

CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
JANUARY 8, 2024
7:00 pm

Call to Order [7:00:53 PM](#)

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Randall Hibberd, Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Margie Taggart, Carl Smith, Cody Samson, Troy Krahn, Bill Taylor and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Theresa Rasmussen, Georgia Plischke, Perry Plischke, Herb Haun, Kelly Haun, Brenda Mattson, Ken Lukehart, Matt Valentine, Rick Estes, Nancy Barberis, Theresa Rasmussen, Jeff Hafer, Katie von Brethorst, Bowe von Brethorst, Mike Smith, Phil Janquart, Craig Smith, Cathy Hibberd, Chad Packer, Ron Bruce, Elisa Wright, Ian Ross, Ricci Storelli, Cory Petero, Daniel Field, Russell Haggerty and Jacob Petero.

Invocation was given by Reverend Ian Ross. [7:01:22 PM](#)

Pledge of Allegiance, was led by Kelly Haun. [7:01:54 PM](#)

Commission Reports:

[7:02:23 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, Library Report. In December there were 2,377 books checked out, 2,891 patrons came in, 13 new cards issued, 35 cards renewed, 462 new books added to the collection, 160 e-books and 177 audio books checked out. The meeting room was used 26 times in the 20 days it was available. The Library was awarded the John Henry Elders Jr Grant for \$3,000.00 to be used to purchase children's books and for their learning.

Washington County was one of the local counties chosen to receive Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Award. Parents will receive high quality books for children 0 to 5 years of age. Pamphlets for this program are available at the Library. There will also be a meeting on January 22nd at WHS where their representatives will present this to the community.

Committee Reports:

[7:04:46 PM](#) – Cliff Barberis, Airport Report, due to illness I was unable to attend the meeting. Sterling Blackwell stated that they had received the minutes from the meeting in an e-mail. Mayor Hibberd, there will be a deeper report at the next City Council Meeting.

Department Reports were presented by Clerk McDaniel. [7:05:38 PM](#)

MINUTES [7:09:34 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Mike Hopkins to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on December 11, 2023 as presented and place them on file.

[7:09:51 PM](#)

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS [7:09:55 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.

7:10:13 PM

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None. **7:10:37 PM**

OUT GOING COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

7:11:02 PM – Layna Hafer expressed her appreciation for the Mayor's and City Council Members she had the privilege of working with during her 22 years of service and that it was an honor to serve as a part of this great city government.

7:12:48 PM - Cliff Barberis thanked everyone for their support over the past 20 years adding his deep appreciation for the city crews and the job they do.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR OATH OF OFFICE – City Clerk.

7:15:10 PM City Clerk Natasha McDaniel administered the Mayor's Oath of Office to Randall Hibberd swearing him in for a four year term as the Mayor for City of Weiser.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OATH OF OFFICE – Mayor. 7:17:19 PM

7:17:58 PM Mayor Randall Hibberd administered the Council Member Oath of Office to Larry Hogg swearing him in to a four year term as a City Council Member for the City of Weiser.

7:19:21 PM – Mayor Randall Hibberd administered the Council Member Oath of Office to Marg Chipman swearing her in to a two year term as a City Council Member for the City of Weiser.

7:21:19 PM – Mayor Randall Hibberd administered the Council Member Oath of Office to Herb Haun swearing him in to a four year term as a City Council Member for the City of Weiser.

7:23:20 PM – Mayor Randall Hibberd administered the Council Member Oath of Office to Katie von Brethorst swearing her in to a four year term as a City Council Member for the City of Weiser.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTS COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Action Item. 7:25:14 PM

Mayor Hibberd called for nominations for City Council President.

7:25:26 PM

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to nominated Herb Haun as the 2024 City Council President.

7:25:55 PM

AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MAYOR'S CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Action Item.

7:26:54 PM.

Mayor Hibberd presented his 2024 City Council Committee Appointments for Council approval.

7:27:40 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve the Mayor's 2024 City Council Committee Appointments as presented.

7:28:18 PM

AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst.
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MAYOR'S BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Action Item. 7:28:25 PM

Mayor Hibberd presented his 2024 Board and Commission Appointments for Council approval.

7:28:30 PM - Sterling Blackwell noted that Layna Hafer was still listed as the Council representative for the Economic Development Commission. Mayor Hibberd stated that he would get that corrected.

7:29:38 PM

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Herb Haun to accept the Mayor's Board and Commission appointments as submitted with the exception of Economic Development.

7:29:48 PM

AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst.
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE BELIEVE PULLING SLED TO USE CITY PROPERTY (LAIRD PROPERTY) - Action Item 7:29:54 PM

Cory Petero, 994 Payette Heights Rd, Payette ID. We are here tonight to see if we are a go and can move forward with our plans that are on hold at this time.

7:31:09 PM - Herb Haun, I did have concerns about the security of the Water Plant but after talking with Bill Taylor he assured me it was secure. Herb stated that it would be a very beautiful and appropriate area for the event they want to have.

7:32:19 PM - Larry Hogg, what are we specifically agreeing to? Clerk McDaniel, it is just to say yea or nay to allowing them to use the property. If yea, they would proceed and keep us updated along the process. Mayor Hibberd added that Council would eventually need to approve the contract.

7:33:27 PM – Larry Hogg, are we making a commitment to them? Clerk McDaniel, we are saying yes or no that they can use the property. Once we say yes or no they will move forward with all further details. If later they brought something before Council you did not approve of, Council could deny it or make changes at that time. Larry, is that your understanding also Cory?

7:34:16 PM – Cory Petero affirmed then explained why they need to have approval first to use the property.

7:34:57 PM – Larry Hogg, I think it is going to be a great asset to the community and thank you for wanting to have it here.

7:35:09 PM – Cory Petero, we are going to expand and try to keep trucks in the area for three or four weeks of events and Weiser is definitely becoming the highlight of that.

7:35:36 PM – Sterling Blackwell, my one request is that as we the City are putting together this contract, whatever it is, that it is something that we look at becoming part of our procedures for future events.

7:36:21 PM

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to to approve Believe Pulling Sled to use City Property (Laird Property).

7:36:38 PM

AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MAINSTREET TO USE CITY OFFICE SPACE (OLD REC OFFICE) – Action Item. [7:36:49 PM](#)

Layna Hafer, 50 Lundberg Place, Weiser ID, Main Street Weiser President and Brenda Mattson, 715 Haas Rd, Weiser ID, Project Manager for Main Street Weiser addressed the Council with a request to use the old Recreation Office as 55 W Idaho, Suite A. Main Street needs a place for the mail to come and a professional place where people can come in, it also shows that Main Street Weiser actually exists.

[7:39:24 PM](#) – Mayor Hibberd, the Main Street Program is all about economic development and keeping our downtown core viable. This is a way the City can make a small but strong contribution.

[7:40:04 PM](#) – Larry Hogg, is the request for the use of the facility and the City would provide whatever utilities as well? Layna Hafer affirmed. Larry, and the phone? Layna, phone wise if there is anything that we would do that would involve the City we would come up with the finances to offset that. One of the things we will do as individuals is improve the space, that is our goal.

[7:42:15 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve Main Street Weiser to occupy the former Recreation Office area at 55 W Idaho, Suite A including the use of whatever utilities they require.

[7:42:41 PM](#)

AYES:	Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES:	None
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #688 AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN EAST COMMERCIAL APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO LHTAC FOR PRIORITIZATION – Action Item. [7:42:50 PM](#)

Mayor Hibberd, this is regarding that \$2,000,000.00 grant that has been awarded to the City of Weiser for fixing East Commercial Street.

[7:43:25 PM](#) – Sterling Blackwell, does the Resolution need to be read in or can we accept it as #688? Mayor Hibberd, we can accept it as Resolution #688.

[7:43:39 PM](#)

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve Resolution #688 and authorize the Mayor to sign it.

[7:44:09 PM](#)

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:	Larry Hogg, Herb Haun, Marg Chipman, Sterling Blackwell, Katie von Brethorst and Mike Hopkins
NAYES:	None
ABSTAINED:	None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE POLICIES: COST SAVING & ACCOUNTABILITY, USE OF CITY COMPUTERS & PHONES, EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION & OPEN DOOR POLICY, AND SMOKING & VAPING - Action Item. [7:44:47 PM](#). Mayor Hibberd called for any questions.

[7:45:08 PM](#) – Larry Hogg, in the smoking policy it basically bars Council, employees and vendors from smoking on city property whether it be at Memorial Park or City Hall. Should in the case of city parks, this policy be limited to regular business hours or times when employees would be conducting city business? Sterling Blackwell, or a clause stating when not on the clock. Larry affirmed.

[7:47:42 PM](#) – Larry Hogg, on the Cost Savings Policy there is a clause in there about the Mayor and City Council monitoring and evaluating each departments compliance with this policy. I think as far as the City Council goes, that's beyond our duties. I see the Council as more of the legislative body rather than the administrative arm of the City.

7:49:13 PM – Mayor Hibberd, a couple reasons that is in there is (1) the Mayor & Council are ultimately responsible and (2) if Council see's something or hears something, you hold me (the Mayor) accountable. Without that clause in there, I could tell you that I have it under hand. It just gives you some control when it's appropriate.

7:50:02 PM – Larry Hogg, but it says we will evaluate and monitor on a regular basis, inferring that we will at least be sitting down with department heads.

7:50:24 PM - Clerk McDaniel read the exact wording as stated in the policy. Larry Hogg, I don't have a problem with that if it just says the Mayor, I just don't think the Council should evaluate employees directly. Mayor Hibberd, we can work on the wording of that. Discussion on wording for this and the Smoking Policy followed.

7:53:09 PM – Marg Chipman, could we perhaps table those two policies and ask that they be rewritten with the feelings that were expressed tonight, then we could approve them as written? Mayor Hibberd affirmed.

7:53:31 PM
Motioned by Marg Chipman and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the Use of City Computers & Phones Policy and the Employee Suggestion & Open Door Policy and that the Cost Saving & Accountability Policy and the Smoking & Vaping Policy be reconsidered at a future meeting.

7:53:51 PM
AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – Action Item. 7:53:57 PM
Mayor Hibberd asked if there were any questions or comments.

7:54:23 PM – Sterling Blackwell, I think all of us as a city learned a great deal of what this process is and what it entails and I appreciate all the hard work that was done. We learned lessons both from the City Council side and then from the other governing boards on how to better do this the next time. I am looking forward to using this plan to guide the growth of Weiser. It is good to learn that it is a living document with the flexibility for us to make the changes that our community wants.

7:55:41 PM – Larry Hogg, it is my hope that we make it a living document and continue to review it on a continuous basis.

7:56:05 PM
Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the Comprehensive Plan as submitted.

7:56:13 PM
AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

TKO HOMES REQUEST FOR SET BACK VARIANCE – Action Item. 7:56:22 PM
Larry Hogg asked Council's permission to be recused from this item.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Mike Hopkins to recuse Larry Hogg.

7:56:55 PM
AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

7:57:01 PM – Mayor Hibberd explained to all present that no further comments could be taken from the audience as there had already been a Public Hearing held on this. Mayor Hibberd then asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council.

7:57:32 PM – Sterling Blackwell, I am curious to know for myself how we missed the street width?

7:58:02 PM – Dave Loos, City Building Inspector. What we have is a minimum right-of-way width and we just didn't use the complete right-of-way to put the streets in because those widths weren't required for the amount of traffic in that subdivision. Sterling Blackwell, thank you, that clarifies it.

7:58:54 PM – Sterling Blackwell, We had a great deal of discussion with Agile Homes when they asked for variances and we denied them for pretty solid reasons. I personally don't think it would be in our best interest to say yes if we just denied the developer across the street for the same thing. Maybe there is a different avenue they can find, but because a variance really changes the rules for everyone, I think that's the wrong route for us.

8:00:15 PM – Marg Chipman, it is my understanding also, that this does not meet the criteria for applying for a variance.

8:00:59 PM – Herb Haun, Planning & Zoning did spend some time on this and their recommendation was to not pass this variance.

8:01:15 PM

Motioned by Herb Haun and seconded by Marg Chipman to deny TKO Homes request for a Set Back Variance.

8:01:28 PM

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE FINAL PLAT FOR SUNDANCE SUBDIVISION AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN – Action Item. 8:01:38 PM

Mike Campbell, the major infrastructure is all in and completed and they meet all the code requirements and it looks really good. I believe they are at a point where we can approve their final plat. They will get the flashing crosswalk signs and paint the crosswalks as soon as weather allows. They have some street signs they ordered that are not in yet, we would wait until those are installed and approved before the Mayor would sign the Final Plat.

8:02:51 PM – Herb Haun, so you are comfortable at this time with approving? Mike Campbell affirmed.

8:02:59 PM - Larry Hogg asked Council permission to be recused from this item also.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Herb Haun to recuse Larry Hogg.

8:03:17 PM

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION CARRIED.

8:03:28 PM – Mike Campbell, this gives the Mayor permission to sign the Final Plat when it is totally completed in the next few weeks.

8:03:59 PM

Motioned by Herb Haun and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the Final Plat for the Sundance Subdivision and authorize the Mayor to sign.

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and
Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES ON D.L. EVANS SIGNATURE CARDS – Action Item. [8:04:17 PM](#)

[8:04:44 PM](#) – Larry Hogg again asked Council permission to be recused from this item.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Marg Chipman to recuse Larry Hogg from this item.

[8:04:58 PM](#)

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb Haun and
Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

[8:05:13 PM](#) – Mayor Hibberd, at this time only Clerk McDaniel and I can sign on the signature cards, we would like to add the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer as well.

[8:05:32 PM](#) – Marg Chipman, as a point of information, is this our normal City checking account? Mayor Hibberd, no, this is a Certificate of Deposit. Marg, do we have accounts with several of the local banks?

[8:05:53 PM](#) – Margaret Taggart, Treasurer. We also have the Council President on the other accounts so I don't know if that needs to be with this one as well? Clerk McDaniel, what other banks do we have accounts with? Margaret, we currently have deposits on hold with Zions Bank, D.L. Evans and the State Pool.

[8:06:45 PM](#)

Motioned by Marg Chipman and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to add the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and City Council President to the the D.L. Evans Bank Certificate of Deposit Signature Cards.

[8:07:20 PM](#)

ROLL CALL VOTE:
AYES: Mike Hopkins, Katie von Brethorst, Herb Haun, Marg Chipman and
Sterling Blackwell
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. [8:07:52 PM](#)

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to adjourn.

[8:07:55 PM](#)

AYES: Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman, Herb
Haun and Katie von Brethorst
NAYES: None
ABSTAINED: None
MOTION CARRIED.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT [8:07:58 PM](#)

Randall E Hibberd, Mayor

Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk