

CITY OF POCA TELLO, IDAHO
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Mayor Brian Blad called the City Council
ROLL CALL Study Session to order at 9:01 AM. Council
members present were Roger Bray, Craig
Cooper, Gary Moore, and Eva Johnson Nye. Council members Ron
Frasure and Brian Underwood were excused.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Barbara Stone, Animal Shelter Advisory Board
ANIMAL SHELTER Chair Person, and Mary Remer, Animal Shelter
ADVISORY BOARD Director, discussed the Board's goals and
UPDATE projects as well as Council's policies and
expectations. Ms. Stone mentioned that more
dogs were adopted out in 2009 than in previous one year periods.
She stated that the Humane Society is helping with a reduced cost
spay and neuter program which assists individuals who might not be
able to afford the procedure for their pets. Ms. Stone thanked the
Council for allowing the shelter to hire a full-time volunteer
coordinator. She reminded the Council that the Animal Shelter
Advisory Board is moving forward with building a new Animal
Shelter. The Friends of the Animal Shelter group has contracted
with an architectural firm to draw the plans for the facility and
negotiations are taking place with Idaho State University for a
possible location for the shelter.

Ms. Remer informed the Council that the Board plans to review the
livestock ordinance in the near future.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Barbara Stone, Animal Shelter Advisory Board
ANIMAL CONTROL Chair Person; Mary Remer, Animal Shelter
ORDINANCE REVISION Director; and Nancy Ferris, Chief Deputy
UPDATE Attorney; discussed proposed changes to the
Animal Control section of the City Code.

Ms. Remer overviewed the recommended changes. She clarified that
the proposed ordinance allows the judge discretion on when a dog
should be destroyed. Other changes allow for different methods for
owners to confine their animals. The proposed changes could
decrease animal owners' costs when they are required to confine
their animals. Ms. Remer stated that the proposed codes include a
section that could require that an animal owner post a cash bond.
The bond amount would be determined by the court for the reasonable
costs associated with the seizure and care of animals while the pet
is confined awaiting an outcome of a trial.

Nancy Ferris, Chief Civil Attorney, mentioned that the section of
code on posting bonds comes from State Code. The wording was not
created by the City.

Ms. Remer mentioned that a section dealing with dog tethering is
being recommended as an addition to the code. The dog tethering
section provides guidelines so animals which are left outside are

better taken care of. Following questioning on this section of the code, Ms. Remer mentioned that additional consideration will be given to the requirements on the weight of the chain. The Board will check to make sure that the weight requirement is not so heavy that the dog cannot move or too light that the dog can break the chain.

Ms. Remer stated that the code section on the Multiple Animal Housing Licenses is recommended for change so that a person who has four or more dogs will be required to get a license. The current code requires a license for more than two dogs. She mentioned that there are 88 licenses at the current time; 53 of which are for persons who have only three dogs.

Additional discussion was held on what might be the appropriate number of animals to have in a home before a Multiple Animal Housing License is required. During the discussion, it was stated that Animal Shelter staff work with pet owners when there are special circumstances. Staff has allowed persons to have an extra dog for a limited time without purchasing a Multiple Animal Housing License.

In response to questions from the Council, Ms. Remer stated that a majority of the codes in the State allow for Animal Control Officers to determine if a dog is vicious. She mentioned that Officers provide guidance to animal owners on how to better secure their pets. Ms. Remer stated that pet owners are supplied with information on training and the Humane Society does help with spay and neutering costs. It was stated that requiring bonding would make it a hardship on people with limited resources to keep their animals.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Brian Lowman, Recreation Program
BANNOCK BASEBALL Coordinator; and Travis Smith, Bannock
COOPERATIVE Baseball Board of Directors President; were
AGREEMENT present to discuss the Team Sports Division
DISCUSSION assuming operation control of the Bannock
Baseball League. At the Study Session on

January 14, 2010, the Council asked for additional information on the anticipated revenues and expenses associated with running the program. Mr. Lowman overviewed the revenue and expense estimates. He mentioned that the two part-time positions that are included in the expense section will have additional duties to perform for the parks and recreation department.

In response to questions from the Council, Mr. Lowman stated that staff has not determined what would be cut if revenues do not meet expectations.

Mr. Smith stated that maintenance of the fields could be done by the coaches, which could be a cost savings for the program. However, it would be something that the Bannock Baseball Board of Directors would have to discuss.

Mayor Blad expressed concerns that volunteers may not come forward to coach or support the teams once the City takes control over operations.

Mr. Smith stated that it is not the intention of Bannock Baseball to have the City take over finding coaches. He believes that volunteer coaches will come forward for the program. Mr. Smith envisions the City and Bannock Baseball working together to move baseball forward in Pocatello.

It was the consensus of the Council that staff should prepare the appropriate materials for Council consideration. The documents should show that the City may work with the Board of Directors on a joint venture. However, the program will not be tax supported and Bannock Baseball must provide the coaches for the program.

Mr. Lowman clarified that two part-time positions needed for the program would not require the hiring of additional positions. Two part-time positions were required to take care of the Fort Hall Replica. Since the City is no longer taking care of the Replica those two positions could be shifted to field maintenance and assisting with other programs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Roger Bray, Bannock County Complete Count
BANNOCK COUNTY Committee Chair Person, and Anne Nichols,
COMPLETE COUNT Assistant to the Mayor and a member of the
COMMITTEE Complete County Committee, updated the Mayor
and Council on the Committee's activities to
promote the 2010 Census. Mr. Bray stated it has been intentional
for the City of Pocatello to be involved in the Census. The last
time the Census was conducted the City of Pocatello was
undercounted by approximately 2,500 people. He mentioned that
between \$1,400.00 and \$4,400.00 of federal funds per year are
attributed to every person that is counted. Mr. Bray reminded the
Council that political boundaries are determined by the Census.
Therefore, if people do not complete the Census forms the Boise
population could determine more and more of what happens in
Southeast Idaho. Mr. Bray stated the purpose of the Committee is
to have every person in Bannock County counted. He emphasized that
Census information remains confidential and is not shared with any
other agencies. Mr. Bray thanked Ms. Nichols for the work she has
done on the Committee.

Ms. Nichols reminded the Council that the Committee started
publicity on the Census in April of 2009. The Committee has been

providing information in various formats every month to inform people about the Census.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: David Swindell, Chief Financial Officer; Kim WORKERS COMPENSATION Smith, Human Resources Director; and Kirk INSURANCE OPTION Bybee, Civil Attorney and Risk Manager; discussed the possibility of self-insuring the City's Workers Compensation Insurance program. Mr. Swindell reminded the Council that further investigation on self-insuring will require significant staff time and discussions with the State Industrial Commission. Therefore, staff is seeking guidance from the Council to ascertain if staff should continue exploring self-insuring options and if so at what pace.

Ms. Smith stated that claims management is important to the City. The City would like to see an emphasis on getting employees back to work. She mentioned that the State Insurance Fund does process City claims but provides minimal claims management support.

Mr. Swindell presented information on the net costs of the Workers Compensation program. He mentioned that new rates and experiencing ratings have been given to the City. As a result of those changes the annual cost is \$172,878.00 less than what was budgeted. Mr. Swindell overviewed the requirements the City would need to meet if the City self-insured the Workers Compensation Program.

Council asked staff to provide additional information on what other cities have done with self-insuring. The Council specifically asked that staff look at cities outside of the State of Idaho.

It was the consensus of the Council that staff proceed with investigating self-insuring the Workers Compensation Program. Additionally, they wished staff to use the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 as a tentative change over date when determining costs.

Mayor Blad called a recess at 10:58 AM.

Mayor Blad reconvened the Study Session at 11:11 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Randy Ghezzi, Street Operations PORTNEUF RIVER Superintendent; Deirdre Castillo, Interim LEVEES UPDATE City Engineer; and Greg Lanning, Public Works Director; provided information on the levee recertification program and requested Council guidance on how to proceed with various issues related to the levees. Mr. Ghezzi overviewed the latest report submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers. He mentioned some of the department's current efforts on the levees which include: inspection of the levees every 90 days, vegetation management, and a spray program. It was stated that the next report to the Army Corps of Engineers is due July 31,

2010. Mr. Ghezzi informed the Council that a request for 2 additional full-time employees to work on the levees will be made during the budget process. He stated that silt removal is the major focus of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Castillo commended the City crews for the great job they are doing on removing trees off of the levees. She mentioned that to remove the silt would require obtaining permits from the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Army Corps of Engineer. It is estimated it could take four months or longer to obtain the necessary permits. Ms. Castillo informed the Council that the City has not received a determination from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the request to recertify the levees.

Mr. Ghezzi asked the Council how they wished to proceed with public outreach.

It was the consensus of the Council that the brochure developed by the Street Department needs to be given to the citizens. Various suggestions were offered on how to get the brochures distributed. It was suggested that the brochure be mailed out with the utility bills or an alternative mailing method could be used.

Staff recommended that an informal meeting be held to inform citizens of the progress on the levees projects.

It was the consensus of the Council that they were comfortable with staffs plans and strategies for moving forward and providing information on the projects.

There being no other business, Mayor Blad adjourned the Study Session at 11:41 AM.

APPROVED:

BRIAN C. BLAD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RHONDA L. JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK