**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DOWNEY CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Gary Barnes, Rex Nielsen, Dan Wilson, Grant Johnson, Mayor Dennis

Phillips, Brenda Kay and Tony Hancock.

**Patrons Attending:** Barbara and Bonnie Hill, Terry and Bonnie Beck, Linda

Brim, Judy Rae Anderson, Sheldon Barfuss, and Marcia Nielsen. Officer Taysom from the Bannock County Sheriff’s Department, arrived later.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

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

**Reading of Agenda:** Mayor Phillips read the Agenda.

**ACTION ITEM - Approve Minutes:** **Dan Wilson moved to approve the Minutes**

**of the Regular Meeting of the Downey City Council of Tuesday,**

**February 12, 2019, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting on February 28, 2019, seconded by Grant Johnson, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEM** - **Approve Accounts Payable:** **Rex Nielsen moved to approve**

**the Accounts Payable for March 2019, seconded by Gary Barnes, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**Law Enforcement:** Not present.

**Comments from the audience on Agenda items only:** Bonnie Beck

expressed concern about the grant on the Agenda. She would like to see the data and statistics indicating Downey has a drug problem.

Grant Johnson mentioned he feels the grant would be a tough one to get.

Beck asked what makes anyone think, besides rumors and hearsay, that drugs are a problem in Downey? She feels the comments made in the County Commissioner’s meeting and on the news are going to hurt the fair, the Easter Egg Hunt, and people wanting to move to Downey.

Mayor Phillips reported we have no proof of drug problems other than what the police or citizens report.

Beck reported there are several drug related programs available including a church program. There’s a program in Pocatello, we have resource officers in our schools, we have drug dogs in the school and the school has drug education. These programs are already in place.

Rex Nielsen feels this grant is over the top for the City of Downey. There is a lot of work and time that would go into it.

Sheldon Barfuss feels the whole thing is ridiculous and is bad publicity for the City of Downey. The news took someone that has been here for a short time and ran with it.

Barbara Hill asked if we get reports from the Bannock County Sheriff’s Department on the calls they receive from Downey. She suggested we collect the data from the Sheriff’s Department and have it available to citizens.

The clerk reported we used to receive the reports, but due to privacy issues, we no longer receive them.

Barbara feels the Sheriff’s Department should still provide information on the calls receive and what they pertain to. She feels it is up to the City to get the data put it in the newsletter. This will help change the tone.

Officer Taysom reported the Sheriff’s Department could do a search of records for the City, but the information available depends on how each report is written.

Barbara suggested the City do a press release and help balance it a little with what has been said.

Officer Taysom reported last year, there were approximately 184 calls for service, including alarms, animal problems, suspicion calls, harassment, traffic offenses, DUI, disturbance, civil issues, fires, medical, welfare checks, information, accidents, VIN inspections, and burglary. He seen one drug violation and one DUI. He suggested talking to Lieutenant Argyle or Captain Armstrong about the reports.

Linda Brim asked if Officer Taysom feels Downey is worse than other

communities. He said he would have no problem moving to Downey with his family. Downey has few problems. Even during the fair, there are rarely problems. Officer Taysom reported people in Downey help one another. Residents of Downey are good to watch out for their neighbors. People notice when things are going on.

Officer Taysom reported marijuana has become a more prevalent drug. Heroine is starting to come back. He added that Idaho is one of the last states that do not have medical marijuana law.

Officer Taysom reported Downey residents are very good about calling in suspicious activity. Grant asked how we can help with any drug situations we might have. Officer Taysom suggested watching for a lot of cars going to a home, writing down license plate numbers and vehicle descriptions of suspicious vehicles and contacting the Sheriff’s Department and let them know. There is also a place on the County website to report these things, or report them to the City office.

The council thanked Officer Taysom’s for coming and the information he provided.

**ACTION ITEM – Shannon Sutorius – Consider Sponsoring the Idaho Office of Drug Policy Substance Abuse Block Grant Prevention Programs Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign all documents relating to the grant:**  Not present.

**ACTION ITEM – Consider approval of credit card payments through Access Idaho:** **Rex Nielsen moved to approve card payments through Access**

**Idaho, seconded by Dan Wilson, all voted aye,**

**ACTION ITEM – Consider Approval of Business Licenses for Motor Mart, Doug’s Repair, Downey Storage, Sutton Dentistry, Sutorius Fine Art, Ultimate Handyman, and At Home Preschool: Dan Wilson**

**moved to approve the above- listed Business Licenses, seconded by Grant Johnson, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEM – Dale Criddle Nine Mile Water Right:** We need to research

this water right further.

**ACTION ITEM – Consider approval of an Entity Administrator for**

**the U.S. Government's System for Award Management (SAM):** **Dan Wilson moved to designate Brenda Kay as the SAM Administrator, seconded by Gary Barnes, by roll call vote: all voted aye; motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEM – Consider approval of Budget Hearing date for 2019:**

**Dan Wilson moved to hold the Budget Hearing on August 27th, 2019, at**

**7:00 p.m., at the Downey City Office, 15 South Main, seconded by Gary Barnes, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**ACTION ITEM – Consider approval of Utility Deposit Refunds:** **Gary**

**Barnes moved to approve Utility Deposit Refunds for Andrea Wheatley, Jodie Barnes, Jill Barber, Melissa Huber, and Brent Peterson, seconded by Dan Wilson, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**REPORTS**

**Tony Hancock:** Tony reported on the following items.

* The spring flow to town is 69 gpm, with 200 gpm running out up Nine Mile.
* Tony thanked Rex for allowing him and Matt to use his snowmobile to go up Nine Mile. They were able to check the springs. There was 43 inches of snow when they went up Nine Mile, and we have had more storms since then.
* There has been some run off water around the well. With the freezing temperatures, it has helped with flooding.
* They have been doing maintenance on equipment for the summer.
* They have also been doing maintenance at the well house, on the clay valve and automatic shut off.
* They have built a new park bench. It’s concrete.

**Brenda Kay:** Brenda informed the Council of a Spring District Workshop in Chubbuck.

Ann Yearsley has been working on the City’s website. She spent some time with

Brenda and Selena and it is coming together nicely.

**Gary Barne**s: Gary expressed appreciation to the City’s staff.

**Rex Nielsen:** Rex asked Sheldon Barfuss if there are any update on the insurance

money for the fair building. Sheldon reported the county engineer is doing a study and there is a meeting tomorrow night. Until they have an idea of cost, they cannot obtain a contractor. At this time, they do not have a plan. They want to use it as a community building also and have heat in the building.

**Daniel Wilson:** Dan thanked the staff for all they do. He thanked the patrons present

for their support. Dan asked if A-1 Auto on Highway 91 has a business license. Someone from the audience reported the gentleman running it passed away. We will look into what we can do to get the mess cleared.

**Grant Johnson:** Grant expressed appreciation to the employees for their efforts in

making Downey a nice place to live. He would like to see the City look into a face lift on the front of the City building.

Grant suggested looking into having a splash pad at the City Park. We could check with Malad about the grant they received. SICOG is willing to help with grants.

Grant feels there is a lot of false information being put out about the community. We need to work together and not have the town split. Social Media has brought out some bad things. We don’t want to have the contention, we want to embrace one another.

Rex feels we are going to have a difficult time bringing businesses to Downey. Jim Parke struggled to keep the grocery store open.

Bonnie Beck suggested supporting the business we have and giving credit to those who keep their yards up.

**Mayor Phillips:** No business.

**ACTION ITEM** **– Adjournment:** **Dan Wilson moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.,**

**seconded by Grant Johnson, all voted aye, motion carried.**

**APPROVED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Dennis J. Phillips, Mayor**

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

**Brenda Kay, City Clerk**