CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
OCTOBER 14, 2025
7:00 pm

Call to Order **7:04:24 PM**

ROLL CALL
PRESENT: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Katie von Brethorst

ABSENT: Marg Chipman.

STAFF: Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Ron McDaniel, Lonnie Chambers, Troy Krahn, Bill Taylor, Delaine Singleton and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Thereasa Rasmussen, Lyndon Hains, Celeste Schwendiman, Regan Pack, Max Lattin and Becky Lattin.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Lyndon Haines.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lonnie Chambers.

Commission/Committee Reports:

7:05:54 PM – Sterling Blackwell, Design Review Committee Report. Committee met and reviewed committee applications. Two names are set for Council approval tonight and they still need two more people to fill the committee.

7:06:24 PM – Sterling Blackwell, Architectural Preservation Committee Report. They are going to do Christmas at the Depot again this year, so I will be approaching the City about using the bucket truck again.

7:06:49 PM – Sterling Blackwell, CIP Partnership Report. They are still looking for local representatives to join with them. On December 13th they will have a big gathering in Payette.

7:07:34 PM – Sterling Blackwell announced that the Weiser Little Theater is in the middle of their show, there are still tickets available for Thursday night.

7:07:50 PM – Larry Hogg, S.R.E.D.A. Report. They accepted the resignation of their executive director and the job posting for that position is open.

Department Reports were presented by Clerk McDaniel. **7:08:47 PM**

7:12:36 PM – There was a question about the electric report, Clerk McDaniel explained that their numbers are always a month behind. A brief discussion as to why the wastewater was up by over a million gallons from last year and our water was down by about a million gallons from last year.

MINUTES **7:13:37 PM**

Note: Council made the motion and second to approve August 2025 minutes instead of the September 08, 2025, minutes. August minutes were approved at the September 08, 2025, Meeting.

BILLS **7:14:12 PM**

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and present them to the Treasurer to have warrants drawn for payment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst and Mike Hopkins.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 7:14:54 PM

CONSIDER SMOKIN FRANNY'S BEER AND WINE LICENSE – Action Item.

Police Chief Krahn addressed the Council with a recommendation to approve Smokin Franny's Beer and Wine License Application.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve Smokin Franny's Beer and Wine License. **7:15:49 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Katie von Brethorst, Herb Haun, Larry Hogg and Sterling Blackwell.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN BONNEVILLE CONTRACT – Action Item. 7:16:30 PM

Celeste Schwendiman, Power Account Executive with Bonneville Power Administration, 950 W Bannock, Boise ID 83702. In April the City of Weiser requested a new contract and that new contract will go into effect when the current contract expires in September 2028. The new contract will allow the City of Weiser to continue to purchase Bonneville's low-cost Preference Power. Celeste gave a brief explanation about Preference Power and explained differences that will exist in the new contract including updating the high-water mark, it will be easier to integrate city resources into the contract, the rate structure will be more intuitive and will include rate stability mechanisms, and it will contain two credits to lessen the impact of rate changes. Customers will have until December 5th to sign but Celeste is encouraging customers to sign early due to the lengthy verification process. There are implementation steps once the contract is signed that will happen over the next two years, she will come to help with the implementations.

7:20:54 PM – Larry Hogg started a discussion about the high-water mark. Celeste explained that current contract has a one-megawatt buffer that keeps us out of Tier 2 rates and the new contract could possibly have a higher watermark which will increase the Tier 1 power available to us. Celeste explained how power distribution amounts are figured for each of their customers.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Bonneville Contract. **7:25:32 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Herb Haun, Mike Hopkins, Katie von Brethorst and Larry Hogg.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

ADOPT HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PLAN – Action Item. 7:26:11 PM

City Clerk Natasha McDaniel stated the purpose of the Historical Preservation Commission Plan (HPP) adding that the primary objective of the planning process was to actively engage the public in conversations regarding historic preservation. Ultimately the process of the HPC is to assist in the protection and preservation of Weiser's historic resources. Clerk McDaniel then explained the process they used to develop the HPP starting with a public input questionnaire. Sterling Blackwell added that there are a lot of benefits having the HPP in place, it opens up opportunities for grants, and to move forward with certain zoning districts and things like that. Discussion followed about the City's part moving forward. Clerk McDaniel, this is like a comp plan for the HPC, she also noted that if the HPP is adopted copies will be available at City Hall and on the City Web Site. Sterling Blackwell explained how this would benefit the Design Review Committee.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Mike Hopkins to adopt the Historical Preservation Plan. **7:31:18 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Katie von Brethorst, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Herb Haun.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER ESTIMATE FOR POLICE CAR - Action Item. 7:31:42 PM

Chief Krahn explained that he had intended on purchasing two Ford Police Interceptor's one for a patrol car and one for an admin car. However, there is an opportunity to go with a 2026 Chevy Equinox off the lot for the admin car and save about $6,000 to 8,000. Chief Krahn is asking for the spending authority to purchase a car when he finds it. Chief Krahn explained the difference between how an admin car and a patrol car are used and reviewed the status of his current fleet. Chief Krahn stated that if he is going to buy a civilian admin car he needs to do that now because he needs to order the Interceptor(s) within the next week or two to get them by early 2026. More discussion followed concerning various aspects of whether or not purchasing the Equinox or sticking with the Police Interceptor would be the best overall decision. The final discussion was about the max amount Chief Krahn needed for the civilian car if they decided to go that way and what was budgeted.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the purchase of a Police Vehicle and upfit it, not to exceed $70,000.00. **7:47:35 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

DESIGN REVIEW APPOINTMENTS BECKY HALE, THOMAS MOORE – Action Item. 7:48:01 PM

Sterling Blackwell, both candidates for appointment are familiar with Weiser and both have a great amount of expertise they can bring to the committee. Clerk McDaniel, they were brought forth and reviewed and now we just need a motion to appoint them to the actual committee.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the appointments of Rebecca Hale and Thomas Moore to the Design Review Committee. **7:50:01 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Mike Hopkins, Herb Haun and Sterling Blackwell.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER TRACTOR PURCHASE FOR WASTEWATER - Action Item. 7:50:32 PM

Lonnie Chambers, Wastewater Supervisor addressed the Council with a request to purchase an LS Tractor with a filtered cab from Weiser Tractor and Feed. Lonnie added that it has a full coverage 2-year warranty and after that a 4-year chassis-only warranty. Discussion followed about tractor use and the savings generated by selling our DEQ approved biosolids to a local farmer.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the purchase of an LS Tractor from Weiser Tractor and Feed for $47, 227.00. **7:58:58 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Sterling Blackwell, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Herb Haun and Mike Hopkins.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN MAIN LIFT STATION CONTRACT WITH KELLER – Action Item. 7:59:31 PM

Mike Campbell, this is a contract with Keller to do a study on our Main Lift Station at W 3rd, to evaluate the life left in it or what maintenance it's going to need going forward or if or when it needs replaced. This was budgeted for under the professional services line for the Sewer Department. The cost is below what we budgeted.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Main Lift Station Contract with Keller. **8:02:08 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Herb Haun, Katie von Brethorst and Larry Hogg.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER WEISER RIVER TRAIL AGREEMENT – Action Item. 8:02:32 PM

Ron McDaniel, Street Department Supervisor explained that where the Rails for Trails meets E 9th Street, before the house that is there now was built, that property was really low and all the storm water gathered there including from the Rails for Trails because there are no storm lines going to that area at all. We have talked about putting in a "Sand Window" which is a 50 foot long, 6 feet wide, 4.5 feet deep trench filled with sand and covered with rock to gather the water. It would be located between the Rails for Trails and the property that is there. The agreement is if we ever abandon needing the sand window, we will rehab the land back to as close to what it was before we put the sand window in as possible. We have approval from the landowner to do this; the agreement is just an agreement to rehab the land if need be. Katie von Brethorst asked why this is a City issue and Ron McDaniel gave a brief explanation. Mike Campbell added that it is a storm water mitigation. Clerk McDaniel, this solution mitigates the need to put in storm water infrastructure at little cost to the City.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the Weiser River Trail Agreement. **8:08:52 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Herb Haun, Katie von Brethorst, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins and Sterling Blackwell.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER DISC GOLF COURSE PROPOSAL AT MORTIMER ISLAND (Laird Property) – Action Item. 8:09:24 PM

Max Lattin, 1520 Scheloske Rd, Weiser ID. Max informed the Council that he is a senior at Weiser High School and is doing this as his senior project. Max presented his proposal for a Disc Golf Course on the Laird Property at Mortimers Island. His presentation included the benefits of having a disc golf course and the advantages of having the course at Mortimers Island.

8:13:54 PM – Herb Haun, at an earlier meeting you mentioned grant possibilities. Max stated that the LOR foundation funds should be enough for 18 baskets and to lay down the foundations for the T-boxes. Herb, your design shows that you are working around the Mud Bogg area, Max affirmed.

8:15:32 PM – Larry Hogg opened discussion about on-going maintenance costs for this project. Max Lattin, it is just a come and play course. Ron McDaniel added that the disc course will not significantly add to or interfere with their current mowing and spraying program as the baskets can be easily pulled and the base capped for mowing and other events. Parking was then discussed. Ron added that there is already a port-a-potty at the boat ramp and a dumpster. Ron stated that he has no concerns with the course being on the property. Discussion continued.

8:27:25 PM – Becky Lattin, 1520 Scheloske Rd, Weiser ID. Because this senior project is tied to Recreational Therapy, Saint Luke's suggested that they might also have funding available through their foundation. Also, the variety of the environment at Mortimer's Island adds to the uniqueness, challenge and excitement that a course at this property can offer that other cities don't have.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to grant permission for the Disc Golf Course Proposal at Mortimer Island (Laird Property) and continue to work with city staff on the details. **8:30:50 PM**

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IDAHO CODE 74-206 (1)(B,E,F) CONSIDER PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS, COMMUNICATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PENDING LITIGATION – Action Item.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Larry Hogg to go into Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(B,E,F) Consider Preliminary Negotiations, Communication with Legal Counsel Pending Litigation.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Katie von Brethorst, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell, Larry Hogg and Herb Haun.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Mike Hopkins to come out of Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(B,E,F) Consider Preliminary Negotiations, Communication with Legal Counsel Pending Litigation.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT – Action Item.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:15:00 PM

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Herb Haun, City Council President

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Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk