

## **CITY OF HAUSER, IDAHO**

Location: Hauser City Hall, 11837 N. Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, Idaho 83854

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING – January 11, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:25 p.m. – Mayor Olita Johnston**

**ROLL CALL: Mallon, present; Hatfield, present; Lefebvre, present**

**TOPIC: Contract Review (Scott Weitman, Building Inspector)**

- . Mayor Johnston said she, “did not speak to Mr. Weitman about holding him back on anything because I think what he has been doing is excellent. His manner and way of doing things is not to be controlled by the City, from what I understand. I think we should renew his contract as it is.”
- . Councilmember Hatfield said “we need to cut back on some of the code enforcement issues and maybe ask Mr. Weitman if he would just do the code enforcement on things that are called in, complaints and whatnot that are called in. Our budget has been stretched unbelievably thin. While he is doing a wonderful job, I do feel that we need to reign in some of the code enforcement issues.”
- . Mayor Johnston said she was concerned about something that hasn’t been found by the inspector and something happens at that residence. She further described what she meant. Whose fault would it be – the fault of the City’s for not making that person aware that they didn’t get a building permit?
- . Councilmember Lefebvre responded that it would only be a fault of the City if the City was aware of it and did nothing. He explained further and followed by saying he was “not sure that all of the hours spent by Scott have been in the form of following up on a violation that is known but is actually finding violations.” He said that we can’t be chasing violations because the hours clock up very rapidly and the City wasn’t anticipating that kind of money.” He explained further.
- . Cindy Espe said the City is not liable if a homeowner doesn’t abide by the ordinance and building something without a permit. She explained what she does and that she would like to be able to direct that so she does know what the code violations are that are in effect and where the building permits are. She said she would prefer that the direction came from her so it starts with her and then she’d always have the report on any issue.
- . Councilmember Hatfield said she wants to have Espe and Weitman work closely together. She said that, “It would be my hope to continue on with the building permits and maybe limit the code enforcement to complaints called in and follow up on issues already in the works.
- . Mr. Weitman said when he first came on board, he did a tour around the area and found some issues and those are all resolved, and he had one hour on code violations for the month so it is not an issue any longer.
- . Councilmember Lefebvre verbally gave a synoptic version of the above details.
- . Councilmember Hatfield asked Mr. Weitman if he had any comments. Mr. Weitman said it would be fine with him since he wouldn’t have to use the gas to come out to Hauser.

She said, "I would like to go on the record as saying to continue the contract now, just minus some of the code enforcement."

- . Councilmember Lefebvre said we would basically be putting Cindy in charge of contacting Mr. Weitman. Mr. Weitman agreed, and followed by saying if he was here, he could answer questions, which he feels is good customer service. Some discussion followed.
- . Mayor Johnston said that there have been many positive remarks made about Mr. Weitman on how he approaches people. She gave an example of one.
- . McCoy, Treasurer, asked a question on financial purposes. She said, "When you budgeted, you budgeted for a \$30 per hour fee. That budget has been completely depleted. You have no money for a building official for the rest of the year." Mayor Johnston commented. McCoy continued, "But you have the salary budgeted for the code administrator, so you are not stuck there. If you keep the 60/40 split, any revenue that comes in, in theory, would pay for future code administration. I think you need clarification (a breakdown on hours). When we did the 60/40 split in the past, that covers every single solitary cost involved with that building inspection."
- . Cindy Espe said, "Let me make sure I am clear because my understanding right now is if I turn over building permit plans, it is the 60/40 split. If a code violation comes in and I take care of it and they have to apply for a permit, once again they have to submit plans, and they go to Scott – it is a 60/40 split. There should absolutely be no hourly from Scott at all."
- . Councilmember Lefebvre asked, "When does Scott get involved?" Espe responded she handles that. She would send a letter. Discussion followed.
- . Scott said that if someone has already built this and they submit plans, how are you going to verify that the plans are correct? Much discussion on processes ensued. Weitman said you can't issue the permit until you have verified that the plans are correct. Much discussion continued.
- . Councilmember Lefebvre moved to renew S. Weitman's contract for one year with the only alteration on the contract would be that we process through the Code Administrator first and then to Scott and they work out details. The other factors don't need to be changed. A new contract will be drafted. Discussion followed.
- . McCoy said that the City does need proof of liability insurance.
- . Councilmember Mallon seconded the motion. Roll call: Mallon, aye; Hatfield, aye; Lefebvre, aye. Motion carried.
- . Councilmember Hatfield said the City does appreciate how hard Mr. Weitman has been working.
- . McCoy addressed Mayor Johnston. She said, "For the record, I need clarification that the City of Hauser City Council made a financial and contractual decision with a motion and a vote to take an action. The Council directed the Mayor to take action on their part and that you, independently, chose not to do it." Mayor Johnston responded, "That's why my employee did it for me." There were further comments made by the Treasurer. Councilmember Hatfield said, "Okay, this is a public meeting. Let's stay on tract, please."

Councilmember Hatfield moved to go into Executive Session, Idaho Code 67-2345, identifying

- (a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, where in the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs; and
- (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student;

Councilmember Lefebvre seconded the motion. Roll call: Mallon, aye; Hatfield, aye; Lefebvre, aye. Motion carried.

Councilmembers went into Executive Session at 5:59 p.m.

Councilmembers reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

Councilmember Lefebvre moved to adjourn. Councilmember Hatfield seconded the motion. All ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

---

Donna Ray, City Clerk

---

Olita Johnston, Mayor