

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

LANCE CLOW	TRIP CRAIG	DON HALL	DAVID E. JOHNSON	WILLIAM A. KEZELE	GREG LANTING	REBECCA MILLS SOJKA
<i>Mayor</i>			<i>Vice Mayor</i>			



Minutes
 Meeting of the Twin Falls City Council
 June 20, 2011
 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 accounts payable for June 14 - 20, 2011. 2. Consideration of the June 6, and June 13, 2011, Council Minutes. 3. Consideration of a request to pay fees in lieu of park land dedication for the K & L Subdivision. 4. Consideration of the request to waive the green fees for the annual Ladies Inter-City golf tournament at the Twin Falls Golf Club. 5. Consideration of a request from the "Magic Valley Citizens' 4 th of July" to approve the annual fireworks display held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011.	<u>Action</u>	<u>Staff Report</u> Sharon Bryan L. Sanchez Dennis Bowyer Dennis Bowyer Dennis Pullin
II. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:</u> 1. Consideration of a request for a letter of support to the Bureau of Land Management on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the China Mountain Wind Project. 2. Consideration of a request to award the contract for the 2011 Falls Avenue East Waterline Extension Project to Stutzman Inc. of Twin Falls, Idaho, in the amount of \$1,484,104.11. 3. Discussion regarding downtown parking management. 4. Public input and/or items from the City Manager and City Council.	Action Action Discussion	Laura Lickley Lee Glaesemann Melinda Anderson
III. <u>ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:</u>		
IV. <u>PUBLIC HEARINGS:</u> 6:00 – None.		
V. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>		

**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: Lance Clow, Trip Craig, Don Hall, David E. Johnson (5:15 P.M.), William Kezele, Gregory Lanting, Rebecca Mills Sojka

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Travis Rothweiler, City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich, Community Development Director Mitch Humble, Staff Engineer Lee Glaesemann, Economic Development Director Melinda Anderson, Deputy City Clerk/Recording Secretary Leila Sanchez

Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. He invited all present, who wished to, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with him. A quorum was present and Mayor Hall introduced staff.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilperson Lanting requested that Item #5 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

Item #5 Consideration of a request from the "Magic Valley Citizens' 4th of July" to approve the annual fireworks display held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011.

PROCLAMATIONS: None.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Consideration of accounts payable for June 14 - 20, 2011, total: \$331,532.54
June 20, 2011, total: \$11,972.88
2. Consideration of the June 6, and June 13, 2011, Council Minutes.
3. Consideration of a request to pay fees in lieu of park land dedication for the K & L Subdivision.
4. Consideration of the request to waive the green fees for the annual Ladies Inter-City golf tournament at the Twin Falls Golf Club.
5. Consideration of a request from the "Magic Valley Citizens' 4th of July" to approve the annual fireworks display held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011.

MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented with the exception of Consent Item #5. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lanting and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

Consideration of a request from the "Magic Valley Citizens' 4th of July" to approve the annual fireworks display held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011.

Ruth Pierce gave a review of the events to be held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made a motion to approve the "Magic Valley Citizens' 4th of July" annual fireworks display held at the College of Southern Idaho on Monday, July 4, 2011. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clow and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Consideration of a request for a letter of support to the Bureau of Land Management on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the China Mountain Wind Project.

Laura Lickley, Community Relations Representative, gave a brief update on the China Mountain Wind Project and asked for a letter of support from the Mayor of Twin Falls addressed to the BLM on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. She presented to the Council a Fact Sheet on the project.

Discussion followed:

- Area of impact analysis was completed on the project.
- Sage grouse habitat.

MOTION:

Councilperson Mills Sojka made a motion to approve the Mayor to send a letter of support of Alternative B1 (full build-out) in the BLM's Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the China Mountain Wind Project. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Kezele and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

2. Consideration of a request to award the contract for the 2011 Falls Avenue East Waterline Extension Project to Stutzman Inc. of Twin Falls, Idaho, in the amount of \$1,484,104.11.

Staff Engineer Glaesemann gave the presentation.

The bid amount for this project is \$1,484,104.11. This is part of the series of Arsenic Compliance projects being funded through bonding. This will exhaust the remainder of the bonded funds. A 10% contingency of \$148,000 can be funded from arsenic cost savings and/or the capital main line upgrade fund.

Staff recommends that City Council approve and award the contract to Stutzman Inc, in the amount of \$1,484,104.11.

Discussion followed:

City Manager Rothweiler stated that when the City went forward and did the initial bond request the City asked for \$18,500,000. The total authorization was greater than was provided by the judge. The City asked for monies to be able to fund arsenic projects 1 – 5. Because of the savings on the arsenic projects 1 – 5, this project is able to fit in under the amount budgeted. Conversations have been made with Owyhee regarding phase 4, which may result in some savings in terms of the project where we may not have to use capital from existing budgets to cover any potential overruns associated with this project.

Councilperson Johnson took his seat at 5:15 P.M.

Extensive discussion followed on the traffic plan.

Staff Engineer Glaesemann stated that the Notice to Proceed will begin on July 5 with the project ending on October 4, 2011.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made a motion to award the contract for the 2011 Falls Avenue East Waterline Extension Project to Stutzman Inc. of Twin Falls, Idaho, in the amount of \$1,484,104.11. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clow and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 7 to 0.

3. Discussion regarding downtown parking management.

Economic Development Director Anderson stated that two months ago the Council directed staff to move forward on the issue of the downtown parking management. The City held a public forum on May 26, 2011, and created an online opinion survey which was posted on the City's website for two weeks for anyone to complete.

Staff posted the survey on the City's website on May 23, 2011, and it closed at midnight on June 3, 2011. The survey was separated into two groups: 1) Downtown property owners, merchants, and employees; and 2) downtown customers. Each were asked questions specific to their group. The results are in the staff report.

Vice Mayor Lanting facilitated a town hall discussion on May 26 from 7 – 9 P.M. at the Historic Ballroom. Travis Rothweiler and Mitch Humble answered questions asked by the participants. Councilperson Mills Sojka and Economic Development Director Anderson took notes.

This item presented is a report on the outcome of the public meeting and the survey. No approval is requested. However, following this discussion, staff will use the direction from Council and prepare recommendations for changes, if any, for future consideration.

Council discussion followed.

Economic Development Director Anderson stated that currently there are 250 parking meters downtown and approximately 400 to 500 spaces that the City owns and manages. This would not include street spaces that are not metered. She also stated that Woody Cullen, Parking Coordinator, gives a warning once a month and leaves a brochure with the citation stating where free parking is located.

Councilperson Mills Sojka summarized information she received from the survey and the town hall discussion. In the survey it was stated that free parking is not well signed or organized. The merchants also recommended that the parking further from downtown would be lot lease only and the closer parking lot should be customer only.

Economic Development Director Anderson stated that the amount collected from certain meters cannot be determined. A majority of the money is generated from the two major blocks of Main Street. Approximately \$95 to \$105 is collected weekly from all meters.

Vice Mayor Lanting summarized the information received at the town hall meeting. Many opinions were voiced and are stated in the study.

Councilperson Johnson asked if the study represented the opinion of Twin Falls citizens.

City Manager Rothweiler stated that the survey was not done in a model or means to ensure that it was statistically accurate. To be statistically and scientifically accurate and to be a survey that you would apply a plus or minus to, the City would have had to go through a very different process. The purpose of the survey was to assist in the fact finding component.

Councilperson Johnson stated that from the survey responders an overwhelming percentage stated that parking meters deter business. He stated that he was hearing a need for a management and maintenance program, but he disagreed that the taxpayers need to pay the bill. He stated that the government needs to get out of the way and let the people running the businesses be part of the solution and to start their own solutions, whether it be the property owners who are renting out space or whether it is business owners who are engaged with their customers. He stated that it may be wise to put together some type of task force or committee on this subject.

Councilperson Mills Sojka stated if a task force was formed they would be the same people who filled out the survey and/or attended the town hall meeting. According to the survey most of the business owners and merchants found the meters to be a deterrent to business and definitely an overwhelming majority of the customers found it a deterrent. According to the survey it appears that there is a great dislike for the meters. One of the business owners stated that the BID didn't work because if you have a merchant created organization, if one person doesn't want to listen and respect the rules agreed upon, there is no higher enforcement. The business owner stated that what is needed is the City with a perceived authority to come and say here are the parking regulations and the parking rules. Councilperson Mills Sojka stated that the City can assist downtown in setting up a clean, well-planned, well-organized parking system, but based on

what has been heard by people, both merchants and customers alike, the meters probably need to go, whether it be for a trial period or suspended from now until we get something going downtown.

Councilperson Clow stated that in looking at all the comments and in trying to put them into perspective, he did not hear anything new, saying it is the same story over again. The people who say they want the City to enforce it don't want to pay for it. Another comment stated that the City should maintain its own property. For clarification, the reason the City owns the parking lots is for the accommodation of downtown merchants. The meters are an easy target when a business is not doing well. The businesses that do not well do not advertise. Every major business in town outside the downtown area must have so much land dedicated to parking, on which the City collects property taxes. Councilperson Clow stated that he does not believe in putting taxpayer money into the parking solution downtown. One of the comments made in the survey was to ask if we could do a better job in signage. Councilperson Clow stated that the City could advertise free parking with signage; meters would be considered premium parking, and signs or stickers could be placed on the meters advertising free parking behind the stores.

Councilperson Kezele stated that he is in support of infrastructure and infill and growth, but a majority of the people voted to disband the BID. The majority of the merchants have asked the government to get out of their pockets. He will not support the City bearing the responsibility of parking. He is asking the merchants of downtown to take accountability and responsibility for their community.

Councilperson Craig suggested forming an ad hoc committee consisting of downtown merchants, council members and staff. He suggested moving forward and sticking with the plan.

Mayor Hall stated that he could support putting together a task force. He stated that he would like to receive information or ideas from the consultants hired by URA.

Councilperson Mills Sojka stated that the information from the forum and survey would be the same information that would come out of the task force. She stated that she believes the Council has enough information to make a decision. She stated that better signs can be made for the City owned parking lots. The merchants stated that they would like to purchase monthly passes or daily passes when they need parking. The merchants would like the City's help in structuring or organizing. She stated that she did not think an enforcer for enforcement is needed if there are clear signs stating that violators will be towed. This would eliminate the City's cost of an employee or resources for management of the parking. It was very clear that metered parking is not needed. The City would continue to receive income from lease parking.

Council discussion followed.

Councilperson Johnson recommended forming a task force.

Councilperson Clow stated that signage is part of the problem and suggested placing up signage advertising free parking. He asked staff to find the cost of signage.

Councilperson Kezele stated that he trusts the merchants downtown can find a solution for their businesses and come back to the council with their solution.

MOTION:

Councilperson Mills Sojka made a motion that City staff take the recommendations that they gleaned from the survey responses in the forum and reorganizing, making the leased parking better and more pleasant for customers. The City could suspend meter enforcement for at least a period of one year to see how the organizational changes affect or not affect downtown and more importantly peoples' perceptions. The City could use the money from the lease spaces and if we have to we could make changes to our structure of fees.

Mayor Hall clarified the motion. "To make the lease parking more pleasant as per the recommendations, suspend meter enforcement for at least one year, and eliminate the need of a parking enforcement officer."

The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clow.

Councilperson Clow stated that if there is no enforcement for a year the City still has to have someone go around and empty the meters, which would cause some expense. The motion, for clarification, would also include signage as discussed.

Discussion followed.

Councilperson Mills Sojka stated that at the forum the idea is to bag the meters and say complimentary parking thanks to, for example, Rudy's. The merchants also offered to pay the metered spots in front of their stores.

Discussion followed.

Councilperson Craig stated that he cannot see making some lots leased. He stated that he foresees an enforcement issue when it comes to towing someone's vehicle. The Police Department, now overly burdened, will have to take care of this problem. The Parks & Recreation Department has been taking care of the landscaping downtown. The discussion is on parking and not making downtown more beautiful with sprinkler systems and other types of issues.

Vice Mayor Lanting asked for clarification if meters were being suspended, or if the meters are going away.

Councilperson Mills Sojka stated that the motion is to suspend meter enforcement.

Councilperson Clow stated that for clarification the meters are still operational and the thought is to bag the meters.

Councilperson Mills Sojka stated for clarification that the City not require coins to park in metered spaces.

Councilperson Clow stated that he agrees with no enforcement but to leave the meters in place, and collect the money that is offered. If the City is not enforcing meters there is basically no need for towing. For clarification the motion does not include bagging the meters.

Mayor Hall stated that if the motion is eliminating the meters and the enforcement of the leased parking the City will not have the revenue, which may require laying employees off.

Roll call vote showed Councilpersons Clow and Mills Sojka voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons Craig, Hall, Johnson, Kezele and Lanting voted against the motion. Failed 5 to 2.

MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made a motion that staff report back to the Council in two weeks with the estimated cost of putting up free parking signage (directional type signage) through the downtown corridor so it can be considered at a future meeting. Included would be the cost of a good weatherproof sticker that may go on a post or the meter directing to free parking opportunities. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lanting.

Councilperson Clow stated for clarification that he estimated some 20 locations and somebody will have to walk around and identify the probable locations. The signs could say 3 hour parking and some signs will have turn arrows, so they will not all be identical signs. The basic sign will be the same with a spot for an arrow. Vice Mayor Lanting approved the clarification. Roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 7 to 0.

MOTION:

Councilperson Johnson made a motion that the Council directs the Mayor to assemble a downtown parking solution task force with a start date no later than July 15, 2011, and having the recommendations to Council no later than November 15, 2011. Vice Mayor Lanting seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Councilperson Kezele asked for clarification if the goal of the motion is to get a downtown task force or a City Council task force.

Mayor Hall stated that his idea of a task force would consist of the City Council, staff, and the majority of the task force should be BID members and community at large members.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made an amendment to the main motion to state that one parameter on any of the recommendations of the task force is that the final solution is not to require additional taxpayer support for downtown. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Kezele.

Discussion followed.

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION:

Councilperson Kezele made an amendment to the motion that this task force, once they come to solutions, take those solutions to each of the members of downtown, perhaps within the BID as a starting point, and receive by petition their opinion of the solutions they have come up with before presenting it to Council. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lanting.

Discussion followed.

Roll call vote on the amendment showed Councilperson Kezele voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons Clow, Craig, Hall, Johnson, Lanting, and Mills Sojka voted against the motion. Failed 6 to 1.

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made an amendment to the main motion to state that when the recommendations of the task force come back to the City Council that recommendations are heard in a public hearing forum that is advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Kezele. Vice Mayor Lanting redacted his motion with approval of his second.

Councilperson Johnson recommended using the term "stakeholders" in the motion.

Discussion followed.

Roll call vote on the main motion showed Councilpersons Clow, Craig, Hall, Johnson, Kezele and Lanting voted in favor of the motion. Councilperson Mills Sojka voted against the motion. Approved 6 to 1.

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

Sarah Taylor, 205 Shoshone Street, owner of The Ballroom, expressed that she liked the idea to solve the meter problem without burdening the taxpayers; the idea of self policing will be a challenge. She stated that a tourist from out of town who didn't speak English came into her business at 5:15 P.M. and had his vehicle towed because he did not understand the signage.

Mayor Hall appointed Sarah Taylor to the task force.

Vice Mayor Lanting gave an update on the celebration of the return of the 116th troops to be held on August 1, 2011, at the City Park.

The Youth Council Applebee's Fundraiser will be held from 7:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

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City Manager Rothweiler brought up the issue of the redistricting effort and believes that the City needs to be involved and asked the City Council to become politically active in that conversation and that dialog, to at least preserve the number of legislative seats.

III. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6:00 – None.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Leila A. Sanchez, Deputy City Clerk, Recording Secretary