

CITY OF SUMPTER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

- a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- b. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE – Councilor Demaris, Councilor Briscoe, Councilor Brandt, Councilor Smith; Mayor Wise attended via phone.
- c. VISITORS – Skip Duffin, Vern Hollopeter, Richard Summerfield, Rebecca Patterson, Jon Patterson, Kurt Clarke

APPROVE MINUTES

- a. MSP: To accept the April 9, 2024, Council Meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Smith/Councilor Demaris. All Councilors approved.

REPORTS

- a. Fire Chief Kurt Clarke
  - (1) Red Cross smoke alarms were installed at seven homes in Sumpter.
  - (2) SVFD is preparing for fire season; tire chains have been removed from the fire trucks.
  - (3) Reader board can be shut down; SVFD did receive one volunteer for the summer months.
  - (4) Researching post hole diggers for installing street signs around town. Caterpillar will be sending Kurt a quote for an auger that fits his machine.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Agenda Item Request: Sewer/Water on North Pole St., Hess* – There have been discussions about putting sewer/water on steep grades such as North Pole Street, excavating will be required to reduce the grade. For water, the closest connection is on Manila Street. The length of the install may be over 600 feet and will require engineering by the city engineer (HECO). All cost associated with installations of utilities are at the applicant's expense. The lot owner clarified that the street is Bellview Street, not North Pole Street (per tax map). Regardless, a draft resolution is in progress proposes there will be no maintenance and mainline installations on grades greater than 20%. Baker City does not maintain roads over 10%. Hess has researched drilling a well and on-site septic system. Issues abound with running sewer through the ravine down to Cracker Street. Hess agrees that the city and he should keep in contact. All said, the road should be improved first.
- b. Mainlines Extensions – in light of new information of estimates that exceed the city's budget, Councilor Demaris moved to change the Council's position and decline to install mainlines to Richard Summerfield's property by motion. *MSP: Councilor Brandt/Councilor Demaris motioned to not put in the mainline extensions due to budgetary constraints.* Discussion ensued from Councilor Smith's assertions to table discussion to focus on options for financing. The bids were much higher than what the city can afford, and the burden of additional loans are not feasible at this time. Today's motion rescinds a previous motion to approve the city to pay for the extension. Councilor Demaris asked other councilors if they want to withdrawal the motion for more discussion. Councilors Smith & Brandt requested more discussion. Jon Patterson voiced concern with additional debt taken on by the city. Discussion continued centering on the city budget and how the city is not able to take on this expense/debt. Mr. Summerfield expressed frustration of his situation. Councilor Smith then stated that the city is looking for other financing options and that "it's not a done deal yet". Back and forth dialogue between the council and Mr. Summerfield continued. Upon restating that there is a motion on the table by Councilor Demaris, Councilor Brandt asserted her original motion is good and Councilor

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Demaris seconded that motion [again] and requested a vote. Councilors did not vote, prompting Councilor Demaris to call for a revote. All Councilors present voted and approved; the motion was carried. Councilor Smith reiterated that there are other options available. Other small cities are utilizing funds from the Water Infrastructure Revolving Fund. They need to be contacted to see if this project qualifies.

- a. Flea Market Refund – Vendor, Cross – due to health issues. MSP: Councilors Brandt/Smith to approve a refund of vendor fees, \$195 to Mr. Cross. All Councilors approved.
- b. *Agenda Item Request:* Dust Control, Grounds Parking Lot, Hollopeter – adding wood chips to lanes in parking lot. There are concerns with fire from visitors throwing cigarettes on the ground or hot cars. It is possible fire retardant can be added to the chips. Mr. Hollopeter stated that wood chips were dumped at the locations he designated; for the record, this action was not approved by city council or city employees.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. ATV Tours in Sumpter – the organizer has not returned a call regarding questions from the council from the last council meeting. Topic is tabled.
- b. Water Sales at Volunteer Park – still in progress. It will be a topic of discussion in June. We need to select a price point. Mr. Patterson commented on why it can be sold now versus four years ago when it was not permitted. Councilor Briscoe explained that it is up to the purchaser to fill THEIR containers and the city is not responsible for their actions.
- c.

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a. Councilor Smith – reiterated that we need to get the water mainline taken care of from other funding sources.
- b. Councilor Smith – let all know the meeting in Baker City for Forest Service Revision Plan. Forest Service is asking for public comment. Councilor Smith is urging the public to go.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Richard Summerfield – he wants to apologize; he is very passionate. SREC is still open to doing his job. The city will have engineering oversight when the work begins. He wants to know if he gets share payment when others are added to his line. The mayor stated no he does not; however, it is a question for the city Attorney.
- b. Jon Patterson – regarding the fire grant, what are the city's plans for tree removal from streets? For the staffing grant, are the firefighters eligible for workers compensation?

ADJOURNMENT – 5:02 PM

MSP: To adjourn. Councilor Demaris /Councilor Brandt. All Councilors approved.

Approved by the City Council this 14th day of May 2024.

Approved: 

Attested: 