

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

SHAWN BARIGAR	DON HALL	SUZANNE HAWKINS	GREGORY LANTING	JIM MUNN, JR.	REBECCA MILLS SOJKA	CHRIS TALKINGTON
<i>Vice Mayor</i>			<i>Mayor</i>			



MINUTES
 Meeting of the Twin Falls City Council
Monday, November 26, 2012
 City Council Chambers
 305 3rd Avenue East - Twin Falls, Idaho

5:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
 CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM
 INTRODUCTION OF STAFF
 CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:
 PROCLAMATIONS: None

AGENDA ITEMS	Purpose	By:
I. <u>CONSENT CALENDAR:</u> 1. Consideration of a request to approve the accounts payable for November 20 – 26, 2012, total: \$2,000,877.50 Payroll, total: \$114,433.03 2. Consideration of a request to approve the November 5, November 13, 2012, November 19, 2012, City Council Minutes.	<u>Action</u>	Staff Report Sharon Bryan Leila Sanchez
II. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:</u> 1. Discussion of upcoming legislative sessions with local legislative delegation. 2. Presentation on upgrades to City of Twin Falls online communications and options for providing citizens with live and recorded video streaming of city meetings and events, as well as educational and tutorial videos. 3. Public input and/or items from the City Manager and City Council.	Discussion Presentation	Travis Rothweiler Josh Palmer
III. <u>ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:</u>		
IV. <u>PUBLIC HEARINGS:</u> 6:00 - NONE		
V. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> Executive Session 67-2345 (1) (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.		

****Any person(s) needing special accommodations to participate in the above noticed meeting should contact Leila Sanchez at (208) 735-7287 at least two working days before the meeting.***

Present: Shawn Barigar, Don Hall, Suzanne Hawkins, Greg Lanting, Rebecca Mills Sojka, Chris Talkington

Absent: Jim Munn

Staff Present: City Manager Travis Rothweiler, City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich, PIO Josh Palmer, Deputy City Clerk Sharon Bryan, Deputy City Clerk/Recording Secretary Leila Sanchez

Mayor Lanting called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. He then invited all present, who wished to, to recite the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with him. Mayor Lanting introduced staff. A quorum is present.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

City Manager Rothweiler requested that the following be added to the Consent Calendar:
Consideration of a request to approve a transfer of ownership Alcohol License for Apple Idaho, LLC dba Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar.

MOTION:

Councilperson Hall made a motion to add the amendment as presented to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mills Sojka and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

AGENDA ITEMS

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Consideration of a request to approve the accounts payable for November 20 – 26, 2012, total: \$2,000,877.50
Payroll, total: \$114,433.03
2. Consideration of a request to approve the November 5, November 13, 2012, November 19, 2012, City Council Minutes.

MOTION:

Councilperson Talkington made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mills Sojka and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Discussion of upcoming legislative sessions with local legislative delegation.

City Manager Rothweiler explained that Senator Elect Patrick and Representative Bell were also invited to attend tonight's meeting, but were unable to attend because of previous commitments.

Representative Elect Lance Clow stated that he has been attending the Chamber's Public Policy Committee meetings, and discussion has been made on personal property tax, URA, and the local option tax. He stated that he supports the idea of local government and local decision making as close to the people as possible. Currently he has not received his committee assignments, but made his recommendation to be placed on the Revenue and Tax Committee or Education and Local Government committees.

Senator Lee Heider stated that he plans to serve on the JFAC Committee, with Senator Cameron and Representative Bell, and possibly with Senator Elect Patrick and Representative Woods. Facing the state are financial issues and how the budget is set. He stated he may serve on the Welfare Committee and the Resources Committee.

Council discuss followed:

Councilperson Barigar stated that discussion has been made on the personal property tax issue and the potential appeal or phase out. He asked Senator Heider if he has spoken with Senator Hill, or have some perspective as to where the issue is heading.

Senator Heider stated that the personal property tax issue has not been discussed at length by the body. Upcoming discussions will be made on personal property taxes and local option taxes at the legislative session.

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Councilperson Talkington asked for Senator Heider's input on the homeowner's exemption. This year the homeowner's exemption has decreased by \$20,000, and through next year will decrease to approximately \$24,000, per eligible home. When the homeowner's exemption decreases the tax bases increases. He asked if he is in support of the continued hedging to the federal housing price index that determines the tax and will the legislature per prone to start providing some tax relief to homeowners.

Senator Heider stated that no bills relative to the homeowner's exemption have come forth in the last two years. He stated that he believes the homeowner's exemption is very important to not only first time buyers but to those who have a primary residence, and he may be favorable in raising the exemption and keeping it in place. He invited Councilperson Talkington to discuss legislating a bill and presenting it before Local Government Committee and Tax Committee at the legislative session for discussion.

Representative Elect Clark Kaufman stated that he represents District 25, which includes all of Jerome County and parts of rural Twin Falls. He stated that there are four highway districts in Twin Falls County and he has been asked if the four districts should be consolidated. He stated that it would be the patrons' decision to consolidate. There is law in the books for the people to vote on the issue. The issue has never come forth because the people favor local government. He stated his interests are to serve on the Agriculture Committee and Transportation Committee, but the committees meet at the same time, so his first choice was Transportation Committee because he believes there will be issues coming forward that need to be addressed such as funding mechanisms, funding for local highways and road districts. He stated that local government is also important to him.

Mayor Lanting explained Representative Elect Clark Kaufman's local efforts in the Filer High School project.

Representative Stephen Hartgen showed on overhead projection monthly financial reports from the legislature. He explained the current status of the current budget year, which reflects the continuation of a soft retail economy, softness in both corporate, individual and sales. Liquor sales have been continuing to rise through the recession. Coming into the legislative session, the outlook is another flat to slightly up year, no big revenue increases are anticipated, and as a result there are likely to be no new initiatives on the program side. The budget is 25% below the budget of 2009, and there has been a loss of almost 30% of state revenue in almost an 18 month period. The annual budget was about \$3 billion dollars a year, dropped to \$2.2 billion, and now has tracked up to \$2.6 billion, but it is still \$350 million below the start of the recession, which is an indication of a loss of State revenue. The numbers are published by the Division of Financial Management. He anticipates serving on the Revenue and Tax Committee as well as the Economic Projection Committee. It is likely there may some kind of appeal of personal property tax. He stated that he does not believe new initiatives for revenue collection are on the table this year, whether this is the removal of sales tax exemption or local option, or changes of rates. The tendency is to look for ways to make Idaho more attractive by reducing tax rates to outsiders. He stated that leaves local entities to government to look at bonding as an appropriate way to look at infrastructure needs. He stated that this is his third term and had served as the Chairman of Human Resources. He hopes to serve on the Leadership Committee as House Caucus Chair. He is currently on the Money and Fund and Employee Compensation Fund Committees, and the Long Range Committee for State finances.

Councilperson Barigar asked Representative Hartgen if it may be a worthwhile conversation to have on the local option sales tax authority which exists for a dozen communities.

Representative Hartgen stated that the conversation on local option sales tax authority is worthwhile but if it will occur this particular year it is too early to say. A one cent increase at the local level on \$ 0.6 is a 17% increase on everything that is bought. A two cent increase is a one-third increase from \$ 0.6 to \$0.7, and to have the legislature give local entities of government essentially the ability to tax citizens, who are the citizens of the state and the citizens of their community the ability to raise taxes, he believes is a high hurdle at this particular point.

Councilperson Talkington asked Representative Hartgen's opinion on the homeowner's exemption.

Representative Hartgen stated the index at the time was changed from a consumer index to a housing index as a way of preserving the real estate values with the indication of housing values would continue to rise. That is how the 2006 tax bill of M and O and the 6% was established. It was not anticipated that in three years housing would decline 30% to 40%. He stated that it would take some discussion in both the House and the Senate to initiate discussion.

Senator Burt Brackett, District 23, stated he will serve on the Finance Committee, which puts him on the JFAC, Resources and Transportation Committee. Issues discussed are the health insurance exchange, Affordable Care Act, extending Medicare, Students Come First. The legislature can always go back and revisit an issue such as the homeowner's exemption.

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked Senator Brackett's thoughts on fracking or natural gas drilling of any legislation that gives any type of local arbitration or protections at the county level.

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Senator Brackett stated that House Bill 464 was passed last year. As far as oil and gas it is being dealt with the same way as other natural resources, which includes water, wildlife and timber, which are under state control and state authority. He stated he is comfortable with the way the law was written. A signed recorded lease with the landowner is required prior to a company drilling and will need to go before the Commission it was formed. Local government can set restrictions and standards. He stated that he would go back and revisit the issue on setbacks.

Councilperson Barigar asked Senator Brackett's perspective on personal property tax repeal.

Senator Brackett stated that the discussion of the personal property tax will be a challenge.

Councilperson Talkington asked the three legislators what might happen with the URA this coming session.

Senator Brackett stated that the URA needs time to work and does not want to make changes with the URA as of yet.

Senator Heider stated that the URA has worked well with Twin Falls because the city has a good Urban Renewal manager and has been used properly. In the other areas of the state, problems arose where cronyism had been going on, where people appointed to the board that were not appropriate or had a private agenda. In Twin Falls there is the Chobani plant, Dell building, and downtown renovation. The URA is working fabulously in downtown and he believes it is here to stay because it is being administered properly. Relative to Councilperson Mills Sojka's questions relative to fracking and acceptance of it as a city, he was not in favor of it when it was presented by the Resource Committee, until he was spoken to by Ken Harwood of Association of Idaho Cities, explaining why this was a good thing for Counties. The Idaho Association of Counties and the Idaho Association of Cities are in favor of oil and gas exploration in Idaho. It does require local permitting, and complying with setbacks and local ordinances. He had an opportunity to view the location of the fuel plant, and toured the Idaho Power Plant that produces energy, which is in close proximity to the oil and gas exploration. The gas found will be pipe ready gas that will be ready to go into the Idaho Power energy plant. The state is in a good position to develop the oil and gas industry in western Idaho, and to use the gas that is produced. From observation and research, it is safe and non-polluting, and is a good industry for Idaho.

Representative Hartgen discussed the URA bill that was passed two years ago. He stated there were between 7 or 8 bills, or as many as 10 bills that were thrown into the Local Government Committee that ranged from eliminating URA to minor tweaks. He stated that he worked with Melinda Anderson quite closely to reorder the way the bills would come to the floor so the appropriate bill with some changes, did not go overboard in repeal or excessive regulation, but did add appropriate sideboards. Once the bill was advanced and passed, the other three bills were held on the calendar and discarded. At this time, the plan is give the bill a chance to work. The legislative leaders toured the proposed Chobani plant, where there was a direct link between URA and job creation. Problems come when URA monies are used for parks, etc., and board members who have interest in the project, or a separate agenda, or public works developed rather than working with their local entities of government, which causes a resentment in the community and frankly the uproar that came to the state. He stated that he does not have any concern with the Twin Falls URA, with the exception of the shoestring district that was used to create the Dell piece, which has been taken care of in the new standard. Shoestring districts are now restricted. He favors the continuation of URA monies to be used for job creation and the renewal of urban blight.

Mayor Lanting and Vice Mayor Hall thanked those in attendance for their presentation.

2. Presentation on upgrades to City of Twin Falls online communications and options for providing citizens with live and recorded video streaming of city meetings and events, as well as educational and tutorial videos.

City Manager Rothweiler stated that Public Information Officer Palmer will be sharing ideas and concepts tools to provide information to the public to allow the organization to do a much better job to communicate with citizens. Communications is a specialized trade and takes an expert, such as PIO Palmer, to understand the media. Communications has been discussed during the Strategic Planning process and through the Citizen Survey.

PIO Palmer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current and possible upgrades to online communications.

The City of Twin Falls has been updating its website to make it easier to navigate and to increase functionality for citizens and visitors. The new site is expected to launch January 21st. Some applications, which are newly added or have been upgraded, will launch individually as programming is completed.

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As part of the site upgrades, a number of online services available to citizens are increasing, such as emergency notifications, transportation maps and notifications, online applications and expanded online bill pay. These services, as well as several others, were identified by Civic Plus analytics and citizen feedback as being 'unavailable' on our current site.

The site upgrade will also add new platforms such as open source sharing, mapping, community connections, as well as video and podcast capabilities. In addition to site updates, options have been explored to increase accessibility to city meetings through live and recorded video streaming.

Granicus is proposing a two-year contract to provide live and recorded video streaming of city meetings and events. The cost to the City would be \$649 per month, with a one-time cost of \$2,625 for hardware and software. There will be an additional one-time cost of \$2,500 for camera and cable. Possible funding options include:

- o Use \$5,125 of contingency to purchase the streaming hardware and software, plus camera and cable. Absorb the \$7,788 of operating costs into the General Fund.
- o Take the entire \$12,913 out of Contingency in the Capital Improvement Fund, but remember to budget for the operating costs in 2013-2014.

Council discussion followed.

- Streaming for all public meetings.
- Contacting the public of other counties of emergencies.
- Creating a more public friendly website.
- Updating and posting the staff directory.
- Confirming vendor licenses on the web.
- Ability to burn the recorded meetings to a disk.
- Link to the Chamber of Commerce, Southern Idaho Tourism, and City of Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency
- Web training.

City Manager Rothweiler explained what he envisioned of Channel 17, moving forward.

MOTION:

Councilperson Talkington made the motion to approve the Granicus contract in the amount of \$12,913. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

Council discussing followed:

Mayor Lanting asked that PIO Palmer investigate possibly hooking up Direct Dish Network through Granicus.

Roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 7 to 0.

Boy Scout Devin Hill introduced himself. He is working on the Citizenship merit badge.

3. Public input and/or items from the City Manager and City Council.

City Manager Rothweiler invited Council members to attend an Association of Idaho Cities Meeting in Boise, to discuss legislative issues, on December 7, 2012, and the City Employee Luncheon will be held on December 12, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at the Ballroom.

Councilperson requested Library Director Susan Ash be invited to attend a Council meeting to showcase the recently purchased Bookmobile.

III. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6:00 - NONE

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Executive Session 67-2345 (1) (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.

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MOTION:

Councilperson Mills Sojka made a motion to move to Executive Session 67-2345 (1) (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hawkins and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

Leila A. Sanchez

Deputy City Clerk/Recording Secretary