

**CITY OF PIERCE**  
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546  
Monday, February 10, 2025 6:00 p.m.  
**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 John Koepke & Teresa Koepke

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and February, 2025 Accounts Payable. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

No Citizen's Reports or Requests

Department Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke reported that they are still looking for a newer plow but haven't found anything yet. Jack was able to get some metal trim for the sewer plant office and blower building at a highly discounted rate. The existing trim on the building is in poor shape from being ran into through the years. Jack recently toured the water plant in Juliaetta. He stated that their system is very similar to ours but much newer. He said their plant is very well maintained and very clean. Jack also checked out the equipment shed that Troy has which gave him some ideas on a design for ours. Jack reported that the reaction tank at the water plant is in very poor shape. Jack shared photos with the council showing the condition of the tank. Jack is checking with Sherwin Williams to see if they have a coating they can recommend for the tank. Jack is also trying to get quotes from Broemeling Steel and West-Tech for a new tank. The biggest expense would be that the tank would need to be built on-site as it would be too large to fit through the doors of the water plant. Jack mentioned that polymers have come along way in the last 60 years since the plant was built, so a smaller tank may work. Jack will conduct a trial over the next few months using only a portion of the existing tank to see if a smaller tank would work. Jack reported that the feed pumps for the alum, polymer, and Super-Floc are all different. It would be ideal to standardize them so that you had parts and/or a spare on hand that would work when a pump failed, rather than having to have parts and/or a spare for each pump. Jack estimated that pumps would cost between \$1,000 - \$1,300 each. We would need to check the budget and start planning to upgrade the pumps. Jack reported that more work is being completed on the blower that is being installed at the wastewater treatment plant. There was an issue with the staffing for the electricians that were doing the work. That issue has been resolved and it sounds like the work should be completed within the next couple weeks at which time a start-up date will be determined.

Fire Chief Matthew Hagele reported the following: The fire department had a successful SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and engine training on January 18, 2025. Members of the fire department responded to a vehicle accident at the Junction of Hwy 11 and French Mt. Road on Jan 21, 2025. Matt Hagele and Harv Nelson attended the Chief's meeting in Orofino on January 8, 2025. Matthew attended a meeting on January 22, 2025. Members of the fire department cleared snow from the fire hydrants on Feb 5th and 6th. The IDYCA cadets will be finished with Acclimation Phase on February 7th and will help keep the fire hydrants clear of snow. The Fire Department Benefit Breakfast hosted by Chubby's will be on February 15, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. -11 a.m. Firefighters and family members are set to volunteer at this event. An on-scene tactics and procedures training will be held on

February 15, 2025. The Fire Department is waiting on applications to become available for Clearwater County Fire Academy in Orofino for March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Faith Lutheran Church sent the fire department a donation of \$150 from their Christmas offering. The fire department was very appreciative of the donation.

City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke reported the weatherization project for city hall is now complete. The request for reimbursement has been sent to the Office of Energy & Mineral Resources. However, due to President Trump's executive orders, there is a pause on processing the requests. Teresa will provide updates as she receives them. The City does seem to be benefiting from the weatherization project as the Avista bill for city hall was \$281.49 less for this February (2025) than last February (2024). Teresa also mentioned that even though the temperatures this last month were much colder than the month before, the bill from January 2025 to February 2025 was \$195.66 less. Teresa said she believes this is due to the heaters not being left on in parts of city hall. On the topic of the Avista bill, the bill for the water plant was down 40% from this time last year. Having repaired the multiple leaks in the Pines is a major contributing factor. LHTAC reached out to Teresa to inform the City that if we combine the sidewalk project for the Child Pedestrian Safety grant with the bridge replacement, it would save a substantial amount of money. The only downside would be that the sidewalk project may not get done this summer. Teresa did ask LHTAC if we would be able to at least do the radar speed signs this year. They are going to check and get back with her. Teresa reported that Mayor Gerot held a strategic planning meeting for all city employees on January 16, 2025. The employees discussed the successes of 2024 and made a list of items they would like to see done starting in 2025. The list is a starting point and not necessarily everything that is being committed to. The list was shared with the councilmembers. Resident Clare Brick asked if the list could be shared with the public. Mayor Gerot stated that anyone wanting to view the list could ask the City Clerk for that. Mayor Gerot, Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke, and City Clerk Teresa Koepke have been working with Rural Development and Merrick Engineering on finalizing the work and funding for Phase II, as well as reviewing the work and funding for Phase III. Teresa informed the Mayor and Council that the budget line in the General Fund for utilities was entered incorrectly. The budget line shows \$750 and should be \$7,500. An amendment can be done to the budget to correct this but Teresa wanted to disclose the error to the council for full transparency and information.

#### New Business:

Clearwater County Ambulance personnel were scheduled to be in attendance to discuss a potential levy increase. Unfortunately, they had to cancel at the last minute due to a shortage in staffing. They requested to be put on the agenda for the March 10, 2025 meeting.

Jeffrey Getchell was present to report that he was able to find the liability insurance that City of Pierce is requiring of him to have in his role as Code Enforcement Liaison Officer for the City of Pierce. Mr. Getchell reported that the policy meets the requirements and is less than \$300 per year. Mr. Getchell would be responsible for paying the premium, listing the City of Pierce as additional insured, and providing proof of the policy to the City of Pierce. Questions were raised on whether the new Code Enforcement Liaison Officer would enforce fire codes. After some discussion it was decided it would depend on the situation of whether the Code Enforcement Liaison Officer or the Fire Chief would enforce the codes. Either way, the code violations should be brought to the attention of City Council. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve the Code Enforcement Liaison contract presented between Jeffrey Getchell and the City of Pierce effective March 1, 2025. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. Roll Call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.



Clare Brick with the Pierce GEM Team informed the City that the Clearwater County Spring Community Cleanup Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025. Clare stated that she will pass along a confirmed date and more information as it becomes available. Clare also stated that the GEM Team is interested in partnering with the City on banners for the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy. Clare presented banner designs that would either welcome the cadets upon arrival, or congratulate the cadets upon graduating from the Academy. The GEM Team would purchase the banners and is requesting that the City display them at City Hall since the GEM Team does not have a physical location. It was discussed that the City was already planning on installing some posts next to city hall so that banners could be hung for various events. Councilmembers felt it was a great idea to have banners for the IDYCA cadets.

A proposal from American Legal Publishing was presented. The Pierce City Code books have not been codified since 2016 and there have been several ordinances passed since that time. The \$5,990 cost of the codification would include making the city codes available online for easier access. It was discussed that a review of the current codes may be warranted to see if any are outdated or no longer relevant, and if either an update, or even elimination of some codes may be needed. It was discussed that the entire code book be reviewed in work sessions over a time period before moving forward with codification. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to table the item in order to review the current city codes. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. No action taken on this agenda item.

The City of Pierce has seven Certificates of Deposit with Idaho Central Credit Union that will mature on February 15, 2025. The balance of the CDs at this time is \$339,132.13. Promotional CD rates at ICCU were reviewed. Teresa mentioned that she checked CD rates at Wells Fargo and Banner Bank, and that ICCU had the best rates at this time. The State Treasury is currently paying 4.523% but this is a variable rate and drop at any time. Councilmember Root made the motion to reinvest the seven CDs into a 12-month promotional CD at ICCU. Councilmember Hosley seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

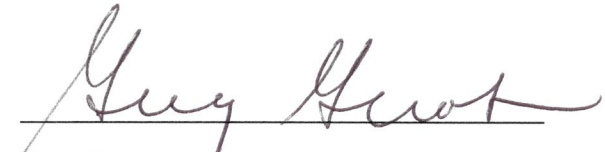
Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve the 2025 Business Licenses as presented. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The Timber Inn was approved for a business license, alcohol license, and beer and wine license.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Idaho Historical Society, J. Howard Bradbury Museum, and City of Pierce. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Roll Call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

A request from Guy and Eva Bonner for the subdivision of lots located within the City of Pierce was reviewed. Prior to any discussion, Councilmember Guy Bonner recused himself from the topic and stated he would now speak as a citizen making the request and not a councilmember. Mr. Bonner stated he would like to subdivide his property on Third Ave. The current legal description is PIERCE STOVERS ADDN SEC 2 36N 5E LOTS 13, 14, 15, 16, BLK 3. The Bonners would like to separate lot 13 from lots 14, 15, and 16. Mr. Bonner realizes he will need to have a survey completed and a new legal description drawn up to file with Clearwater County. He was advised by Clearwater County that he must first get approval from the City of Pierce. The transaction would just subdivide a parcel and not create a subdivision. Councilmember Hosley made a motion to approve Guy and Eva Bonner's request to subdivide the property into two separate parcels. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Roll Call: Stinson – Yes, Root – Yes, and Hosley – Yes. Motion carried.

Executive session was not entered into and no action was taken from any executive session.

Councilmember Hosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

  
Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer