

**CITY OF WEISER**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
55 West Idaho Street  
Weiser, ID 83672  
Monday  
**JULY 10, 2023**  
7:00 pm

**Call to Order** [7:02:32 PM](#)

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Alicia Fowler.

**STAFF:** Randall Hibberd, Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Margaret Taggart, Ken Anderson, Bill Taylor, Troy Krah, Timbra Long and Sherri Breaux.

**Guests:** Thereasa Rasmussen, Blake Coats, Phil Janquart, Jennifer Huff, Shanie McLaren, Christina Stanley, Erika Estes, Dana Castellani, Shelby Leslie, Serene Hooper and Toby Epler.

**7:02:45 PM** – Mayor Hibberd noted that Council Person Fowler was on vacation this week.

**Invocation was given by Reverend Blake Coats.** [7:02:51 PM](#)

**Pledge of Allegiance, was led by Ken Anderson.** [7:04:12 PM](#)

**Commission Reports -**

[7:04:43 PM](#) - Layna Hafer, Economic Development Committee update on signage. The second sign is being powder coated, they have ITD approval on the location and as soon as it's ready they will reach out to Mike Campbell to have it installed. There is one change on this sign, it will have horses and plows across the top. Layna noted that they will try to do something artistic on the top of each sign so they won't be identical as was quoted before. Layna also noted that this sign was \$1,400.00 less and has been paid for by a citizen and Umpqua Bank, we really appreciate those contributions.

**Committee Reports –**

[7:06:26 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, Library Report. This last month they had 3,422 books checked out, which is 1,000 more than the previous month. They also had a 1,000 more visitors come through the library so we can tell school is out and summer is in full force. They are doing Christmas in July, the Arts and Crafts show is almost full and their Friday Prize Day they are doing this summer is averaging 150 attendees. We are very proud of Timbra Long for her completion of the Director 101 program that the State sponsors. If you haven't seen the newly remodeled Young Adult section and all the additional space, stop by, it has truly transformed it.

[7:07:38 PM](#) – Layna Hafer asked Timbra, how's your volunteers? Timbra Long, I have my Board and a few Friends of the Library. We don't do a lot of volunteers, they have to be vetted to work with kids. They have to go through a training because of Idaho Code and Idaho library Law of Privacy.

[7:08:05 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, Design Review Committee Update. We have put together the landscape design thing that has been sent out for the attorney to review. We are currently working on signage design and lighting design types of things so that we have a standard general look of what we are going for as we grow in Weiser.

[7:08:40 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, about seven months ago the Mayor and I attended in combination with Timbra Long, the University of Idaho is reaching out to several small communities across Idaho they have a grant they've been offering and they have asked each of the towns to pull together a committee and we have been meeting monthly figuring out what we can do to improve the mental health and safety of Weiser. Our committee has had it's final meeting this last month. The \$3,000.00

that the U of I has offered, we are blessed to combine and work with Weiser Memorial Hospital. WMH through their Community Health Plan produces a booklet with information about all the resources available to our community. WMH can take those funds to expand the publication, the committee is also going to purchase plastic stands that we can put in stores and public gathering places throughout town so there is a nice, formal place to display those pamphlets. There is a ton of amazing resources in this town and we are excited to share that information.

**7:10:35 PM** – Layna Hafer, the Economic Development Committee met last week, we are reviewing the Vendome Contract and will review the pricing, rental agreement wording and also coming up with a marketing plan to create some access points for people to not only view what the Vendome has to offer but to also get their information electronically and also to print some promotional things that can be sent out as teasers to corporate organizations and stuff. There are not a lot of Event Centers doing a lot of research across the state, we do have something quite valuable here, we're just trying to come up with some ways to capitalize on our information. The Committee will be meeting again with some of the staff to go over some of the information we found.

**7:11:48 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, before we go on I'd like to remind everyone that there is no talking during the Council Meeting. Some of our people have difficulty hearing, it makes for a distraction. If you would please hold down any comments or not make them at all, thank you.

**Department Reports** were presented by Clerk McDaniel. **7:12:13 PM**

**MINUTES 7:16:30 PM**

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on June 12, 2023 as presented and place them on file.

**7:16:49 PM**

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

**BILLS 7:16:54 PM**

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

**7:17:12 PM**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SERENE HOOPER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB REQUEST TO RESERVE POOL AUGUST 1-3 AND AUGUST 11-12 – Action Item. 7:17:30 PM**

Ken Anderson, CPO Weiser Memorial Pool explained a request from the Boys and Girls Club to reserve the Swimming Pool on August 1-3 and August 11-12. Ken stated that there were no regular reservation spots available, but that they do private swim lessons from 9 am to noon every day. They came up with a plan to reserve the pool to them from 11 am to 12 pm on the dates they had requested. Ken then introduced Serene Hopper, Dana Castellani and Shelby Leslie.

**7:19:20 PM** – Cliff Barberis, you have from 9 am to noon? Ken Anderson, we have morning water aerobics from 7-8 am, swim team practice from 8-9 am and typically from 9am to noon we do public swim lessons but because of Covid we haven't been able to get anybody trained in the WSI certification to be able to do public lessons so we do private lessons. What I'm telling the guards is, instead of having lessons from 11 am to noon on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we won't schedule lessons on those dates. Cliff Barberis, is an hour enough per day or would it be better if they had a couple? Ken, I will let them answer that.

**7:21:08 PM** – Dana Castellani, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club, Shelby Leslie, Club House Director in Weiser and Serene Hooper, Operations Director for the Boys and Girls Club Organization addressed the Council. Serene Hooper explained that they do their field trips during a certain time frame because of their meal schedules. They think the 11am to noon time would work best, the Field Trip schedule is: Tuesdays the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders, Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders. We want to bring fifteen of our kids from the Payette site and fifteen from the Ontario site to the pool and invite those age groups from the Weiser community to join them for free. We will cover whatever costs we need to, we want them to mix, mingle and have fun and see what we are about. The reason the 11am to 12 pm time works so perfect is that after the swim time from 12-1 pm we have a STEM Trailer that the Idaho Out of School Network has gifted to us and we do all kinds of age specific Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities with the kids on those days. It is a great opportunity for the Ontario and Payette kids to get to know the Weiser kids since one day we will be able to do more activities like this together. Mayor Hibberd, we really appreciate what you are doing. Serene, we are getting close, don't have a date yet, but we're feeling like September – October to do a soft opening for a smaller group to get our feet under us and start serving kids daily.

**ACCEPT PATHWAY BID AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN – Action Item. 7:24:16 PM** Mike Campbell, after advertising and sending out information to contractors we thought would be interested in this project we did not receive any bids. State Code says that if we don't receive any bids after doing a bid opening we can go out and try to procure our own contractor to do this. I've reached out to two or three contractors to try and get estimates and what it would cost for them to do it. If we can not do it we ask LHTAC for another year extension, I'm sure they will since we did not get any bids. We will rebid it in November or December.

**7:25:06 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, from the estimates on what it was going to cost, it may be best for us to wait. The engineers estimate was over \$500,000.00, we have \$250,000.00. This time of year is not optimal since contractors are in the process of completing jobs in the summer and are already booked. Mike Campbell, the few that I talked to, that was their issue, they were booked until late November early December.

**DISCUSSION OF FIREWORKS CODE AND ENFORCEMENT – Action Item. 7:26:12 PM** Mayor Hibberd, a copy of the Fireworks Code is included in your packets. Basically it defines what Safe and Sane Fireworks are and what Dangerous Fireworks are. It talks about requiring a \$50.00 license to set off Dangerous Fireworks and having a plan of where they are going to be set off at and so on. That seems to not be working and unenforceable so wanted to have a discussion on the issue and I have also asked Lt Krahn to give his observations.

**7:27:22 PM** – Lt Troy Krahn, I'm prepared to answer questions, give you our perspectives and observations on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Is there any particular place you would like me to start.

**7:27:47 PM** – Cliff Barberis, your observations and perspectives on what we have going on right now. Lt Krahn, the way the code is written it's kind of ambiguous. It talks about having a license but it's not real specific on saying that it's a crime not to have one, it just talks about how to get one. As far as enforcement goes, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is obviously a very large celebration, it's definitely city wide and the people that are not celebrating tend to be a smaller part of the community for whatever reason. I think what our primary problem is, is a failure to communicate between people celebrating when they are going to buy a large quantity of fireworks, they don't tend to talk to their neighbors and let them know. Conversely, the neighbors that have an issue or have something going on where they do need to get some sleep or have some issue, even if they have lived next to these neighbors for quite some time and are aware that they will probably set off a large amount of fireworks and probably very late or may be very late, they don't express those things to their neighbors. If we could get people to communicate a little better we would probably find a lot more cooperation. I'm not saying that we don't have long running feuds between neighbors, and communication probably won't help there, but by and large the aftermath of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, in my tenure here, when I go back and talk to the complainant and the people doing the fireworks, they usually cooperate pretty well. That might be because I've shown up in my uniform, but, it seems to be pretty genuine good will. I've directed the officers to primarily look for public safety. If you're going out in the middle of the street on one of the primary traffic routes like State Street or East and West Main, we will probably stop and talk to you if you're blocking traffic. If you're setting off fireworks in a high risk of fire area, then we'll probably stop and talk with you. The High School has been very generous in donating their parking lot and the City puts out a lot of trash cans, but the people have been pretty good about mostly cleaning up after themselves and not getting too close to the building. It is a good alternative place to go but not everybody wants to do that all the time.

**7:32:07 PM** – Layna Hafer, I look at what the City does to prep the area for fire protection and safety from houses and stuff, is there some way we can protect the neighborhood? There was a three and a half hour show that was pretty comparable to the City's, that's a lot of big fireworks in a very compact area that was not prepared fire wise. As a neighbor and also knowing there was a very dry field in proximity, that would make me nervous as a home owner that had a big dry field next to me. I'm just trying to see if there's a way to utilize this, not just to say no, but to make sure that you have the safety things in place so we're not catching things on fire.

**7:33:51 PM** – Lt Krahn, I'm kind of unclear of exactly what you're asking. Layna Hafer, if there's a way to utilize this fireworks code to anybody whose going to be shooting off those big fireworks? Three and a half hours, that's a lot of big fireworks, we could have stepped in and said this is not safe. Lt Krahn, we would probably be best served by running that through the Fire Department. In issuing a permit like that they can evaluate the risk and then be prepared knowing that's a potential hazard area that they may be going to. One of the problems there may be, where do you draw those lines in where do you need a permit and where do you not need a permit. Discussion followed. Lt Krahn, it is outlined, but fairly conservatively. It's pretty close to if it leaves the ground at all it's considered dangerous, so you are looking at almost everybody having to apply for the dangerous. Layna, did we have any complaints? Mayor Hibberd, we had a few. Clerk McDaniel how many licenses did we issue?

**7:36:06 PM** – Clerk McDaniel, two, both to Ridley's. One for indoors and one for the tent outdoors. Mayor Hibberd, those are for selling. Clerk McDaniel, those are for selling only. During my fifteen years at the City I have not known of a single permit we have issued to light off fireworks. Lt Krahn, neither have I. Clerk McDaniel, there use to be multiple stands in town that sold fireworks, but in the last three to four years it's only been Ridley's.

**7:36:44 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, from what I understand about Idaho Law it's legal to sell the dangerous fireworks, but they have to advise people it's illegal to set them off. Lt Krahn, even the State Law isn't written very well. Mayor Hibberd, that also makes it difficult to enforce.

**7:37:16 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, I don't think anyone wants to remove your ability to celebrate the nation, we are proud to be Americans. What if we as a city were able to maybe establish a cut off time for setting off fireworks. In that sense, our neighbors would know that there wouldn't be any more fireworks after that time and if there are, they would have a right to complain. Is that an angle that would be more enforceable? Lt Krahn, it is an angle, but it doesn't exactly coincide with the traditions of Idaho Law in that Idaho Law has pretty well stayed away from setting times, decibels, etc and made it more on what is reasonable. Sterling, so we get to decide what seems reasonable for our city. Lt Krahn, so as a prediction based on how fireworks work now, midnight to 1 am is where you have the majority, after that it's pretty spotted. People can complain but by the time we get there they're back in the house. Even if they're in their yard it makes it quite a bit harder to enforce. That doesn't mean we can't, everybody has a video camera in their pocket these days and we can allow people to sign citations, I urge the Council to veer away from that and steer more towards cooperation and being good neighbors than perpetuating animosity between neighbors, but it is a possibility.

**7:40:18 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, if the City were to look at doing an educational sweep, some sort of promotion where we encourage citizens to celebrate the nation but we tie into the roads that we don't want you to do because of hazards like, stay off the main ways, this is what those are, beware of your neighbors and those who may have dogs that react and things like that. I would prefer that we look at the ability to educate and encourage, that we have that transparency. If we've never enforced it then why do we have it at all? But, I think there has to be a balance between it.

**7:41:07 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, what I'm looking for here is to at least start a discussion on finding something that is more practical than what we have on the books now. Lt Krahn and I were talking and as part of that education, if you're going to be buying fireworks maybe go talk to your neighbors and let them know what your planning on and get their feedback.

**7:41:47 PM** – Cliff Barberis, what would be wrong with us putting something in the paper before the 4<sup>th</sup> and encourage people to be a good neighbor, and let them know what we would like them to do. We want people to enjoy the celebration, we just want them to be smart about it.

**7:42:19 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, I agree with that but it would have to be something that was a months long process, because culturally in the town now it's a set pattern. Sterling Blackwell, three days before and three days after. Mayor Hibberd, I don't have any problem with before and after but at the same time,



changing the culture of do whatever you want to, to let's think about your neighbors, let's have a spirit of cooperation, is going to take some education. Cliff Barberis, and it's going to take time.

**7:43:04 PM** – Lt Krahn, that is exactly right. Nancy Reagan started the slogan “Just Say No to Drugs,” if you look at the statistics it was effective. I thought it was silly when I was in high school, but it did work. To change the culture takes time and you're right you are going to have to put it out in a mass media format. It's going to probably take a few years and no matter what we do to the code, probably well worth the time.

**7:43:51 PM** – Layna Hafer, I think it was interesting looking at social media afterwards. There were a couple of people who tried to express a little bit of their concern about the size of fireworks and the length of time private fireworks went, I think what was disappointing is that they didn't express it as a negative thing, it was just sharing some thoughts and I would say the biggest challenge is making people considerate of both sides. A few affirming comments were made.

**7:44:45 PM** – Troy Krahn, one of the things I use and it's typically at something much less. During a typical noise complaint I explain to people that they have a right to have a good time, to play music in their back yard, to have good conversation, play games and what have you, but their rights end where everybody else's rights begin. You don't have the right to do whatever you want at the expense of everybody else's peace and tranquility. I've had pretty good success with that, there are always people that are a little more obstinate.

**7:45:26 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, we are all familiar with the yard signs from campaigning, what if we developed a yard sign that asks those questions, (1) Are you doing fireworks? (2) Have you talked to your neighbors to let them know? Some sort of informational sign that might help us start that process of changing the culture and asking those questions that we might not think about when we're excited. Layna Hafer, we could do that at the point of sale if they would work with us. Where people are purchasing would be a good spot even just to hand out something that says “please be conscientious of your neighbor and animals.” Lt Krahn, we could put fliers in the city bills.

**7:46:33 PM** – Larry Hogg, the number one complaint I heard in my neighborhood was that they were shooting off fireworks until all hours of the night. They also said that debris from the shells they shot off was found in the neighbors' trees. Shooting off those fireworks is something you need to learn how to do, they are like weapons you can hurt yourself or someone else, seriously. On the other hand we would have to call in the National Guard to really enforce it, I mean it's just not possible for us to go to everybody who is shooting off fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and make sure they're doing it right, I hope we can come to some conclusion other than that. Cliff Barberis, I think if we work on it through media and stuff it will open up some people's eyes, just get them thinking about it

**7:49:04 PM** – Mayor Hibberd asked the Safety Committee to maybe look at ordinances in other towns maybe get some ideas on things that work and maybe invite Lt Krahn in to advise on the practicality of whatever ordinance...Lt Krahn, I would love to help. Mayor Hibberd, we will also look at educating the public.

**7:49:34 PM** – Layna Hafer, I think as people are watching this or they read about it in the paper, they just have to remember our job is the safety and protection of people's property and their lives. Us just turning our heads isn't doing our job either, so it isn't a criticism it's just our responsibility.

#### **DISCUSSION FARMERS MARKET IN CITY PARK – Action Item. 7:50:11 PM**

Council President Layna Hafer, introduced Jennifer Huff who is now guiding the Farmers Market Process. Having been both a vendor and shopper at the Farmers Market this weather does not make the Farmers Market a very viable place. Because it is on concrete it's miserable for those that are vending. Mayor Hibberd asked Jennifer to introduce herself.

**7:51:08 PM** - Jennifer Huff, 2235 Cove Road, Weiser ID 83672. I am here to represent the Weiser Farmers Market, I am new to the Market this year and I'm really working on the administration side of it and the logistics of it.

**7:51:33 PM** – Layna Hafer, after talking with Jenn she said she had approached the City previously about could we move the Market to City Park just for the convenience of all the people that could walk and also that the grass would provide a much cooler environment. Anyway, it was shared with me that they received a No. It was recommended by the Mayor that I bring this and Jenn to the Council Meeting so that we could have some discussion about why or why not moving it to City Park so that is why it is here. I welcome feedback and Jenn is here to answer any questions.

**7:52:23 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, it does involve selling in the Park and so that is an issue that usually requires City Council approval.

**7:55:40 PM** – Layna Hafer, you have here from 3pm to 8pm. Jennifer Huff, that is for set up and break down, just to make sure we were getting in and getting out within our time frame. Layna, do you need power and do you have commercial vendors? Jennifer, we do not currently use any power, at the Depot we do have limited power but nobody really utilizes that. Some people do have generators that they use or battery operated fans and stuff like that. Like I said I'm new this year and I'm trying very hard to advocate for more food and agriculture into the Farmers Market, I feel like that is a real sustainable thing for our community. I don't know if power will be something we may need in the future. I would like to have some "local" food vendors like they use to have. I have somebody else that's coming on board to advocate more of the meats in our area and just try to build it up. But when it's so hot, if you get the people there and there are no vendors or vice versa then you are constantly battling and one of our biggest battles is the heat. We run the Market from like June through September, right in the middle of Summer, so it's really a struggle. Layna, one of the other benefits to City Park is that they've tried to have live music and we have a stage in City Park which allows people to maybe sit down and enjoy some of the things they are buying. I feel our objective is to try to utilize our city park, selling of goods, that's something that would need to be addressed but I don't know how that works. Mayor Hibberd, all it takes is City Council approval.

**7:56:10 PM** – Mayor Hibberd asked Mike if there were any logistical reasons why this would be an issue? Mike Campbell, not that I can think of. Do you just want the west half of the park where the shade and stage are not the whole thing? Jennifer Huff, right now we have seventeen vendors and more coming that have contacted us. We just want them to be comfortable, we want them to want to come and I think that having it right in the middle of town will invite more people to come and enjoy the Farmers Market. Mike, I would prefer it because it would get it off the truck route with people crossing. Jennifer, yes, because parking is a struggle also.

**7:56:56 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, does the City charge a fee if people use power, if so what is the fee? Clerk McDaniel, if you were to reserve the park and want power there is a \$10.00 fee, that just provides an outlet that is located at the back of the stage. Sterling, just that outlet not the stuff over by the restrooms or anything like that? Clerk McDaniel, during Fiddle Week the Power Boards that are down there are paid for by the Fiddle Committee and they are \$100.00 per board. Mike Campbell, because they have to be set up and taken down. Clerk McDaniel, by the Electric Department. Sterling, so the outlets that are attached to the bathroom, are they included in the \$10.00? Clerk McDaniel, no, the only outlet that's available to the public when they reserve the Park is actually on the back of the shelter that is there, it's not actually on the bathroom. Sterling, so anything else whether there is a board or not is \$100.00? Clerk McDaniel, the only time it is \$100.00 is if the Electric Department sets up one of our Power Boards and hooks power to it. Sterling, I do think the Farmers Market is a valuable asset, Weiser has many artists and agricultural people that homestead and want to be able to share that with others. I love the idea of moving it to shade, I just wanted to make sure for expansion that we understand there's a cost that could be passed on to vendors.

**7:58:51 PM**

**Motioned by** Layna Hafer and seconded by Cliff Barberis to allow the Farmers Market to relocate to City Park every Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> through September 28<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 8pm.

**7:59:08 PM**

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

**7:59:15 PM** – Cliff Barberis, the dates can fluctuate? Jennifer Huff, yes. The week before Fiddle Week we were competing with them that first Thursday, we are working on it. Layna Hafer, it's just to protect you from them renting out the Park on Thursdays.

**DISCUSSION FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT – Action Item. 7:59:38 PM**

Council Member Hogg, I prepared a spread sheet that should be in your packets that outlines the budget that the Rural Fire Department has provided us. This is a preliminary budget and I just wanted to get everybody's input here. The issue I want to talk about here is the amount that is included for capital improvements. It's an issue in my mind because these capital improvements are primarily for things that will be used for years to come wherein our agreement with the Rural Fire Department is actually

year to year. In the agreement that we signed if either party wants to get out of the agreement or does not want to do it anymore we have until the first of October to end the agreement. If we canceled on say September 29, 2023 we would be under agreement through the end of 2024. It also says that our percentage is 50% of the total budgeted items of which capital expenditures are included. On the second page I prepared some different scenarios that we might propose. The other thing that the Rural Fire Department has brought up in our discussions is that it takes equipment to have a fire department including real estate facilities. In there case the citizens of Washington County paid for their facility that our constituents are using and the only thing we pay for is maintenance on that building. On the other hand, we provided some equipment we had on hand and spent a fair amount of money bringing it up to the standard they wanted that our constituents paid for. The things that we are looking at for this years, the payment on the new engine they ordered a couple of years ago that still hasn't been delivered that they went ahead and financed because I think they had to pay for it to keep pricing that's more like a lease or rent payment. I understand that there's also a possibility for a grant for a Water Tender Truck that the Fire District is on the hook for 10% of.

**8:04:39 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, what is a Water Tender? Larry Hogg, I'm not sure. Mayor Hibberd, it's a Water Truck.

**8:04:49 PM** – Larry Hogg continued. There is also a New Command Vehicle. Sterling Blackwell, which is what the Fire Chief would drive I assume. Larry affirmed then added, I guess I would like some direction of how you would like me to proceed in my discussions with Nick who represents the Rural Fire District, so we can come to a conclusion here.

**8:05:30 PM** – Layna Hafer, so on the total expenses there is times 50%, what is that? Larry Hogg, that is our half.

**8:05:42 PM** – Larry Hogg continues, if you look at what I called options, what it assumed was there are total expenses of \$638,150.00. Part of those come under a contract they have in Annex, I assumed that was a break even deal. So if they had \$12,500.00 income then those expenses would not be part of our 50%. I also excluded from our 50% the line item they have off setting both income and expense wise for grants, then coming up with a net expense after that. That's what our 50% would be based on.

**8:07:02 PM** - Mayor Hibberd, so our cost would be no more than \$262,650.00 which is what we budgeted this last year plus 3%.

**8:07:20 PM** – Layna Hafer, so with our budget for our Fire Department that we've done with our worksheet 01-423.00-76 Equipment Expenditures, we have \$94,095.00 plugged into our budget, would that be 50% of those? How did we come up with that number?

**8:07:49 PM** – Mike Campbell, what we did with the Fire Department Budget, that's just their totals and we just spread it out percentage wise across where it use to be. We took the amount they were requesting and broke it down by percentage, how it fit in the budget so if we ever go back. Layna Hafer so it's not attached to any specific items? Mike, it just keeps those line items open in the budget.

**8:08:19 PM** - Cliff Barberis, I'm not disagreeing with getting another Command Vehicle but do we need to spend \$90,000.00 on a brand new one? Mayor Hibberd, unfortunately the way the contract is drawn up that's not up to us. Originally the intent of combining the two departments was with the intent of the Rural District annexing the City into the district. However, about the same time we were doing that, the Legislature limited income from property annexed into a district to 8% which would not allow this to happen. Something I've been working on with the AIC that they submitted before the Legislature this last year, it didn't go anywhere, but Speaker of the House Moyle has stated to AIC that it will be taken up first thing this next year and he likes the idea of having a one time exemption to that 8% cap to allow for annexations like this where it potentially lowers overall expenses to the tax payers. I've talked to the people who seem intent on limiting the purse strings of cities and they are for this idea. So I think we have more than a favorable chance of getting it passed. If that happens and we get the City annexed in the Fire District this contract would essentially go away. Because of that, instead of committing to paying half a vehicle right now, probably recommend that they lease it and we pay for half the payment so the City is not on the hook for half the cost of a vehicle that will last the next twenty years. Another advantage of having it annexed in is that the City will have representation on the Board and the spending habits might change.

**8:11:37 PM** – Layna Hafer, so that's not one of the options Larry Hogg proposed. Mayor Hibberd, it's not.

**8:11:52 PM** – Larry Hogg, if you consider there is an option in there for a 10% match which could conceivably be used for a lease payment. I don't want to try and negotiate something that when it gets back to us we really don't like.

**8:12:28 PM** – Layna Hafer, here's my question since you were at the table, because our differences are quite substantial, if we choose to not contribute we have \$25,000.00 which to me seems like it could be a deal breaker with them, you have to guide us a little bit on how they're feeling about that as well, if we stand our ground and just go with our \$262,650.00. What's your thoughts on that?

**8:13:03 PM** – Larry Hogg, number one, when you're negotiating a contract you're never going to get something you don't ask for. Whether the option where we just didn't pay anything on capital expenditures would be acceptable to them, questionable. There is a thousand scenarios we could have and these just point out the differences in some of those things that we could propose.

**8:13:55 PM** – Layna Hafer, where do you find the most comfort in the scenarios that you have given? Larry Hogg, to me participating in a 10% match makes sense because it's equitable to a lease payment and we are using them for a specific amount of time so I think that's reasonable. One other issue that they bring up is there seems to be a huge increase in the number of calls coming in even based on historical information that we provided them and more than half those calls are city related to which they said we signed an agreement so we are willing to live with that. Layna, would it be helpful to go through these five items? Mayor Hibberd, the agreement is that we pay for Annex's expenses. Larry, so that's done.

**8:16:39 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, at the same time in our monthly billing they include the things they've excluded from their expenses and I've never seen anything for Annex so I don't know if they're actually keeping track of those calls and not charging us for them. That's an issue I need to bring up with them.

**8:17:03 PM** – Larry Hogg, keep in mind this is a new agreement and both sides are learning. For instance we learned that their firefighters although they are earning money throughout the year they have historically paid them once a year in late fall, October-November. Their firefighters prefer it that way. They are actually accruing or earning wages right now and until the expense occurs we don't get a bill. So, in like October we are going to get a bill for salary for the firefighters for this fiscal year. He said that's just something they have always done and would cause a riot if they didn't keep it that way.

**8:18:39 PM** – Layna Hafer, so Mayor my question is, because tonight we are approving a budget and we have this disparity in what we actually have plugged in and what this looks like, we have to decide tonight. Mayor Hibberd, plugged into this budget is the \$262, 650.00 and that's what they are agreeing would be a part of their budget. Layna, even though there is a difference here that needs to be made up? Mayor Hibberd, if you will look on the first page under the Revenues Heading and go down to City of Weiser Contract you will see \$262,650.00. What we're trying to do here is negotiate whether the Command Vehicle and other Capital Expenditures should be included in there. That would lower this number down, what we have in our budget now is \$262,650.00. We are looking for some direction on those Capital Items, do we want to make a small payment now or do we want to take the big bite?

**8:19:58 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, when I look at these potential options I see all four of them accounting for the 90,000.00 for the Command Truck and there are two options that include the Water Tender and two that don't, so help me understand the difference. Larry Hogg explained the options. The question here is are we OK paying half of the total cost of those capital expenditures or if not are we comfortable making some kind of payment towards those capital expenditures or do we want to say we're not paying anything keeping in mind the Rural Fire Department can get out of this agreement just as easily as we can? Sterling, I don't like to rely on anything the Legislature might or might not do, they are protecting us now and they need things now, so what's the compromise we are comfortable with, I do think we need to compromise, let's do our best but do it wisely. Cliff Barberis, I agree. Discussion followed.

**8:24:57 PM** – Larry Hogg, it does make a difference if you take the most extreme options but there's a couple of those options that are not a significant dollar amount. Layna Hafer, it's tough for us when you're talking a difference of \$25,325.00 verses \$2,825.00 or \$7,325.00. Larry Hogg, I was just trying to point out some of the things and the differences they made. I want to be on the side of being able to negotiate favorably for both entities because we are working on a relationship agreement as well as a contract. While we don't have anything in place should this not work out, I think we need to come to the table to negotiate fairly on behalf of the City. What that looks like, I like what we have plugged in and what we've worked on but it may be good faith to do 10% of the lease payment and the truck... Mayor Hibberd, the Command Vehicle, they have talked about possibly leasing it and we would pay



half the payment and that would probably be my recommendation. Layna, I would agree with the Mayor on that one.

**8:26:47 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, in these capital investments what is the priority of what's most important to them to be able to provide their services? Mayor Hibberd, to me that's open for interpretation but I don't have any say in that. Larry Hogg, the other thing we need to remember is that this is their budget and our options may be to take this or start up our Fire Department.

**8:27:42 PM** – Cliff Barberis, are we looking at Option 2 as our best option? Larry Hogg, like I said there's a thousand scenario's. What's in front of us is on page one. Cliff, I agree with helping them with the truck, do they not have a Water Tender now? Mayor Hibberd, they have to because they are rural. Mike Campbell, they have a couple.

**8:28:34 PM** – Bill Taylor, they have several Tenders, they are old and probably due for replacement. One thing to keep in mind is that we have a fire hydrant every 500 feet so is a Tender really needed in the City of Weiser? We have a very adequate water supply for our city system. Discussion followed. Mayor Hibberd, did the City Fire Department have a Water Tender? Bill Taylor, the largest water hauler we had was #703 with a 1,000 gallon tank. Mayor Hibberd, so we didn't use a Water Tender when we did mutual aid with them? Bill Taylor, no.

**8:29:42 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, under our current contract if they purchase this Water Tender or anything else, in the event of a separation does everything purchased go to them? and if the Legislature passes this proposal next year, that will happen? Mayor Hibberd, the City would be annexed in and we would be covered.

**8:30:21 PM** – Layna Hafer, I don't think we want to base our decision on if this doesn't work out. Sterling Blackwell, absolutely, I just want to make sure I understand the consequences either way. What is it that could potentially effect us. Layna thanked Larry Hogg for bringing this to the Council stating "I do think you have spoken to the areas that we have some negotiation. I would support negotiating on the 10% on the lease payment on the Truck and the Water Tender, I'm just thinking a new Command Vehicle is a necessity, like our Police Department, they don't usually come to us unless there is a need. I want to believe that the Fire Department isn't looking at us as an open pocket book and if that is the case I think it is important that you share that with us too. Is it truly a need? Cliff Barberis, that is my question too.

**8:31:59 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, my feeling is, and correct me if I'm wrong Larry, my feeling in negotiating the original contract and in negotiating with them this year is that, we are an open pocket book. In combining the departments I had done an analysis on what I thought we could save in costs and instead of there being savings expenses went up, and all of a sudden they needed more than they said before and as our ability to negotiate diminished the demands went up.

**8:33:11 PM** – Layna Hafer, I think where I feel bad, I wish there was somebody from Rural Fire here that we could ask some of these questions about their equipment, but we don't have anybody representing them that can answer these questions.

**8:33:26 PM** – Larry Hogg, all I'm actually asking for here is some guidance because we will have somebody here probably at our August meeting. Before we agree to anything you will have that opportunity to ask them questions. I just wanted you all to see what we have so far and there were some questions in my mind on capital expenditures and not whether they need them or don't need them, it's the matter of a purchase of a long term asset verses an operating expense. To me those are two different things, operating expenses are what happen right now. The Truck, in my mind I'm wondering why we are being asked to participate at a 50% level for the purchase of assets that will be used over a fairly substantial period of time in an agreement that lasts a year at a time, to me it's a long term short term mismatch.

**8:35:29 PM** – Layna Hafer, so if you could just swipe the pen right now and say this is what I'd like to take back, what would you like to take back to them? Larry Hogg, something like the 10% thing would be appropriate. If we treat that like a lease payment and we pay our half based on 10% this year, would we not have a lease payment for the same equipment next year for the same equipment? Sterling Blackwell, and that's something that could be negotiated next year, right? If we are treating it as a long term purchase then paid over that long term. If something is going to cost \$100,000.00 that's \$10,000.00 per year based on ten years and if it was an operating expense or lease payment we would be responsible for \$5,000.00 per year. That's what we may be setting ourselves up for by proposing that, which kinda makes sense. Then when we are no longer part of the agreement, our responsibility

for that ends. Mayor Hibberd, if that point ever comes, this might be a long term deal.

**8:37:18 PM** – Layna Hafer, is there a way you can negotiate so that we are not locked into a long term commitment on these items, would that be fair for the negotiation? Larry Hogg, I can tell them anything. I don't know if 10% is the magic number, I was just creating this and I had to put something down.

**8:37:48 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, it seems to me we are more comfortable with the idea of being more willing to put money towards a lease than the long term agreement, at least for the start of a negotiation. I don't think any of us don't want to play nice, but we also have responsibility for the tax dollars we have. Larry Hogg, the thing that they will say on the lease, if they have money left over that they've saved for this, why would we lease it and incur that additional interest expense.

**8:38:34 PM** – Larry Hogg, if this is OK I'd take back with me that we don't mind participating in some manner, but we think 50% upfront is to much.

**8:38:53 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, what we've tried to do with the Fire Department is emphasize to them that we're looking at not just this portion of our budget, when we commit a certain amount of our budget it takes away from other areas, so it deprives other areas. What we can keep down makes a big difference to us. Larry Hogg has been negotiating with them and gathering information rather than make decisions on his own. Layna Hafer, we appreciate the work you're doing.

**FY 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET – Action Item. 8:40:14 PM**

Mike Campbell, I highlighted all the things we had added, we can go back over those just so we know it's put in there.

**Swimming Pool Revenues:** Page 2 **8:40:44 PM**

01-350.00-00 Swim Pool Receipts, \$32,500.00, increase of \$7,500.00.

**Dog Impound & Vin Fees:** Page 2 **8:40:58 PM**

We will be adding a line item for Animal Adoption Fees in the next budget, it will increase income by \$1,000.00.

**Community Center Lease:** Page 2 **8:41:17 PM**

01-354.00-00 Vendome Center Rentals, \$19,500.00, increase \$6,500.00. We expect this to go up under our control.

-50 Vendome Monitor Receipts, \$10,000.00, income line.

**Interest Income:** Page 2 **8:41:56 PM**

01-371.00-00 Interest on Investments, \$80,000.00, increase \$50,000.00. This reflects this years investments doing very well.

**Intergovernmental Revenues:** Page 2 **8:42:05 PM**

01-375.00-14 Fire Equipment Grants, \$0.00, \$340,000.00 removed. This will make the Fire Department lines look a little more exact in the bottom line.

01-375.01-21 Small Business Grant, \$750,000.00, increase \$250,000.00.

**8:42:43 PM** - Mayor Hibberd, the Fire Department Grant had been used as kind of an overflow account before, now we're using this as the overflow.

**Transfers From Other Funds:** Page 2 **8:42:58 PM**

01-390.30-48 Transfer From Water Fund, \$162,139.68, increase \$102,139.68

01-390.31-48 Transfer From Electric Fund, \$160,652.01, increase \$100,652.01

01-390.32-48 Transfer From Garbage Fund, \$143,534.56, increase \$83,534.56

01-390.33-48 Transfer From Sewer Dept, \$168,539.20, increase \$108,539.20

Mike Campbell, these are reflected in the personnel line items throughout the General Fund. Instead of taking those employees from these other departments, we transferred the money into the General Fund to be expended through the General Fund so it keeps the Office Personnel easier to see.

**Mayor and Council Department:** Page 3 **8:43:27 PM**

01-411.00-52 Economic Development, \$9,900.00, added the \$5,000.00.

**General Administration Dept:** Page 3 **8:43:38 PM**

01-415.00 -42 Professional Services, \$57,000.00, dropped down \$8,000.00  
-49 Personnel Training, \$10,000.00, increase \$9,000.00

**Police Department:** Page 3 **8:44:03 PM**

014-422.00-11 Personnel Services, \$898,824.00, increase \$80,779.00. Raises the Chief requested.  
-21 Social Security, \$ 71,016.00, increase \$ 6,035.00  
-22 State Retirement, \$119,635.00, increase \$10,218.00  
-23 Workmans Comp, \$ 24,720.00, increase \$ 720.00

**Fire Department:** Page 4 **8:44:27 PM**

01-423.00-77 Fire Equipment Grants, see the \$340,000.00 Grant line zeroed out.

**Park Department:** Page 6 **8:44:45 PM**

01-438.00-59 Repair and Maintenance-Ground, \$13,000.00, added \$5,000.00 to replace some slides, swings, etc that are reaching their life span.

01-438.09-48 Transfer to Rec Dept for Wage, removed.

**Swim Pool Department:** Page 6 **8:45:32 PM**

01-439.05-11 Personnel Services, \$28,900.00, increase of \$2,200.00 reflects life guard raises.  
01-439.05-76 Other Machinery and Equipment, added \$10,000.00 for the ADA Lift.

**Vendome Maintenance:** Page 6 **8:46:04 PM**

01-440.00-35 Vendome Monitor Expense, added \$10,000.00 expense line.  
-70 Vendome Promotions, increased to \$5,000.00.  
01-440.09-48 Transfer to Rec Dept For Wage, \$2,500.00. Rec Department now operating Vendome.

**Special Events:** Page 6-7 **8:46:51 PM**

01-490.00-41 Public Relations, \$24,000.00, this is where the Fireworks, Mayor's Walk and other Community Events are taken out of.  
-64 Small Business Grant, \$750,000.00 the expenditure side.

**Building Maintenance Department:** Page 7 **8:47:21 PM**

01-491.00-60 Repair & Maint – BLDG & STRS, left the \$20,000.00 in budget to replace awning.  
Dave Loos is going to look at how much it would cost to build out of wood and metal verses cloth.

NET TOTAL **GENERAL FUND:** \$272,737.14- Fund Balance Deficit.

**Library Fund:** Pages 8-9 **8:48:25 PM**

Mike Campbell, State Code reflects that Libraries must have their own Council to set their own budgets. Per State Code their Library Board has set their budget and right now it would require fund balance.

NET TOTAL **LIBRARY FUND:** \$15,958.09- Fund Balance Deficit.

**8:49:11 PM** – Layna Hafer, do they have a savings account? Mike Campbell, they do, they have roughly \$465,000.00 in there fund balance to utilize if needed.

**Street Fund:** Page 11 **8:49:56 PM**

04-431.01-72 LHTAC Grant, \$2,250,000.00. (Includes the \$250,000.00 for the Sidewalk Project.)

We are looking to get \$2,000,000.00 from an LHTAC Grant intended to repair roads effected by State Highways. We went down through Commercial with the engineer and are putting together an application to apply for that \$2,000,000.00. It would help repair the Bridge and Commercial Street itself. At the time I didn't have a line item to move the \$250,000.00 that we've already received from LHTAC for our sidewalk project. In the next budget you get there is a Pathway Grant Projects line and I moved that \$250,000.00 so we can track them separately.

04-431.01-76 Machinery and Equipment, \$63,000.00, increased \$55,000.00 for Loader expense.

NET TOTAL **STREET FUND**: \$305,000.00- Fund Balance Deficit.

**Tort Fund:** Page 12 **8:51:52 PM**

Mike Campbell, we are still trying to spend this down some as directed by the accountant, it still has a \$140,000.00 balance. There is \$41,765.00 budgeted as transfer throughout the other departments if that starts coming down to low.

TOTAL **TORT FUND**: \$54,911.00-

**Capital Maintenance Fund:** Page 13 **8:52:35 PM**

Mike Campbell, at the last meeting I was asked where this money comes from. That money has been put in there over the years, it accrues from usually any kind of savings we get, mainly from electrical when we do big projects we get electrical rebates if we can make any savings on those. Like when we do the Street Lights or when we upgrade the lighting at one of the Plants or something to that nature, we get a rebate from Bonneville Power on the electric. We then put those savings into the Capital Maintenance Fund.

**Recreation Fund:** Pages 14-15 **8:53:20 PM**

09-350.00-00 Program Receipts, \$39,500.00, increased \$4,500.00.

Sports have been making a come back since Covid. This years has exceeded what we were thinking that we would get, so we uped that a little for next year.

09-390.03-48 Transfer from Vendome for Wage, \$2,500.00

Expenses:

09-439.00-11 Personnel Services, \$113,445.75, increase \$5,674.75. Includes Colas, Steps and the \$2,500.00 for the Vendome Wage.

NET TOTAL **RECREATION FUND**: \$0.00. Balanced Budget.

**Airport Fund:** Page 16 **8:54:39 PM**

NET TOTAL **AIRPORT FUND**: \$0.00. Balanced Budget.

**Water Fund:** Pages 17-18 **8:55:05 PM**

Miscellaneous Revenues:

30-385.01-02 DEQ Water Grant added, \$150,000.00

Expenses:

30-434.00 -76 Other Machinery and Equipment, \$70,000.00, includes the \$55,000.00 for the Loader.

-77 DEQ Grant Line, \$150,000.00, for Lead & Copper Remediation.

30-434.01 -86 American Relief Plan Act, \$1,038,800.00. Remediation of Reservoir #1.

NET TOTAL **WATER SERVICE FUND**: \$1,093,800.00 (\$1,038,800.00 covered by ARPA Funds \$55,000.00 for Loader)

**Electric Department:** Pages 19-20 **8:57:21 PM**

Expenses:

31-436.00-76 Other Machinery and Equipment, \$69,500.00. Added \$10,000.00 for Trailer and \$55,000.00 for Loader.

-79 Construction Projects, \$250,000.00. Infrastructure for new subdivision costs.

31-436.01-76 New Truck/Digger, \$275,000.00



NET TOTAL **ELECTRIC SERVICE FUND**: \$409,172.20- Fund Balance Deficit.

**Garbage Collection Fund:** Pages 21-22 **8:58:54 PM**

Expenses:  
32-436.00-75 Equipment \$55,000.00. Loader.

Transfers Department:  
32-490.33-48 Transfer to Sewer for Wage, \$2,080.00. Back-up Garbage Truck Driver

NET TOTAL **GARBAGE COLLECTION FUND**: \$55,000.00- Fund Balance Deficit.

**8:59:49 PM** – Mike Campbell, under -76 Purchase New Garbage Truck. There is quite a Fund Balance in the Garbage Department, we were discussing raising rates but with the fund balance still building we decided not to do that. You can see that we take the Purchase New Garbage Truck money and spread it back out through to kind of cover the differences throughout. In the next year or so that is going to have to change because that has dropped significantly, probably after we buy the next truck.

**Sewer Fund:** Pages 23-24 **9:00:38 PM**

Transfers From Other Funds:  
33-390.32-48 Transfer From Garbage, \$2,080.00. For Back-up Garbage Truck Driver.

Expenses:  
33-435.00-76 Other Equipment, \$105,000.00. \$50,000.00 for Pick-up and \$55,000.00 for Loader.  
-80 Depreciation Expense, \$0.00.  
33-435.01-86 American Relief Plan Act, \$0.00. Moved to Water Department for Restoration of Water Reservoir #1.

NET TOTAL **SEWER FUND**: \$105,000.00- Fund Balance Deficit.

**9:01:16 PM** – Mike Campbell, every department that is using Fund Balance has a significant amount of funds to do that.

**9:01:33 PM** – Mike Campbell, are there any questions, comments, concerns or anything you would like to see changed before next month? I will present this as a Tentative Budget next month.

**9:02:00 PM** – Mayor Hibberd, these two (Clerk McDaniel and Mike Campbell) have been kind of through a trial by fire the last six months but have done an incredible job.

**9:02:09 PM** – Mike Campbell, reminded the Council again that next month we will pass the Tentative Budget and we will go to Public Hearing on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**9:02:31 PM** – Layna Hafer, I just want to thank Mike, I really appreciate how much time you have taken to answer my questions and help me understand some of this.

**ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. 9:02:51 PM**

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Mike Hopkins to adjourn.

**9:02:57 PM**

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

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT [9:03:01 PM](#)

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Randall E Hibberd, Mayor

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Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk