**Calendar

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**DOWNEY CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, January 11, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE: Rex Nielsen, Gary Barnes, John Hyde, Bonnie Hill, Grant Johnson, Tony Hancock and Kiesha Keller.**

**PATRONS- Barbara Hill, Bryce Hollingshead, Krystal Denney from SICOG, Patrick & Naomi Geiger, Alan & Starr August, Marjohna K. Madsen, Melissa Bowman, Cheyanne Bertasso & Officer Jeff Fullmer**

**CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Rex Nielsen called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the meeting.**

Rex Nielsen offered the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Action Item** **- CONSENT AGENDA**

**The following business items may be approved by one motion and a vote. If any one member of the Council so desires, any matter listed can be moved to a separate agenda item.**

1. **Council Minutes** **– December 14, 2021**
2. **Accounts Payable- January 2022**
3. **Business Licenses- Ultimate Handyman and Clayton Hulet Bird Taxidermy**

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to approve Consent Agenda only including Council Minutes for December 14, 2021, and Accounts Payable for January 2022, and Business Licenses for Ultimate Handyman and Clayton Hulet Bird Taxidermy, seconded by Grant Johnson, roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Oath of office administered to newly elected council memebers, grant Johnson and john hyde**

Mayor Rex Nielsen: “Grant Johnson, do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Starte of Idaho, and that you will faithfully discharge the duties of Councilor of the City of Downey according to the best of your ability?”

Grant Johnson, “I do.”

Mayor Rex Nielsen, “John Hyde, do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Starte of Idaho, and that you will faithfully discharge the duties of Councilor of the City of Downey according to the best of your ability?”

John Hyde, “I will.”

**Action Item- Selection of a Council President**

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to select Gary Barnes as our Council President, seconded by Grant Johnson; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Law Enforcement-** No new updates. Rex asked about a guy hanging out around town checking the business doors. Said he was a dog trainer. Bank Manager had called the police dept to have them talk to him and check him out. Officer said he would keep an eye out.

**Action Item- Approval for Community Development Block Grant**

Mayor Nielsen introduced Crystal Denney.

Crystal stated she’d already met with Mayor Nielsen, John Hyde, and Tony Hancock to walk the Community Center and see what the goal was for the space. City of Downey is eligible based on our low to moderate income. We can apply for a grant up to $225k for electrical, ADA accessibility, roof, windows, and other more permanent items. We can’t pay for things such as a mixer or anything not considered a permanent fixture. The grant is due by March 4th. Bonnie asked if we needed a match for it or if it was straight up? Crystal said it competes better if there is a match. The city can write a grant to go with it. Anything we have already done in the last year would count. We may be able to use any upgrades since 2018. If we paved the parking lot, that would count as a match. The project doesn’t have to be completed before the application for the grant, just need to know what it is and an approximate cost.

Barbara Hill asked what kind of commitment Crystal would need from the city? Crystal needs a Technical Assistance agreement just saying the city will respond promptly to emails and we will complete the application on time. Moving forward we’ll need a few resolutions passed. One of them is a Citizen Participation Plan just saying were we’re using federal funds we won’t do anything without informing the public. There will be a Public Hearing and Fair Housing Resolution which usually is done anyways annually. Those need to be done before moving forward. John asked if she had learned anything from the architect. She stated she hadn’t, but she did learn that we do not have to go through that RFP process again. In 2013 we dabbled in this already and Meyer and Anderson already were already involved so we wouldn’t have to start over if we use them again for the architect side. Barbara asked where we need to do a public hearing and resolutions would we need to have a couple special meetings? Crystal said we could do it all in the February meeting, but it would be quick on each item to get them all done. Crystal will post the Public Hearing in the newspaper. Public Hearing would be at 6:30pm before the regular Council Meeting on February 8th.

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant, seconded by Gary Barnes; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Action Item- Consider Approval for New Business for Balanced Yoga**

Melissa said she would like to update the name of the class to Mel’s Balanced Yoga. She would like to do it in the Community Center from 5:30a-7am so she would like an agreement on monthly price. She wants to start in May. Contract fee for $50 a month.

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to approve the New Business for Balanced Yoga on a month-to-month basis for $50 a month, seconded by Gary Barnes; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; abstain, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Action Item- Consider Approval for two more office phones for Verizon for the Council Table and Mayor’s Office**

Verizon sent us two extra phones on accident but rather than send them back we can use them for the mayor’s office and the Council table. Bonnie discussed with Bryce the option of having a hard line for the Council table and another 1 for the Community Center for when we do Council Meetings in the Community Center.

**John Hyde made the motion to approve two more office phones for Verizon for the Council Table and Mayor’s Office, seconded by Bonnie Hill; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried**

**Action Item- Consider Approval for Fiber Internet**

Bryce explained Direct Communication would be able to bring Fiber to the City Office. Our current company can’t provide Fiber but Fiber is the future so doing it now would cost us less. He negotiated with them a price, email from Direct Communication stated, “**For the City of Downey, we will offer a one-time cost of $27,000.  For this, we will provide them with a 200x200 service at no additional cost for five years.  If they prefer, we can alternatively allow them to pay $450/month for 60 months, whichever is best for their situation.  At the end of the five years, we will negotiate a very reasonable monthly price for whatever speed they would feel is appropriate for their needs at that time.”** The money we would use would come from our Covid Funds we received in 2021 that has regulations on what we can do with it. Bryce already found a route for Direct to come from the bank. It would go under 2 roads to get to the City Office. Once it gets to the building Bryce will need to distribute it out to the offices.the one issue we will have, currently our internet is providing internet to the shop. It wont work the same way with Fiber. There are a few other options for the shop, we could find a cellular broadband connection network or renegotiate a new contract with Infinite Q even just temporarily, or we can set up a Verizon Cradle Point which is a portable router. All can be paid for with the Covid Funds too but the shop needs internet for water monitoring and the cameras. Earliest Direct could start is in May but would probably still take longer. Bonnie wants to know if it requires a commitment right now because she has heard from the Governor that there will be more funds for Broadband. She would like to check into it first so she would like a month before committing to this.

Bryce said we have a window but if we wait too long the rates will go up.

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to table the Fiber Internet until February meeting, seconded by John Hyde; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried**

**Action Item- Consider Approval for Tony’s Computer in the Maintenance Shop**

Use Covid Funds because it’s for water. Tony needs a fan-less computer so the dirt can’t get into it.

**John Hyde made the motion to approve, seconded by Gary Barnes; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Action Item-** **Consider Approval for Resolution No. 2022 -101 for Non-Emergency Spending**

DOWNEY CITY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-101

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A POLICY AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF DOWNEY, IDAHO, AND ITS EMPLOYEES, FOR THE PURCHASING OF NON-EMERGENCY ITEMS OVER $500.00 , FOR USE BY THE CITY OF DOWNEY, IDAHO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Downey wants to establish a policy for it’s employees to put a cap on non emergency spending.

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to see **non-emergency** items over $500.00 come back before the Council for final approval even if it is a budgeted item.

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that purchases pertaining to keeping the water or sewer system running properly will be a **necessary emergency** expense.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOWNEY, IDAHO, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** That the Mayor shall have discretionary approval on **non-emergency** expenses up to $500.00.

**Section 2.** The Mayor shall have discretionary approval on **necessary emergency** expenses over $500.00 including but not limited to proper maintenance of municipal water and sewer systems.

**Section 3.** That this Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2022.

CITY OF DOWNEY, IDAHO

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Mayor Nielsen asked at a training the Council attended about a how much a mayor could spend without bringing it to Council first. Tony asked if there was a conflict with him buying the maintenance upkeep items, he always buys because its needed. It’s never been something he had to approve, and he’s worried this will change that. Mayor Nielsen explained this is just for himself to approve things that may be needed but not an emergency item. Bonnie believes the $500 is too low. She would think $1000 would be a better amount just in case something comes up. Mayor Nielsen said he would rather make a phone call to a Council member if its going to be between $500 and $1000. Final decision was $1000 for Mayor to approve before a Council Meeting.

Mayor Nielsen read the Resolution aloud. Bonnie wanted the Resolution amended to say, “water sewers and roads…”. Any purchases will still show on the Accounts Payables for the next month, so Council is still aware.

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022 -101 for Non-Emergency Spending with the amendment of the $1000 total and adding roads, seconded by Gary Barnes; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Action Item- Consider Approval for New Council Assignments**

Mayor Nielsen explained we redid the assignments and started some committees so we could function better as a Council to get more items on the list from Special Meeting on December 9th addressed. Each Council member will have three committees to be over.

**Bonnie Hill made the motion to approve New Council Assignments, seconded by John Hyde; roll call vote Bonnie Hill; aye, John Hyde; aye, Gary Barnes; aye, Grant Johnson; aye, motion carried.**

**Comments from the Audience- No Comments**

**Reports-**

**Tony Hancock-** Spring flow is at 74 gals per minute coming to townand 180 per minutes turned out up the canyon. As of now we have about 30 inches of snowpack which is better than last year but not as good as what we’ve had. Snowpack of last year was 26 inches. Most the Christmas decorations down but a little bit more to get. The frame of the snowplow did break so I had to take it apart and reweld it. Its running good now but we will take it apart this summer and do some more stuff on it. Handed out the well report from the last few years. Shows how much the well was pumped and the spring has produced monthly, and the last page shows the last nineteen years.

Last load of dropped off steel recycling we made $639. Tony asked Gary if we were happy with Meyer and Anderson last time? Gary said they were mostly happy with them, but we need to talk to them. The money we saved last year, and this year Tony would like to purchase new Christmas decorations. John suggested putting a tree back in the center of the intersection. They all would like to see it but they don’t want to make it harder for the plow. Gary suggested a suspended decoration. Tony pointed out anything there will need lines suspended from the buildings so we would need to get approval from the business owners.

**Kiesha Keller-** no comments

**Gary Barnes-** Thank everybody including the staff for trying to keep the snow at bay around us. Gary has received comments about it. Tony mentioned they have done what they could, but it is the citizens job to take care of their own property, but Tony and Matt do try to help when they can. Thank the staff for all the effort they put in and all the hours it takes to get some things accomplished and thanks for the audience we have supporting the Council Meeting.

**Bonnie Hill-** Congrats to John and Grant. I look forward to what we can do with the committees now. We need to get something in place for the Covid Funds so Kiesha can report to them, so we don’t lose the money. There is a course from the Attorney General on the Freedom of Information workshop recorded to YouTube so we can watch it again. The attorney we have now has raised our rates again and the service they are providing isn’t worth what they are charging now. We need to look into a new one sooner rather than later.

**John Hyde**- The Chamber has reorganized. We are now the Business Association of Downey and the first thing we are taking on is the Easter Egg Hunt. We are going to do it under the same type of structure as we did Light Up Downey with the chamber, the city, and the PTO. Thanked Tony for how hard they worked to keep the snow plowed. They did a great job.

**Grant Johnson**- Nice to have good help you don’t have to worry about.

**Mayor Rex Nielson**- Kiesha and Jessica, I appreciate your help. We’re moving forward and it’s been a tougher road then we thought but we are going there. There was a plan for Larry and Rex to go to the auditor this week, still might go up. We do have some names we’re going to look at and try to get a new one so we can move forward. Thanked Tony and Matt can’t believe anybody would complain but there are one or two who do. We just deal with that. Hope the City of Downey understands that what they do when helping to clean out the driveways and things aren’t required. They do that to be nice. We approved the carpet cleaning last night, when do we think we want to do that? Decided on the first Friday of March. Patrick would like to do a “Feed Downey” once a month and we can get donations for it. Patrick will get his food handlers license again and he will cook. He will sponsor all of it and do a write up for the City Office to look over it. Patrick’s wife mentioned they did it in the last place they lived but it was in conjunction with the food pantry. Mayor Nielsen explained the Food Bank kind of just backed off when we were for it. Might need to revisit that.

**Action Item- Adjournment**

**John Hyde motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Bonnie Hill, motion carried.**

**APPROVED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rex Nielsen, Mayor**

**Attest\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Kiesha Keller, City Clerk**