

CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
DECEMBER 11, 2023
7:00 pm

Call to Order [7:00:58 PM](#)

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Randall Hibberd, Natasha McDaniel, Carl Smith, Troy Krahn, Riley Hall, Bill Taylor, Dave Loos, Austin Stratton, Trei Walker and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Theresa Rasmussen, Herb Haun, Katie Von Brethorst, Christina Stanley, Curt Stanley Jeff Hafer, John Stuart, Carol Stuart, Phil Janquart, Daniel Field, Cory Petero, Brian Dalton, Jon C. Walker, Steve Fenske, Ricci Storelli, Jacob Petero, Russ Haggerty and Brenda Lee.

[7:01:13 PM](#) – Mayor Hibberd announced that there would be an award presentation added to tonight's agenda.

[7:01:29 PM](#) – Layna Hafer asked that item number 5, Authorize the Mayor to sign the HELPER Act Support Letter be removed from tonight's agenda. Mayor Hibberd announced that it would be removed.

Pledge of Allegiance, was led by Police Chief Carl Smith. [7:02:00 PM](#)

Commission Reports:

[7:02:45 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, Library Report. In November there were 3,205 check outs, 3,672 patrons came in, 17 new library cards were issued, 67 library cards were renewed and 400 new books went into rotation. The 2023 Christmas Open House was a great success, 242 guests came in on Saturday, 255 on Friday and 223 on Thursday. The Library Board is working on updating their Policy Manual. On February 1st the “Lets Talk About It” will be on Billy Lynn's book, The Last Halftime Walk by a professor from BSU. The Library received a \$2,000.00 Grant for the Summer Reading Program, they are already getting enrollment started for that.

[7:04:09 PM](#) - Layna Hafer, Economic Development Report. They have filed their Nonprofit paperwork and have a Nonprofit EIN. A Board has been established for the Main Street Weiser Program. They will be meeting tomorrow to discuss a wider identification of exactly what the Main Street is going to encompass.

[7:04:49 PM](#) – Layna Hafer, today the City Council, the City P&Z, the Economic Development Commission and the Historic Preservation all met to go through the Comprehensive Plan. Really appreciated the feedback and how to implement this as we move forward.

Committee Reports:

[7:05:58 PM](#) - Cliff Barberis, Public Facilities Committee report. We have a group interested in renting the Laird Property to hold Tractor Pull Events. Cliff turned his report over to Cory Petero.

[7:06:48 PM](#) – Cory Petero, Believe Pulling Sled Organization, Payette Idaho. Cory explained that for the last couple years they have held their event at the Rodeo Grounds and have had to limit entries to invitation only for the facility to handle the event. They went down and looked at the Laird Property and laid out the map you have in hand. They are not associated with the Mud Drags, we are a 100% self contained Tractor Pulling Event that brings in about 3000 people. The seating is a little rougher out there, so we would probably have bring your own seating at least for the first year or so. If we can get this event to grow we have the people that want it to grow and we have the participants to make it grow, we just have to have a bigger place. All our people want to keep it in Weiser, all our Pullers love coming to Weiser and it supports local businesses, so we would like to keep it here.

[7:10:14 PM](#) - Layna Hafer, what are the dates? Cory Petero, the weekend of around July 14-16, 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS were presented by Clerk McDaniel. [7:10:51 PM](#)

MINUTES [7:14:58 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the minutes of one (1) Public Hearing on November 13, 2023 and one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on November 13, 2023 as presented and place them on file.

[7:15:11 PM](#)

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

BILLS [7:15:15 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.

[7:15:32 PM](#)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

AWARD PRESENTATION FROM ARROW HEART. [7:15:53 PM](#)

Steve Fenske, CEO and President of Arrow Heart Adventure Camps. Since 2015 in recognition of the 911 Attack on the Twin Towers, Arrow Heart has put on a softball tournament for our First Responders. About three years ago I reached out to the Oregon First Responders to compete against the Idaho First Responders, Idaho has won the game three years in a row. I was finally able to get a trophy, it is a mobile trophy so will follow the game winner each year. I would like to invite Chief Smith and the players along with John Stuart, head coach and Brenda Lee the executor to come forward. Steve then presented them with the trophy. The trophy was made by Ken Lukehart, it lights up blue to represent not only law enforcement officers, but fire fighters during 911, it also comes with an Arrow Heart Coin.

APPROVE NOVEMBER 7TH OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS – Action Item. [7:20:00 PM](#)

Council Member Hafer asked Mayor Hibberd if Clerk McDaniel could read the top three vote results into the record.

[7:20:32 PM](#) – Clerk McDaniel, the top three City Council results for the November 7, 2023 Election were as follows: Herb Haun, 556 votes. Larry Hogg, 431 votes. Katie VonBrethorst, 414 votes.

[7:20:53 PM](#)

Motioned by Layna Hafer and seconded by Mike Hopkins to approve the Official Election Results from the City Election on November 7, 2023.

[7:21:03 PM](#)

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

APPROVE 2024 LIQUOR, BEER AND WINE LICENSES – Action Item. [7:21:10 PM](#)

Mayor Hibberd asked Police Chief Carl Smith if he had any concerns with anyone on the list. Clerk McDaniel noted that Dollar General had been added to the list.

[7:21:40 PM](#) - Police Chief Carl Smith noted that he and Clerk McDaniel had reviewed the list together and he acknowledged the addition of Dollar General. Chief Smith stated that he had no concerns with any of the businesses on the list.

[7:22:03 PM](#) - Layna Hafer, remind me of what the Bus Bar Idaho is. Chief Smith, they are the ones that have come here a couple of times to Station 30. I checked with Alcohol Beverage Control in Boise and they have not renewed their license with them, yet.

[7:22:35 PM](#) – Clerk McDaniel, what we do is put anyone on the list that is potentially going to get a license. That way on January 1st they can sell and operate as normal. If they don't happen to get a license or come in, we just don't issue them a City License.

[7:23:23 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve the Liquor, Beer and Wine Licenses for 2024 as listed.

[7:23:35 PM](#)

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell and Marg Chipman

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

INCREASE IN MEAL PER DIEM – Action Item. [7:23:41 PM](#)

Clerk McDaniel, currently the Per Diem for meals is \$15.00 for Breakfast, \$15.00 for Lunch, \$25.00 for Dinner with a total in a day of \$55.00 and currently the employees are responsible for gratuity. We send employees all over for training and it is almost impossible to find a lunch for \$15.00.

Chief Smith, we send guys to the Boise area all the time for training and those figures are just unrealistic in this day and age. Clerk McDaniel, our proposed increase is \$20.00 for Breakfast, \$20.00 for Lunch and \$30.00 for Dinner, total of \$70.00 per day. In addition, we would like to add that they are allowed to leave a 20% gratuity.

[7:25:07 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, how does this affect any money you have budgeted for training? Chief Smith, it still comes out of what each department has set aside for training so that money is already there. It is just authorizing it to be used for meals.

[7:25:30 PM](#) – Clerk McDaniel, we also ask that if the Chief sends an officer or the City sends an employee somewhere and as a group they go out to a more expensive restaurant, that their Per Diem for that day would not cover, that with their Supervisor's signature and approval it would be OK to go over that Per Diem for that meal. Chief Smith, a great example of that is when we send an officer to Sun Valley.

[7:26:17 PM](#) – Layna Hafer, I would also mention for the public that these prices are per meal, they can't just put together the whole days Per Diem and go out for one \$70.00 meal.

[7:26:33 PM](#)

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Cliff Barberis to accept the new Per Diem as written and allow for gratuity as well.

[7:26:41 PM](#)

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins, Larry Hogg, Layna Hafer, Cliff Barberis and Marg Chipman

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE POLICIES: WORKPLACE HEALTH AND WELLNESS, ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY, PROFESSIONALISM IN THE PUBLIC EYE, PERSONNEL AND PAYROLL RECORDS AND SOLICITATION SELLING AND PEDDLING – Action Item. [7:27:06 PM](#)
Mayor Hibberd, Council has these policies in front of them are there any questions.

[7:27:35 PM](#) - Larry Hogg, in the Wellness item, somewhere it says that you have to stay home for 48 hours after you are symptom free, I guess I don't understand that. Mayor Hibberd, I think that is mainly for Covid, that is the recommended period you stay away from people. Do you have any comments Clerk McDaniel.

[7:29:31 PM](#) – Clerk McDaniel, what this policy is trying to do is not only ensure that you as an employee don't come back before you are fully healed and feeling better and not contagious anymore, it also puts into place for the employees who are still at work, where they are going to feel safe and not exposed to any illness. This is just a general guideline of 48 hours for no symptoms for the safety of employees at work and the employee that's at home.

[7:30:53 PM](#) - Layna Hafer, the biggest one that I would bring to the Council is where it says, “this policy applies to all employees, elected officials, and the City Council.” Discussing this with Clerk McDaniel we decided to just say elected officials, since Council Members are elected officials. We will take that out of all the policies.

[7:32:01 PM](#) - Larry Hogg, in the policy for Personnel Files, under section IV. 1. it says please allow 24-72 hours for the request to be processed. What is the process? Clerk McDaniel, it is the time frame you have to produce the file. It is not saying it will take that long every time, it is just giving that time frame of 24-72 hours to process the request, in case the City Clerk is not available to get the file when the request comes in.

[7:35:16 PM](#)
Motioned by Marg Chipman and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the following policies: Workplace Health and Wellness, Attendance and Punctuality, Professionalism in the Public Eye, Personnel and Payroll Records, and Solicitation Selling and Peddling.

[7:35:27 PM](#)
AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell and Marg Chipman
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE HELPER ACT SUPPORT LETTER – Action Item.
Item removed from tonight's agenda.

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN EAST COMMERCIAL KELLER ENGINEERING AGREEMENT – Action Item. [7:35:39 PM](#)
Mayor Hibberd, we are trying to speed the process along, we have received notification that we will probably be awarded \$2,000,000.00 to repair East Commercial Street. It has to go before the ITD Board for final approval. We have had previous projects where engineering has taken some time and ended up in the middle of construction season trying to obtain bids. This is an effort to try and get the engineering contract approved ahead of time so we don't have to wait for another meeting for them to get started. In the Grant they allow 15% for engineering which is \$300,000.00. We don't expect it to come to that because the engineering on the bridge part of it has already been done. So we are looking at approving up to the \$300,000.00 so we can get going on the project and move it along and be at the right time of the year for the bidding process.

[7:38:02 PM](#) – Larry Hogg, so this approval will be contingent upon us receiving the grant? Mayor Hibberd, on getting the grant and up to, the \$300,000.00.

[7:38:22 PM](#) – Layna Hafer, my question was going to be the time frame for the agreement, will it meet the time frame for the grant? Mayor Hibberd affirmed.

[7:39:23 PM](#) – Larry Hogg, whose the grant from? Mayor Hibberd, it is approved through LHTAC and goes before IHA for final approval. We are very fortunate on this, there were 130 some odd projects submitted and there were only 37 that were recommended for approval.

7:39:57 PM

Motioned by Cliff Barberis and seconded by Mike Hopkins to authorize the Mayor to sign the East Commercial Keller Engineering Agreement.

7:40:07 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Marg Chipman, Cliff Barberis, Layna Hafer, Mike Hopkins, Larry Hogg and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

7:40:22 PM – Layna Hafer added that the Agreement is good for twelve months, that is what I was looking for.

WALKER RE-ZONE REQUEST FROM AG-1 TO C-2 – Action Item. 7:40:39 PM

Mayor Hibberd, this property is in the Impact Area so this is our recommendation to the County P&Z. You have the information that was presented at the City P&Z Hearing.

7:41:12 PM – Clerk McDaniel, what I included in your Council Packets was the Initial Application and the Findings of Facts from the P&Z Commission and also the minutes from their meeting. Make note those are Draft Minutes.

7:41:42 PM- Larry Hogg, it is my understanding that the P&Z Commission's recommendation to us is that this request not be approved, is that correct? Mayor Hibberd affirmed.

7:42:02 PM – Sterling Blackwell, their Facts and Findings were pretty clear, I appreciate the effort that P&Z put into their reports to us. We have an obligation until they're able to present the reasons for the undeniable need to change that zoning, which is what we need to have, and I don't think we can.

7:42:45 PM

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Marg Chipman to recommend to the County P&Z to deny the Walker Re-zone request from AG-1 to C-2.

7:42:59 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Layna Hafer, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman, Larry Hogg and Cliff Barberis

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. 7:43:15 PM

Motioned by Cliff Barberis and seconded by Mike Hopkins to adjourn.

7:43:30 PM

AYES: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell and Marg Chipman

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

7:43:35 PM – Mayor Hibberd added that this is the last full meeting for Council Members Layna Hafer and Cliff Barberis, I want them to know how much I have appreciated their service over the years.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:44:06 PM

Randall E Hibberd, Mayor

Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk

