Mayor Hibberd, you can. Cliff, so if we get asked we'll know. Mayor Hibberd, yes.

8:06:36 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Mike Hopkins to approve the Mayor's appointment of Natasha McDaniel to City Clerk.

8:06:46 PM

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Mike Hopkins and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

8:06:57 PM – Layna Hafer, I did send Sherri out, because I would make a motion now to move this into Executive Session, I do want to clarify that we do not have the code which we are suppose to state when we move into Executive Session, she is going to get that. However, it is to discuss personnel and we will make sure that's included in the minutes when she comes back. At this time I can't quote it off the top of my head, unless anyone out there has put it to memory and they want to help us out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 67-2345(b) PERSONNEL – Action Item. 8:07:34 PM

Motioned by Layna Hafer and seconded by Cliff Barberis to move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(b) Personnel.

8:07:43 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Layna Hafer, Mike Hopkins, Larry Hogg, Alicia Fowler and Cliff Barberis

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

8:58:50 PM

Motioned by Alicia Fowler and seconded by Mike Hopkins to come out of Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(b) Personnel.

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Alicia Fowler, Mike Hopkins
and Sterling Blackwell
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:49:00 PM

Randall E Hibberd, Mayor

Natasha D McDaniel, City Clerk