



# CITY OF REPUBLIC

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 6, 2020

Held in Person and Teleconference

### **Those Present:**

**Council:** Mayor Elbert Koontz & Council Members: Loni Simone, Rachel Siracuse, April Drennan via phone, Marty Rugo and Jim Burnside

**Employees:** Clerk-Treasurer Nick Olsen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Esther Popp, Public Works Director Rob Lightfoot

### **Meeting Called to Order:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

### **Roll Call:**

The clerk performed roll call, all council was present.

### **Agenda Approval:**

**Motion:** Loni moved to approve the agenda as written. Marty seconded; motion unanimously passed.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Review Minutes for June 15, 2020
- Review payroll check #'s & Benefit's EBT amount – 3984-3992 - \$29,842.50
- Review accounts payable EBT & check #'s & amount – 63595-63619 - \$199,234.83
- Review State Transmittal - \$34,571.04

**Motion:** Rachel moved to approve the consent agenda as written. Loni seconded; motion unanimously passed.

### **Public Hearing – Adopting 6-Year State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP):**

Clerk-Treasurer Nick Olsen began audio recording at 5:05 pm. The Mayor called the public hearing to order at 5:05PM.

- Citizen Jesse Ackerson asked if the Golden Tiger Pathway would be extended toward town to allow for wheelchair access without the need to cross the street to the school. Jim Burnside explained that this project is being completed in phases and that once everything is finished, that will be a part of the project.
- There will be a second public hearing at the next regular City Council Meeting during which Resolution 2020-06 will be adopted.

Mayor Koontz ended the public hearing at 5:09 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Nick Olsen turned off audio recording at 5:09 pm.

**Public Comment – Prior Agenda Request:**

Ray Maycumber – Ferry County Sheriff’s Department – Ray discussed the possibility of leasing the Gibraltar Center from the city for the purposes of a joint Sheriff’s Department, City of Republic Police Department, Coroner’s Office and training facility. It would cost \$1.4 million to finish the building with the basics. With the new tax that was passed for law enforcement, the department should be able to pay \$6,500 per month in payments for the building.

The Sheriff’s Department is currently covering the city calls while Loren is out on vacation. Based on a per-person formula, it is costing the FC Sheriff Department \$137,580.60 yearly to cover the city. The cost for the city to run a Police Department with one officer is currently \$156,000.00. There is no current plan to hire a second officer, as Mayor Koontz is waiting until primaries are done in August. This will determine whether or not Loren will continue in his bid for governor.

There will be a public hearing at the next regular City Council meeting to gather input from the citizens regarding the Gibraltar Center, after which a group will be organized to discuss the details of the building and law enforcement coverage for the city.

**Public Comment – No Prior Agenda Request:**

Jesse Ackerson – Jesse is involved with the Friday Market and with senior activities at the park since the senior center is closed. He stated that the faucet handles in the restrooms were broken and that the restrooms were not open or closed at the proper times last week. Rob let him know that the faucets had been fixed, and they will work together to address the key for the restrooms.

Jesse brought up the idea of a flea market/ swap meet since the Friday market is only for handmade goods and produce. Esther will research what other cities do in terms of rules and regulations to ensure it doesn’t become a garbage dump and council will revisit this idea at the next regular meeting.

**Correspondence:**

NCRL – New extended Wi-Fi is now available at the library.

**Old Business:**

No Old Business

**New Business:**

- Ferry County Housing Authority listing

**Motion:** Marty moved to approve the listing as written. Rachel seconded; motion unanimously passed.

- New business license – Brooks Home Renovations, LLC

**Ordinances/Resolutions:**

## **Department Head Reports:**

Clerk-Treasurer Nick Olsen – Nick relayed that the AC at City Hall was fixed at a cost of approximately \$1,000.00. This will be revisited at budget season because it will be in need of replacement soon.

The Information Technology Grant award date has been extended from July 1 to August 22.

Nick addressed the emergency repair of the support for the water main heading out to Pine Grove last month. Council discussed that the city asks for and receives help from the county regularly and they agreed to cover the cost of the repair. Jim would like a commitment that this will not happen again, if preventable. Nick and Rob will be in contact with Ron Charlton to discuss this and ensure preventative measures are taken.

Now that Ferry County is in Phase 3 of the governor's Safe Start plan, public meetings are allowed as long as the guidelines are enforced: all attendees will wear masks if indoors, and there will be no more than 50 people in attendance.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Esther Popp – Esther discussed utility account 757. The owner of the property had a stroke and was in the hospital for quite some time, resulting in the city placing a lien on 818 Kean St. S because of unpaid utilities and fees amounting to \$734.15 (\$225.00 in fees.) The owner has since passed and the great-nephew is paying off his outstanding debts. He has requested that the city reverse the fees accrued due to extenuating circumstances.

**Motion:** Loni moved to approve reversing \$225.00 in accrued late fees for account 757 with the stipulation that the primary amount of \$529.15 is paid in full. Marty seconded; motion unanimously passed.

Esther told council that the new flags for the city will arrive Thursday.

Public Works Director Rob Lightfoot – Rob informed Council that the school pathway project has been completed including a bike rack and sign. While the asphalt company was in the area they paved Adams Street; the citizens who reside there are extremely pleased with the work.

The public works department purchased a new riding lawn mower.

Rob has ordered a new transducer for the water pumps.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

### **Mayor/ Council Reports:**

Council Position #1 Loni Simone – Citizens have asked her where to dispose of old tires. Tires can be disposed of at the Torboy Transfer Station, WR Tires, or Tim's Tire Pro, all for a fee. Used motor oil can be disposed of at the City PW Shop in the yellow clamshell.

Loni expressed concern at the visibility when making turns on Clark Ave. and asked if anything could be done to remedy this. After discussion it was determined that not much can be done due to a shortage of parking on Clark.

Council Position #2 April Drennan – April is enjoying her new baby at home.

Council Position #3 Rachel Siracuse – Rachel has been attending TEDD meetings via Zoom.

Rachel reported that the Adams Street residents are very happy with the new asphalt.

Rachel asked Rob if anything can be done at the corner of Ponderosa and Klondike. The turn is blind due to high grass and weeds. Rob will make sure that is cleared.

Council Position #4 Marty Rugo – Marty wanted to verify that it is unlawful to burn yard waste within the city. A notice will be added in the next month’s bill to remind people.

Council Position #5 Jim Burnside – The inspector for the North Central Regional Library was impressed by the City library and only asked that a mixed air system be installed. Being that the windows can be opened to allow for fresh air circulation, this is not a priority.

Jim expressed concerns about law enforcement in the City. Mayor Koontz stated that Ray Maycumber had verbally agreed that the FC Sheriff’s Department would cover the city in Loren’s absence. Sheriff Maycumber had already left the meeting and could neither confirm nor deny this.

Mayor Elbert Koontz – Elbert has been attending Board of Health meetings via phone and Zoom. Ferry County is not going to move forward with a Phase 4 request until Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, and Garfield counties can all move forward together.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Loni moved to adjourn the meeting. Marty seconded; motion unanimously passed

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:43 pm

ATTEST:



ELBERT KOONTZ, MAYOR



ESTHER POPP, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER

