

June 24, 2019

The City Council of the City of Idaho Falls met in Council Work Session, Monday, June 24, 2019, in the Council Chambers in the City Annex Building located at 680 Park Avenue in Idaho Falls, Idaho at 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

There were present:

Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper
Councilmember Thomas Hally
Councilmember Shelly Smede
Councilmember Jim Francis
Councilmember Jim Freeman
Councilmember John Radford

Absent:

Councilmember Michelle Ziel-Dingman

Also present:

Kirt Marlow, Energy Technology and Environment Working Group (ETEG)
Duane Nelson, Fire Chief
Dave Coffey, Deputy Fire Chief
Bryce Johnson, Police Chief
William Squires, Police Captain
Melisa Ruoho
Michael Kirkham, Assistant City Attorney
Kathy Hampton, City Clerk

Mayor Casper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the following items:

Acceptance and/or Receipt of Minutes:

There were no minutes to accept.

Calendars, Announcements and Reports:

Mayor Casper reminded the Council of the Idaho Falls Power Board Meeting and the City Council Meeting to be held on June 27. Several budget meetings, in addition to regular City Council Meetings, will be occurring in July. She noted the July 8 Council Work Session has been moved to July 1. Mayor Casper stated a variety of topics were discussed at the recent Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) Annual Conference, all presentations will be posted on the AIC website. She recognized the Idaho Falls Police Department (IFPD) and the Public Works Department for their awards at the AIC Conference. She also recognized several Post Register 'Best of Awards' for the City. Mayor Casper stated the elected officials will be participating in the July 4 parade with a 'Bring It' entry.

Liaison Reports and Concerns:

Councilmember Hally stated the topic of sales tax was discussed at AIC, including sales tax for online sales. He also stated the Broadway Streetscape project is anticipated to be completed in July. The Idaho Falls Redevelopment Agency is assisting with the funding on this project.

Councilmember Smede briefly reviewed workshops she attended at AIC including the workshop presented by Community Development Services Director Brad Cramer regarding annexation. She also stated the Library is holding daily events throughout the summer for all ages; and, the City South Downtown Plan meeting/open house will be held on June 26.

Councilmember Freeman stated Bat Night at the Zoo will be occurring on June 27. He also stated Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and, the public safety departments will be assisting with the Fourth of July activities. Councilmember Freeman believes, following AIC discussions, the City of Idaho Falls is not alone in their frustration with issues at the State level.

Councilmember Francis believes all workshops at AIC were worthwhile.

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Councilmember Radford had no items to report.

Regional Economic Development for Eastern Idaho (REDI) Energy Technology and Environment Working Group (ETEG):

Mayor Casper introduced Mr. Marlow. She also recognized REDI Executive Director Dana Kirkham, noting this is the last week for Ms. Kirkham at REDI. Teresa McKnight will be replacing Ms. Kirkham.

Mr. Marlow stated ETEG is under the umbrella of REDI. He then presented the following with general discussion throughout:

ETEG is a volunteer group to study new opportunities and help the community better understand them. This happens by participating in community meetings; providing educational materials; writing commentary; producing reference materials; and, engaging with industry partners. Mr. Marlow stated ETEG has been presented in various cities.

ETEG Subcommittees - Small Modular Reactor (SMR), Nuclear Working Group, and, Technology Committee.

Upcoming opportunities:

- Naval Spent Fuel Handling Facility
- Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) SMR
- National Reactor Innovation Center

Are We Ready To Address These Opportunities?

- The Idaho National Laboratory
 - Local advocacy brought the lab to Eastern Idaho
 - The result - 70 years of landmark research – more than 4,000 employees (sixth largest employer in Idaho); about \$150M spent in 2018 on Idaho-based subcontractors; greater than \$600K in charitable donations in 2018; and, over \$2B in total economic impact in 2018

The Competition - across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex

Advocacy Is Just The First Step

- Regional small business needs
- Anticipated shortage of quality housing
- Higher graduation rates for BS and Grad students

Untapped talent

- Bringing up the rear: Idaho ranks near bottom for educated workforce

Mr. Marlow expressed his appreciation to the Council. He reviewed additional contact information. General comments followed.

Ladder Truck Lease/Purchase Discussion:

Chief Nelson stated the lease purchase, under the new proposal, would allow the potential to purchase large pieces of equipment. This lease would replace a current aerial apparatus ladder truck that is ready for reserve. Chief Nelson stated there was not previous adequate planning within the Idaho Falls Fire Department (IFFD) for large purchases of vehicles. Approximately four (4) years ago the IFFD discussed with Council compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 Standard and, operating the apparatus on a schedule that would allow a 15-year front line use and then placed into reserve for ten (10) years. This would allow the equipment to have a 25-year life span. At that time most of the fleet was 20 years old or older. The IFFD would be in-line with the NFPA Standard with this final piece of equipment and would also solidify the Municipal Equipment Replacement Fund (MERF) for the future of the IFFD. Chief Nelson stated the NFPA 1901 Standard, for National and industry best practices, is updated every three (3) years and identified through peer review. He noted there is also current discussion regarding cancer and clean cabs within the IFFD. Chief Nelson stated the reserve aerial apparatus ladder truck is being used front line as there is currently no reserve apparatus. The lack of reserve apparatus affects the Insurance Service Office

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(ISO) rating. Chief Nelson stated, based on the Standard, the current ladder truck should be put into reserve in 2021. A ladder truck is an 18-month build and is estimated at \$1.4M if completely customized. Chief Nelson does not believe all customizations are needed for this community. Any contracts would be presented to the Council in October. Deputy Chief Coffey presented a video of the proposed ladder truck. He stated the truck has a mid-mount aerial, the clearance is lower, and, there is a tighter turning radius. Chief Nelson noted, per discussion with Legal staff and Municipal Services, a lease purchase is not the cheapest option for the truck. Option 1 – cash up front would be a \$70,000 saving. This funding is not available in the MERF account. Option 2 – put money into MERF (\$450,000 annually) and save for three (3) years. This option would not meet the schedule, would put the IFFD approximately three (3) years out of compliance of the NFPA, and, would be the most expensive option due to inflation increases. Option 3 – the lease purchase with a five-year term of ~\$297,000 annually. There would be a contract with a build-out over the next several months. The contract would be finalized with a lock-in price. The first payment would be due in the following year with a six-month delivery date. Councilmember Smede questioned the insurance. Chief Nelson indicated Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) covers the equipment. He does not believe there would be issues with a contract. This equipment could/would not be used for wildland fire, State emergencies, or, out of State fires. At the end of the five-year payments, the ladder truck would belong to the City and would be used for 20 years. It could then be sold at the end of the 25 years. Mr. Kirkham stated, per Legal review of the contract, the Council could stop the lease at any time although the City would be out of any money at that point. There would be no penalty to walk away. Chief Nelson stated MERF would continue to be funded and funds are being allocated for future purchases. He noted the next engine will need purchased in 2024/2025. General discussion followed. Chief Nelson stated a contract will be presented in October 2019 to proceed forward.

Personal Concerns and Proposed Changes to the Police Personnel Manual:

Chief Johnson stated, per requirements of the Police Personnel Manual, the first of three (3) meetings has occurred. He stated four (4) items were discussed although, following conversation with Legal staff, it was determined one (1) suggestion regarding the Crime Stoppers phone was not allowed. He reviewed the following proposed additions with general discussion throughout:

Certificate pay – this is currently being paid to officers and dispatch employees and would not change the previous practice. This certificate pay would apply to additional certificates/incentive for additional training from Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). The total cost for the increased dispatch certificate pay would be \$7,686.00. The certificate pay would apply to sworn police officers and dispatch employees only.

Language pay – this is currently being paid for Spanish speaking employees. This language pay would apply to an employee who fluently speaks a second language other than English, including American Sign Language, as certified by an appropriate test. Mayor Casper believes the intent of demographic users needs to be clarified.

Uniform allowance – a sworn police officer who is not issued a uniform shall receive a uniform allowance as long as the employee is not issued a uniform. This would apply to sworn police officers only.

Chief Johnson reviewed wage comparisons for ten (10) comparable cities for sworn entry, five (5) years, sworn top out, and, years to top out. He stated the IFPD is at comparable levels with the exception of Years to Top Out (IFPD is at 22 years). He indicated the goal is to be at 18 years over the course of the next four (4) years. He proposed a separate police scale which would be comparable to the current step and grade scale and would recognize the different ranks. He indicated this change would amount to an increase of \$17,000 for the upcoming budget year. Councilmembers requested data for Years to Top Out at 15 years. The proposed pay scale would be effective October 1. This item will be included on a future Council Meeting agenda.

Business License Appeal Hearing:

Captain Squires stated Ms. Ruoho was denied a child care license as she was arrested in May 2017 for several charges. He indicated the denial was based on City Code 6-3-8(D) having been found guilty of or received a withheld judgment for a crime involving any controlled substance. Mayor Casper stated the City Council has the ability to overrule the denial if they feel there is compelling reason. Ms. Ruoho stated she had just turned 18 years old, was trying to figure out who she was, and, was hanging around the wrong individuals. She indicated those individuals are now excluded from her life. She now has a 4-month old daughter, is the only parent in her daughter's life, and, child care is the only career she wants to pursue. She knew those charges would jeopardize her future. Ms. Ruoho stated she has worked very hard to get to where she is today. Councilmember Radford questioned drug testing with the potential employer.

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Ms. Ruoho confirmed there is drug testing. Captain Squires stated if a drug test with the employer resulted in a positive test and termination, the City license would still be valid for two (2) years. Mr. Kirkham confirmed drug testing would be a private issue with the employer. Councilmember Francis questioned additional charges. Ms. Ruoho stated this is the only charge she has ever received. Councilmember Smede questioned the disclosure of this charge on the application. Captain Squires stated Ms. Ruoho initially applied for a child care license in 2015 and this was a renewal of the license. Mr. Kirkham confirmed the renewal application does not require the same paperwork as a new application. Ms. Hampton stated an individual's information would stay in the system for five (5) years to prevent duplication of licensing. To the response of several Councilmembers, Ms. Ruoho reviewed her employment history and future plans for an education. She noted she was not working at a child care facility at the time of the charge. Following additional general discussion, comments, and questions Mayor Casper requested a roll call vote. She stated a 'Yes' vote would overrule the denial, approve the appeal, and, issue the child care license. A 'No' vote would uphold the original denial. Roll call as follows: Aye – Councilmembers Francis, Freeman, Radford, Smede, Hally. Nay – none. Motion carried. Mayor Casper encouraged Ms. Ruoho get on a plan to further her education.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52

s/ Kathy Hampton
CITY CLERK

s/ Rebecca L. Noah Casper
MAYOR