

**CITY OF WEISER  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

55 West Idaho Street  
Weiser, ID 83672  
Monday

**AUGUST 12, 2024**

7:00 PM

**Call to Order: 7:00:24 PM**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Larry Hogg, Marg Chipman, Sterling Blackwell and Katie von Brethorst.

**ABSENT:** Mike Hopkins.

**STAFF:** Herb Haun, Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Bill Taylor, Troy Krahn, Wayne Wallace and Sherri Breaux.

**Guests:** Phil Janquart, Thereasa Rasmussen, Hunter Mizar, Ron Bruce and Bonnie Akbar.

**Invocation was given by Reverend Hunter Mizar.**

**Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Taylor.**

**Commission Reports: 7:01:52 PM**

Marg Chipman, July 2024 Library Report. There will be another outdoor movie on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Marg then gave the monthly usage stats for the library.

**Committee Reports: 7:03:04 PM**

Sterling Blackwell, Economic Development Committee. The Committee will hold their next meeting on the first Friday of September to align their new goals.

**7:03:41 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, Design Review Committee. They will meet next week to work on their policies and adoptions on the many things they have been looking at.

**Department Reports** were presented by Clerk McDaniel. **7:04:26 PM**

**7:08:18 PM** – Larry Hogg asked if the water consumption report was year to date? Clerk McDaniel, it was their largest year of production not consumption.

**7:08:45 PM** – Katie von Brethorst recognized Ron McDaniel and the good job they have done at Memorial Park this year.

**7:09:15 PM** – Mike Campbell, the new Park Equipment for Memorial Park will be here on August 26th.

**MINUTES. 7:09:42 PM**

**Motioned by** Larry Hogg and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve the minutes of one (1) Special City Council Meeting on June 25, 2024, and one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on July 8, 2024, as presented and place them on file.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**BILLS. 7:10:42 PM**

**Motioned by** Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and present them to the Treasurer to have warrants drawn for payment.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON RATE INCREASES FOR WATER (5%), SEWER (5%) AND GARBAGE (13.8%).  
7:11:30 PM**

Herb Haun, Council President opened the Public Hearing. Council President Haun explained how the Public Hearing would proceed. He then read the Public Hearing Notice into the record.

**OPENING PRESENTATION: 7:13:22 PM**

Mike Campbell, Public Works Director explained why the City of Weiser is requesting a 5% rate increase for Water and Sewer and a 13.8 % increase for Garbage at this time. There were Questions from the Council. Mike explained that currently the cost of making water or processing sewage is more than we are charging and that the base rates are covering the difference. Discussion about twice a week garbage pick-up followed.

**IN FAVOR OF: 7:20:42 PM**

Troy Krahn, 262 E Court Street, Weiser Idaho. The rates the City of Weiser offers are extremely low and are probably well overdue for an increase.

Ron Bruce, 1374 Mann Creek Rd, I just wanted to reinforce how much expenses have been increasing on operations for the Cemetery and the Fire Department. I just wanted to encourage people to understand that if we want to keep the services we have, we are going to have to increase rates.

**NEUTRAL:** None.

**OPPOSED TO:** None.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:**

**7:22:41 PM** – Bonnie Akbar, 1032 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Is there a possibility of just having cardboard recycling? Mike Campbell explained that it currently costs more to recycle cardboard than it does to make it new.

**7:24:50 PM** – Sterling Blackwell gave a brief account of our electric cost situation. Mike Campbell added that we are working with an Electrical Engineer to do an Electric Rate Study. If or when we reach the need of 7 megawatts of electricity, rates will go up significantly.

**THIS PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 7:27:19 PM.**

**RESOLUTION #692 RATE INCREASE ON WATER (5%), SEWER (5%) AND GARBAGE (13.8%) – Action Item. 7:27:24 PM**

**Motioned By** Marg Chipman and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve Resolution #692 increasing Water by 5%, Sewer by 5% and Garbage by 13.8%. **7:27:46 PM**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Katie von Brethorst, Marg Chipman, Larry Hogg and Sterling Blackwell

**NAYES:** None.

**ABSTAINED:** None.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONSIDER LAS ESMERALDAS WEISER LLC BEER AND WINE APPLICATION – Action Item. 7:28:16 PM**

Lt Troy Krahn, Weiser Police Department. We cannot find any reason that the license should be denied, we see no foreseeable issues.

**Motioned By** Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Marg Chipman to accept and approve the Beer and Wine License Application for Las Esmeraldas Weiser LLC. **7:29:22 PM**

**AYES:** Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst,

**NAYES:** None.

**ABSTAINED:** None.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONSIDER ARTFUL BON REQUEST FOR MURAL AT THE CITY POOL – Action Item. 7:29:58 PM**

Bonnie Akbar, 1032 W 6<sup>th</sup>, Weiser ID 83672. Bonnie offered to paint an ocean scene mural on the south walls of the City Pool and a playful scene like an octopus over the entryway. Bonnie noted that the LOR Foundation will cover up to \$250.00 for paint. The paint she uses has a 25-year guarantee. Bonnie is hoping to do this project before the end of August. It will take about one week per wall.

**Motioned By** Marg Chipman and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve Artful Bon's offer to paint a Mural on the south side of the City Pool. **7:34:14 PM**

**AYES:** Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst

NAYES: None.  
ABSTAINED: None.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**FY 2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET – Action Item. 7:35:34 PM**

**FY2025 BUDGET**

**General Fund Expenditures:**

**Proposed Budget:**

Mayor/Council/General Administration.	\$ 614,597.00
Police/Animal Control.	\$2,036,962.00
Fire/Building Inspection.	\$ 394,611.00
Special Events.	\$ 522,000.00
Parks/Pool/Events Center.	\$ 447,962.00
Shop/Building Maintenance.	\$ 146,326.00
Stores	\$ 115,213.00
<b>General Fund Totals:</b>	<b>\$4,277,671.00</b>
Library Fund:	\$ 226,739.00
Street Fund:	\$3,587,413.00
Capital Maintenance Fund:	\$ 168,000.00
Tort Liability Fund:	\$ 109,813.00
Recreation Fund:	\$ 287,536.00
Airport Fund:	\$ 186,310.00
Water Service Fund:	\$1,872,500.00
Electric Service Fund:	\$3,978,270.00
Garbage Collection Fund:	\$ 918,290.00
Sewer Fund:	\$1,645,029.00
Meter Deposit Fund:	\$ 7,500.00
Water Improvement Fund:	\$ 8,000.00
All Other Fund Expenditures:	\$12,995,400.00
<b>TOTAL – All Fund-Expenditures:</b>	<b>17,273,071.00</b>

**Property Tax Levy:**

**Proposed Revenues:**

General Fund:	\$1,482,709.00
Library Fund:	\$ 167,739.00
Street Fund:	\$ 255,524.00
Tort Fund:	\$ 108,813.00
Recreation Fund:	\$ 116,216.00
<b>Total Property Levy:</b>	<b>\$2,131,001.00</b>

**Revenue Other Than Property Tax:**

General Fund:	\$2,205,963.00
Library Fund:	\$ 59,000.00
Street Fund:	\$1,351,889.00
Tort Liability Fund:	\$ 1,000.00
Capital Maintenance:	\$ 50,000.00
Recreation Fund:	\$ 153,720.00
Airport Fund:	\$ 186,310.00

Water Service Fund:	\$1,622,500.00
Electric Service Fund:	\$3,778,270.00
Garbage Collection Fund:	\$ 604,450.00
Sewer Fund:	\$1,367,900.00
Meter Deposit Fund:	\$ 7,500.00
Water Improvement Fund:	\$ 8,000.00
Designated/Undesignated Fund Balance:	\$3,745,568.00
<b>Total Other Revenue Source:</b>	<b>\$11,396,502.00</b>

**TOTAL – All Funds-Revenue: \$17,273,071.00**

**7:35:47 PM** – Sterling Blackwell, how do the new rate increases help us in our budgeting side? Mike Campbell, they were already added in. Discussion about the General Fund deficit followed. Mike noted that there has been discussion with the mayor to create a committee to find ways to decrease the General Fund budget for next year. Interest income was discussed. Mike noted that in the last three years we have not had to use any of the deficit spending we have budgeted for due in part to the large amount of interest we have earned on investments. Discussion continued about deficit spending solutions for the General Fund.

**7:45:47 PM**

**Motioned By** Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to adopt the FY2025 Tentative Budget and proceed to publication of Public Hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

**APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN CROWN UTILITIES PROPOSAL – Action Item. 7:46:34 PM**

Wayne Wallace, Electric Department Supervisor explained the issues of having pole mounted transformers in the back yards of homes located between Moyer and Park Drive. They would like permission to do a directional bore out front in the city right-of-way. They will place transformers in front yards and run secondary lines underground to the poles in the back yards. They will leave the secondary lines from poles to houses and communication lines in place. Discussion followed. Mike Campbell noted that the same project was done on the north side of Moyer. Mike, the only cost of this project not budgeted for is the bore (\$18,457.74).

**7:54:42 PM**

**Motioned By** Marg Chipman and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the Crown Utilities Proposal.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

**CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A 4-WHEELER FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,000.00 – Action Item. 7:55:19 PM**

Bill Taylor, Water Department Supervisor requested approval to purchase a 4-wheel drive 4-wheeler to replace their late model 2-wheel drive 4-wheeler. Bill then informed the Council of what the 4-wheeler is used for. Mike Campbell added that this was not budgeted for but that there was room in their budget to purchase one.

**Motioned By** Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the Water Departments request to purchase a 4-wheel drive 4-wheeler not to exceed \$7,000.00. **7:58:09 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Larry Hogg, Marg Chipman, Katie von Brethorst and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**CONSIDER CHANGING FROM TWO BILLING CYCLES TO ONE BILLING CYCLE – Action Item. 7:58:36 PM**

City Clerk Natasha McDaniel explained to the Council the reasoning behind going to a once-a-month billing cycle. The bills will go to the billing company at the end of the month so residents will receive them on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. The delinquent date would be the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, and the shut-off date would be the 23<sup>rd</sup> of every month. Clerk McDaniel then explained how we would implement the new billing plan. Discussion followed.

**Motioned By** Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to accept the idea of changing from a two-billing cycle to a one-billing cycle. **8:08:41 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Katie von Brethorst, Marg Chipman and Larry Hogg

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ORDINANCE #1270 ONE BILLING CYCLE – Action Item. 8:09:10 PM**

**Motioned By** Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance #1270 on to its third and final reading by title only.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Katie von Brethorst, Larry Hogg, Marg Chipman and Sterling Blackwell

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**8:09:56 PM** – Clerk McDaniel read Ordinance #1270 by title only.

**Motioned By** Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to adopt Ordinance #1270. **8:10:52 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Marg Chipman, Sterling Blackwell, Katie von Brethorst and Larry Hogg

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. 8:11:29 PM**

**Motioned By** Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to adjourn. **8:11:34 PM**

AYES: Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst

NAYES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:11:45 PM**

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**Herb Haun, Council President**

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**Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk**