

**CITY OF PIERCE**  
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546  
Monday, December 9, 2024  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Gerot, Councilmembers: Stinson, Bonner, Root and Hosley

Staff Members: Teresa Koepke, City Clerk and Jack Koepke, Maintenance

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the approval of November 12, 2024 Public Hearing on Proposed Grant Activities and Regular Meeting Minutes and December's accounts payable. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments & Request: None

Jack Koepke, Maintenance Supervisor reported that new brake rotors and pads were put on the Ford one-ton. Jack stated that the Ford has had some issues in the past, but has been worked on, and is running fairly well, especially to use around town. We wouldn't want to depend on it to go to Lewiston but by driving it around town, the new Dodge doesn't get dirty from the guys digging in water or sewer lines and then getting in the vehicle. The maintenance team assisted in locating the 8" water main line for a sewer project that Todd Hoffman was having done on Walker Road. Everything worked out great with that. Jack plans on working on the water plant starting Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to drain and clean the reaction tank. At some point a hole was cut in the compartment wall for a drain. This has allowed the tanks to mix which causes higher turbidity. Jack installed a valve between two of the compartments within the tank in order to prevent the tanks mixing. This should help with turbidity. The backflow preventer at the filters was worn out causing dirty backwash to go into the reaction tank. This has been repaired. The test results for the sewer plant are coming back very good. The suspended solids number is at 98.70%. The BOD, which is the oxygen removed before the effluent is released into the creek is at 99.9%. Michael Martin from City of Orofino told Jack those numbers are very good, and almost unheard of. Jack contributes the results to the manner in which the maintenance team is pressing the solids, and the work the guys are doing on routine maintenance around the sewer plant. The maintenance team has plowed priority 1 routes with the plow truck a couple times and have sanded as needed. Councilmember Root asked Jack about the pond on Shanghai Road that belongs to the city. She said the water level is very high and she wondered if there was a gate to open to let the water out. Jack stated the gate is open but that he would drive out and take a look at the situation. Councilmember Stinson asked Jack about the algae in the detention tank. Jack said that the algae is now gone.

Clare Brick with the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department reported the department raised \$148 from selling baked goods at the Holiday Bazar on November 23rd. All baked goods were donated by fire department family members and the Pierce Gem Community paid for the table space. This Saturday, December 14th, the fire department will be with Santa at the Gold Rush Saloon from 5 to 7 pm.

City Clerk Teresa Koepke reported that Mayor Gerot completed the Mayor's Walking Challenge through Blue Cross. The City of Pierce was awarded a \$1,000 grant for Mayor Gerot's completion of the challenge. Mayor Gerot completed an average of 10,000 steps per day during the month of October.

Work has started on the weatherization project for city hall. The engineer has presented a design for the construction of the sidewalk on Carle for the Child Pedestrian Safety grant. Clearwater County was awarded an AmeriCorp team that will be in our area from mid-February to mid-April. Teresa was unsure of any projects the team may be able to do for the City of Pierce given the time of year. Applications for the Leading Idaho Local Bridge Program have been submitted for the bridge on Moscrip (29065) and Fromelt (29061). This program is a zero-match program. Teresa has reached out to Sheriff Goetz in attempt to get clarification of what services the residents of Pierce can expect from the Clearwater County Sheriff's Department. Teresa specifically asked about traffic control on Main St. due to speeding vehicles on Main St. Sheriff Goetz told Teresa he would try to get some deputies up to patrol. Teams from FEMA will be in our area in March to host a community outreach event. The tentative date for the City of Pierce is March 11<sup>th</sup>. Teresa reported that 60 people have signed up for the new payment portal. 18 are enrolled auto-pay and 19 are enrolled in e-bill. Teresa will work on trying to increase those numbers. Teresa would like to schedule an appreciate luncheon for the staff, mayor, councilmembers and their spouses. A date of December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. was chosen.

#### New Business:

Councilmember Bonner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 343 regarding employee wage increases. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. 3 Ayes 1 Nay. Motion carried.

Options for a Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Pierce were discussed. Since the City of Pierce did not renew their contract with the Clearwater County Sheriff's Department, the Sheriff's Department will no longer deal with any of the city's code enforcement issues. The idea of contracting with a private citizen to handle code complaints was discussed. Mayor Gerot stated that by having a third-party deal with code complaints, and not anyone from the City of Pierce, it would put the complaint process at arm's-length. Mayor Gerot has recently been in contact with Jeff Getchel, a resident of Pierce, about his interest in assisting the City of Pierce with their code enforcement. Mr. Getchel is a retired law enforcement officer with 27+ years of experience. When asked about his philosophy on how he would approach the position, Mr. Getchel stated that he is not interested in policing, but is interested in acting more as a liaison between the City of Pierce and the resident(s) accused of violating city code. He stated his approach would be to after receiving a written complain, he would first contact the reported violator, as they may not know there is an issue. He would then discuss the violation and come up with a resolution and a timeframe for that resolution. Mr. Getchel stated that with his training and experience, he is very skilled at getting people to cooperate. He would also reach out to the complainant so that they knew they were being heard. Once the code violation is remedied, Mr. Getchell would then provide a written report to the City of Pierce summarizing what action was taken and resolution provided. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to pursue working on a contract with Mr. Getchel for his services. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Discussion was held it would be good to hold a work session, possibly in January, to work out details of a contract and handbook for the position. All in favor. Motion carried.

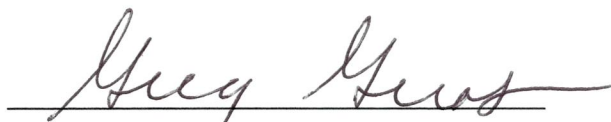
Councilmember Bonner made a motion to approve 2025 Business License Applications for Jerry Cole's Repair, Jared Construction, Jared Rentals, Support4Business, and Pierce Hardware. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b). Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Roll Call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Executive session entered at 7:20 p.m.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to exit executive session. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Executive session exited at 7:41 p.m.

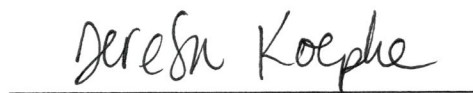
Councilmember Root made a motion to give all employees and active members of the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department their choice of a ham or turkey from The Market at Pierce. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Greg Gerot", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Teresa Koepke", written over a horizontal line.

Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer