

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

LANCE CLOW	TRIP CRAIG	DON HALL <i>Mayor</i>	DAVID E. JOHNSON	WILLIAM A. KEZELE	GREG LANTING <i>Vice Mayor</i>	REBECCA MILLS SOJKA
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MINUTES
Meeting of the Twin Falls City Council
Monday, November 28, 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 November 22-28, 2011. 2. Consideration of the November 21, 2011, City Council Minutes.	<u>Action</u>	<u>Staff Report</u> Sharon Bryan L. Sanchez
II. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:</u> 1. Consideration of a request to accept the canvass of the November 8, 2011, Twin Falls Municipal Election. 2. A request to accept a bid to purchase approximately 0.27 acres of City owned property, located at 287 Washington Street North. 3. Consideration of a recommendation from the Downtown Parking Task Force regarding downtown parking management. 4. Consideration of a request for Air Show Financial Assistance of \$25,000 to be refunded after the Air Show. 5. Consideration of a request to establish two new communication towers; one sixty-foot communication tower to be placed on property located at the Twin Falls Chambers Visitors Center, 3591 Blue Lakes Boulevard North and one (1) one-hundred foot communication tower to be placed on property located at the City of Twin Falls Gun Range, located east of the 4100 Block of Hankins Road East/3200 East Road and south of the Snake River Canyon Rim Trail, c/o Craig Stotts, Communications –PD on behalf of the City of Twin Falls. 6. Public input and/or items from the City Manager and City Council.	Action Action Action Action Action	Sharon Bryan Mitch Humble Mitch Humble Jacqueline Fields Mitch Humble
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, William Kezele, Gregory Lanting, Rebecca Mills Sojka
Absent: None.
Staff Present: City Manager Travis Rothweiler, City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich, Community Development Director Mitch Humble, Deputy City Clerk Sharon Bryan, Airport Manager Bill Carberry.

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. Mayor Hall introduced staff.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.
PROCLAMATIONS: None.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Consideration of accounts payable for November 22-28, 2011, \$665,501.18.
2. November 23, 2011, Payroll total: \$107,588.37.
3. Consideration of the November 21, 2011, City Council Minutes.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. 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.

II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Consideration of a request to accept the canvass of the November 8, 2011, Twin Falls Municipal Election.

Deputy City Clerk Bryan reviewed the request.

Staff recommends the Council accept the canvass of the Twin Falls Municipal Election by motion and roll call vote.

MOTION:

Councilperson Johnson made a motion to accept the canvass of the November 8, 2011, Twin Falls Municipal Election as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lanting and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 7 to 0.

2. A request to accept a bid to purchase approximately 0.27 acres of City owned property, located at 287 Washington Street North

Community Development Director Humble reviewed the request.

Staff recommends that the Council accept the bid of \$128,250 and direct staff to proceed with the sale of the property located at 287 Washington Street North to Allen Nagel.

Discussion followed.

-The building is sold as is.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made the motion to accept the bid from Allen Nagel of \$128,250 for the property located at 287 Washington Street North as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Johnson and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 7 to 0.

3. Consideration of a recommendation from the Downtown Parking Task Force regarding downtown parking management.

Community Development Director Humble reviewed the request.

The Downtown Parking Task Force recommends that the City Council approve the following recommendations regarding downtown parking management:

- Remove all parking meters.
- Abandon the leasing of individual parking spaces.

- All City owned parking lots will provide free public parking on a first come, first served basis.
- On the street public parking should be regulated with posted time limits. However, the limits do not all have to be the same and should be appropriate for their location. Specifically, parking spaces along the retail portions of Main Street should have a 2 hour parking limit. However, shorter or longer time limits may be appropriate in other locations. The City should have the ability to be flexible and reasonable in the assignment of time limits.
- In the public parking lots, the first row of parking spaces located closest to the alleys and buildings should contain a 3 hour time limit. Other spaces in the public lots should not have a limit.
- Parking enforcement will be limited and on a response basis, rather than proactive, as it is currently done.
- The City should actively seek out opportunities to develop more public parking, and do so in areas where there is a need. The City should partner with the Urban Renewal Agency and with the State through grant opportunities in this effort.
- The City should retain the ability to lease parking lots for economic development opportunities and to encourage private downtown investment and growth. These leases should be property leases, rather than individual parking space leases so that the management of the lease does not require significant staff administration time. Also, when considering a parking property lease, the Council should weigh the parking needs of existing public parking users and try to avoid damaging existing users with a decision. A process should be set up to allow input from existing users as well.

A letter from Tony Prater was entered into the record.

Discussion followed:

Vice Mayor Lanting asked how the parking lot maintenance will be paid. Community Development Director Humble stated that the funds will come out of the Street Fund.

Vice Mayor Lanting asked if there was any discussion of some of the parking lots that are closer to the Main Street area where more of the retail is located to have customer parking only and thus employees would be forced to park elsewhere. Community Development Director Humble stated that the recommendation is to post signage with two and three hour parking restrictions. The following recommendations were made: Parking spaces along the retail portions of Main Street should have a 2 hour parking limit and in the public parking lots, the first row of parking spaces located closest to the alleys and buildings should contain a 3 hour time limit. Enforcement will be difficult.

City Manager Rothweiler stated that enforcement, as part of the program, will require business owners to be courteous and respectful to one another and to work cooperatively with one another. At the downtown open house the owners agreed and felt that they could enter into a self enforcement and self regulated program.

Councilperson Johnson stated that he served on the committee and stated that there is no perfect answer for downtown parking. Business owners are not required to have parking for customers downtown which has caused the current parking problem. He explained the results of the parking survey.

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked if it was important for the meters to be removed or is it just as important that the City not enforce the meters. Community Development Director Humble stated that he believes it is important to remove the meters. When the meters are not enforced, they become crammed with coins causing the meters to break. Time and energy was spent to repair the meters because of the lack of active maintenance on the meters. Mayor Don Hall stated that the idea is to remove the meter and keep the poles. Councilperson Mills Sojka stated that the meters could be considered as antiques and suggested keeping the meters and giving the money to a non-profit organization.

Councilperson Johnson stated that the meters have historical value. Discussion was made on what to do with the posts.

Councilperson Clow stated he recalled when in disbanding the BID the City agreed to take care of the PSI contract for trash removal and the City would maintain the landscaping and the proceeds from parking would help pay for the services. If proceeds are not collected, the costs would fall onto the taxpayers. He also asked what happened to the gumball machines. Michelle Hamilton, Scrapping Girlfriends owner, stated that the business owners bought the machines. He also stated his concern of removing the pole and meter. Feeding the meters appears to be a problem and he asked if warnings or tickets will be given to violators and asked who would enforce the parking.

Councilperson Johnson stated that proceeds for parking provide for the parking enforcement, and the parking enforcement provides parking proceeds. The Streets Department maintains the parking lots and the Parks & Recreation Department maintains certain areas downtown. The funds are not changing. The committee did discuss enforcing parking.

Vice Mayor Lanting made the following observations based on seeing other communities: 1. It is not uncommon for communities to have parking meters. 2. An enforcement officer is paid with the fines collected. He made the recommendation that a one hour parking limit be placed on Main Street and a two hour parking limit be placed on the orange parking and the parking lot behind Rudy's and Magic Valley Bank, and not be limited to the front rows.

Councilperson Johnson stated that over time the issue will be revisited. The committee hoped that the downtown businesses would come together and agree on a management solution amongst the downtowners.

Community Development Director Humble stated there is no recommendation to change the penalty structure for violators. Enforcement is spotty at best and he did not believe that parking meter enforcement will be done by the Police Department. If the recommendations are approved this will reduce staff 1 and ½ or ¼ employees.

Councilperson Clow stated that there are business owners who lease business spaces for employees; some own parking lots for employees. The business owner will not need to own a parking lot for employees. The taxpayer will be asked to make up the difference. Most of the parking areas are free now other than the metered areas.

Councilperson Clow stated that there are some business owners who lease parking for employees. He stated his concern was that there no longer be an employee leased program.

Councilperson Kezele asked for the pros and cons of leasing or not leasing lots. Councilperson Johnson stated that revenue from leasing would not cover parking enforcement. Discussion was made in leasing lots and blocks.

Community Development Director Humble stated that there is more time, money, and energy spent by office staff managing the program than on the enforcement staff enforcing the program.

Councilperson Kezele asked if there was any discussion for raising lease rates. Community Development Director Humble stated that discussion was made on raising the rates for meters and leases.

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked what the cost of leasing blocks would be. City Manager Rothweiler stated that the City does not lease lots but leases individual spaces.

MOTION:

Councilperson Johnson made a motion that the Council adopts the recommendation made by the Downtown Parking Task Force regarding downtown parking and management thereof. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Kezele.

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made the motion to exclude the portion of the recommendation that references that there will no longer be leased spaces. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mills Sojka.

Discussion followed.

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made the motion to not remove the parking meters but to cover them or bag them or to make the meters inoperable or unable to accept coins indefinitely by placing laminate over the coin section of the meter. The motion was seconded by Mills Sojka.

Discussion followed.

City Manager Rothweiler suggested making the motion more generic where the meters would be inoperable or unable to accept coins. He stated that there may be some laminate that could be placed over the coin section of the meter. Councilperson Clow stated that the suggestion meets the spirit of what he is trying to accomplish. Councilperson Mills Sojka was in agreement to the suggestion of the amendment.

Discussion followed to identify the meters as free parking and say that money will be contributed to a non-profit organization, such as the Senior Center.

City Manager Rothweiler suggested that if the money is to be donated to a charitable cause that the upkeep of the meters be provided by the non-profit organization to capture the coins from the meters.

Mayor Hall asked who would maintain the meters if turned over to non-profit organization. City Manager Rothweiler stated that the City would not have the staff or the expertise to be able to maintain the meters. The enforcement officer also fixes the meters and makes sure they are operational.

Councilperson Clow suggested that as the meters fail they can be replaced with gumball machines with a portion of the coins going to a nonprofit organization.

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

Discussion followed on the main motion as amended.

Roll call vote on the main motion showed Councilpersons Kezele, Lanting and Mills Sojka voted in favor of the motion. Councilperson Clow, Craig, Hall, Johnson voted against the motion. Failed 4 to 3.

Recess at 6:21

Reconvened at 6:37

4. Consideration of a request for Air Show Financial Assistance of \$25,000 to be refunded after the Air Show.

Airport Manager Carberry reviewed the request.

The Airport Board recommends the City Council approve the request for \$25,000 in financial assistance with the funding to be returned upon conclusion of the Blue Angels air show July 28 and 29th, 2012.

Jim O'Donnell, Chairman of the Air Show Committee, explained the request. Sponsorships and donations have been raised. Currently the Air Show has pledges of over \$39,000 and in-kind pledges of \$37,000 in hand.

Discussion followed:

Councilperson Clow stated that the last year's budget security was absorbed by both the City and the County for security and asked how security would be handled.

Jim O'Donnell stated that the plan is to downscale security. The Committee is asking agencies to provide the support and discussion has been made to have an Air Force security team to assist. This would reduce security costs. He explained the plan for the advertising of the Air Show and the VIP party.

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked if the City is already contributing to the event in a way by security. Jim O'Donnell said he did not know. City Manager Rothweiler stated that when reviewing the various line items the existing levels of funding will be sufficient in covering the overtime costs for law enforcement and fire service. The City does not have any funding to donate cash for the program.

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked what the plans are for security.

Jim O'Donnell stated that the committee will be contacting local agencies, Air Force and Navy for assistance. He also stated that Patty Adams is the marketing coordinator for the Air Show.

Councilperson Kezele asked if the costs will be split with the County of Twin Falls. Jim O'Donnell stated that the County prefers to take a backseat to the City of Twin Falls.

MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made a motion to apply \$25,000 out of our contingency fund with the understanding it is to be repaid. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clow.

Discussion followed:

Councilperson Mills Sojka asked what happens if the Air Show is unable to pay back the \$25,000. City Manager Rothweiler stated that the City would then be contributing \$25,000 to the Air Show, which would come from the contingency fund.

Councilperson Clow asked if the County was onboard with the Air Show. Jim O'Donnell stated that in conversation with George Urie the County is behind the Air Show but would like to simplify things. City Manager Rothweiler stated that staff worked with George Urie. He stated that any money beyond the \$25,000 threshold the City would be liable for the costs.

Councilperson Clow asked for clarification that if there is a loss the City and County would both be liable and if there is a profit from the Air Show where would the profit be going. He stated that last year the Air Show had a loss and he would like to see the profit come back into the general fund, before the money goes into reserves for future air shows. City Manager Rothweiler stated that the City and County have not had any discussions on the Air Shows loss or profits.

Airport Manager Carberry stated for clarification that if there is a loss and if losses are paid out of Airport reserves, those are equally City and County reserve dollars.

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

5. Consideration of a request to establish two new communication towers; one sixty-foot communication tower to be placed on property located at the Twin Falls Chambers Visitors Center, 3591 Blue Lakes Boulevard North and one (1) one-hundred foot communication tower to be placed on property located at the City of Twin Falls Gun Range, located east of the 4100 Block of Hankins Road East/3200 East Road and south of the Snake River Canyon Rim Trail, c/o Craig Stotts, Communications –PD on behalf of the City of Twin Falls.

Lieutenant Stotts reviewed the request.

On November 7, 2011, the City Council held a public hearing. At the meeting the Council requested additional information and asked that the request be brought to the Council on November 28, 2011 for further consideration. He reviewed the request using a power point presentation and drawings.

Approval of this request will allow the placement of two new communication towers which is the first step in ensuring compliance with the FCC and providing adequate portable radio coverage for our public safety employees and the citizens of our community. Allen Underdown, President and CEO, was the consultant hired a year ago with recommendations. Allen Underdown is present to answer any questions the Council may have.

Lieutenant Stotts addressed the following issues:

- Placing towers on existing power poles is not feasible for radio communication.
- Reduce tower height. A 100-foot tower is necessary to get a clear line of sight back to the Police Department.
- Tower light. Confirmed with the Airport Manager and Consultant stated that 175' and above requires a light.
- Camouflage pole. The cost of a camouflage tower at the range will substantially increase the cost.
- Relocating the tower. The tower can be moved but will substantially increase the cost and will cause time delays.
- Not possible to use flag poles as a receive site.
- Relocation on private property roof may be an option in the future.

Council discussion followed:

- The City currently owes the light pole proposed for the Visitors Center.
- Aesthetics on the Canyon Rim.

Allen Underdown reviewed the request and different type of towers. He also explained the guidelines of a galvanized steel tower.

MOTION:

Councilperson Mills Sojka made the motion to approve the recommendation of wood pole at the Visitors Center and the guide wire at the Gun Range as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Kezele.

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION:

Vice Mayor Lanting made the motion that at the Visitors Center a light pole be utilized, but if not approved by the State of Idaho, that a wood pole is approved to be used. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clow.

Discussion followed.

-The cost difference between the wood pole and a light pole is in the range of \$3,000 - \$6,000.

Shawn Barigar, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that he preferred the light pole over the wooden pole.

Roll call vote 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.

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

Discussion followed on the Parking Task Force recommendations.

MOTION:

Councilperson Clow made the motion to bring the Parking Task Force recommendations back to the City Council at the December 12, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Lanting. Roll call vote showed Councilpersons Clow, Hall, Johnson, Kezele, Lanting voted in favor of the motion. Councilperson Mills Sojka and Craig voted against the motion. Approved 5 to 2.

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

III. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6:00 – None.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Leila A. Sanchez
Deputy City Clerk/Recording Secretary