MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

April 2, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d' Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d' Alene City Library Community Room on April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

James Hammond, Mayor

Woody McEvers) Members of Council Present
Christie Wood)
Dan Gookin)
Dan English)
Amy Evans)
Kiki Miller) Members of Council Absent

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Terese Fandel of Community of the Holy Spirit led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Wood led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

Michael Wendland, 2024 Coeur d'Alene Regional Realtors President, accepted the Proclamation declaring April 2024 as Fair Housing Month. Mr. Wendland thanked the Council and said that issuance of the said proclamation means a lot to them.

Walter Burns, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, presented on the background of the Commission, key accomplishments, current efforts and up-coming activities on how they can work with the City to meet the goals and needs of the city residents. He noted that the Commission began its work in 2019 with a mission to promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public of the City of Coeur d'Alene through the identification, evaluation, and designation of those buildings, sites, districts, areas, structures, and objects that constitute or contain significant elements of historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural interest reflecting the heritage of the City, the State, and/or the nation. He said that some of the notable accomplishments of the Commission include: the creation of the Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Coeur d'Alene; preservation of the Hamilton House which now houses the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene; establishment of the Heart of History Award; and nomination of the Garden District to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Burns explained that the Garden District has been a major undertaking which involved researching 520 primary buildings and roughly 400 outbuildings to determine whether each is contributing to the establishment of a

historic district. He shared that the neighborhood meeting will be held on April 8, 6:00 p.m. at the Library Community Room and the Idaho State Historic Review Board will meet on May 18 to vote and hopefully advance the nomination to the National Parks Service.

Shannon Sardell, Commissioner of the Historic Preservation Commission, presented the Commission's priorities for the year 2024. She mentioned that the month of May is National Historic Preservation Month, and they have several planned events which include: the reception at the Jewett House on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. where the Mayor will present the Heart of History Award; tours of downtown, Fort Grounds, Sanders Beach, and Garden District; Mothers' Day open house tours with the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot and Hamilton House on May 12; the Commission will also share a booth with the Museum at the Farmer's Market starting May 15; and there will be media coverage highlighting the history of Coeur d'Alene and importance of historic preservation. Ms. Sardell noted that, for 2024, they will also focus on the following: review of the historic downtown for possible update of overlays; 2024 grant application for downtown survey; historic zoning overlays and guidelines with the goal of preserving the character of Coeur d'Alene oldest areas; and review to come up with a modified demolition process. She added that the Commission is also involved in other issues such as: short-term rentals; infill guidelines; and management of the adverse effects to historic properties that may occur because of the I-90 widening project.

Mr. Burns mentioned two properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places that are both threatened with demolition are the Inland Empire Electric Railway Substation built in 1904 which is in poor condition and need substantial repairs; and the Roosevelt School built in 1905 now called the Roosevelt Inn which is under contract with the Redmond, WA firm and reportedly intends to replace it with 19 townhomes. He said that there are several ways that the Commission and the City can work together which is through historic recognition, planning, public outreach and education, community action, and creative reuse and revitalization. Councilmember McEvers asked about preservation efforts, to which Mr. Burns replied that when it comes to buildings, preservation would mean not tearing it down and as much as possible keeping it on its original configuration to preserve its history. Ms. Sardell explained that the Commission recognizes property rights of owners that are within historic areas, but they are trying to have a voice to get people to think about what they are doing and what the alternatives might be. Mayor Hammond thanked the Commission for helping the City preserve the neighborhood and its story.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bill Brizee, Hayden, noted that the ITD has resynchronized the traffic lights at I-95; however, he encouraged the Council to push for the resolution he previously submitted which seeks to transfer control of the traffic lights from ITD to the local authority.

Eric Christen, Hayden, said that he feels that the entire community is under attack but there is no evidence, nor facts, to show that the racial hate incident happened. He asked the City officials to find facts and evidence and put closure on the issue.

Lynn Fleming, Coeur d'Alene, asked the Council to reengage and look at a way to engineer the urban renewal district to serve all citizens and not just absentee landowners and millionaires. She

explained that the vision for the project was workforce housing, middle retirement, attainable housing, live-work-play, business start-up, and small business, but today there are almost 400 residential units costing \$1.2 Million up to \$3.2 Million. She proposed for the use of a new matrix that will include community engagement and social civic engagement instead of just putting weight on the highest cost sales of land and highest build cost.

Sarah Lynch, Hayden, said that the racial incident that occurred a few weeks ago is part of the cultural crisis, and while she appreciates and support the apology to the visitors and the effort to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, she asked the Council to break the cycle and focus on preventing the incident from happening again. She added that when people speak up noting that what happened is not an isolated incident, the Council should listen and address the issue.

Deborah Mitchell, Coeur d'Alene, inquired about the historic preservation plan for the Roosevelt School that was built in 1905 by local architect George Williams. She said that this building offers one of the few opportunities to retain a specimen for future public benefit. She added that it is one block away from two other properties listed on the National Registry of Historic Places: the Hamilton House built in 1908 and the courthouse built in 1926. She said that she discovered in the archives that the Roosevelt School was the first interracial school in Coeur d'Alene.

Zoe Ann Thruman, Coeur d'Alene, appealed to the Council to do everything in their power in partnership with the Historic Preservation Commission to save the historic structures in a way that works both for the owners and the community. She said that she interviewed countless residents and tourists, and their collective opinion is that they visit the City and decide to live here because of the historic and enduring character of the community.

Joshua Hoston, Coeur d'Alene, thanked Councilmember Wood for attending the fire-ops program. He explained that the program was designed for officials to experience and understand what the fire officers must deal with every day. Councilmember Wood said that it was an educational and enjoyable experience, and it is valuable for elected officials to understand exactly what they respond to, in addition to the physical strength that is required.

Jeanette Laster, Coeur d'Alene, noted that the month of April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and the kick-off event will be held on April 4, 2024 with Mayor Hammond providing a Proclamation. She said that there are over 2,300 calls per year of suspected child abuse, neglect, and abandonment in Idaho. Ms. Laster also shared statistics such as: in 2022, the HREI received 21 reports of either graffiti, harassment, or discrimination in the community, and 3-4 phone calls; in 2023 they received 7 reports and 39 calls; and for 2024 they received one formal report and 27 phone calls of incidences. She mentioned that they will be conducting a book club reading of Save Your City and a community conversation centered around the workbook. She invited the Council to join the workshop and said that she will send them a copy of the book when it comes out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Gookin thanked Ms. Fleming for what she said during the Public Comments regarding the Atlas Mill site. He said that he wanted the Council to review the plan again and to modify. He added that he also appreciates the comment regarding preserving the historical nature

of the city that is why he made a motion that was approved unanimously for the review of downtown height restrictions, parking requirements, and a discussion regarding possible modification of the ordinance on billboards. Lastly, he reminded staff about the NIC rezoning and he is hoping that it is moving forward.

Councilmember Wood thanked Mr. Brizee for his work on the traffic lights and Ms. Lynch for her service in the Air Force. In response to the statements in the public comments regarding the racial hate incident that occurred recently, she said that the police investigation is not yet complete and there was nothing said or broadcasted that the incident did not occur so there is no basis for saying that it did not happen. She stressed that the community has worked hard to be welcoming and overcome any sort of stain that it had in the past. She noted that the City did the right thing in addressing the incident and she appreciated all those who sent countless emails supporting the victims. Mayor Hammond said that such incident will not be tolerated in the community, and they will stand up for everybody's rights. He said that they will ensure that everyone in the community would feel protected and respected.

Councilmember McEvers shared the compost give-away event happening on April 6-7, 2024.

Mayor Hammond requested the appointment of Dan McCracken to the Historic Preservation Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by McEvers to appoint Dan McCracken to the Historic Preservation Commission. **Motion carried.**

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. Approval of Council Minutes for the March 19, 2024 Council Meeting.
- 2. Approval of the March 25, 2024 General Services/ Public Works Committee Minutes.
- 3. Setting of General Services/Public Works Committee Meeting for Monday, April 8, 2024, at 12:00 noon.
- 4. Approval of the Outdoor Eating Facility Encroachment Permit for The Olympia located at 301 E. Lakeside Avenue
- 5. Setting of a public hearing for April 16, 2024 for V-24-01; a Vacation of a portion of Hattie Avenue right-of-way adjoining the northerly boundary of Lot 2, Block 1, Shae Estates
- 6. Approval of **Resolution No. 24-022** Acceptance of Grant of Easement for Sanitary Sewer Improvements in the Atlas Waterfront Third Addition from the Coeur d'Alene Urban Renewal Agency.

MOTION: Motion by McEvers, seconded by Evans to approve the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL: McEvers Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE IDAHO ATTORNEY GENERAL AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR ONE DETECTIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE.

STAFF REPORT: Police Chief Lee White noted that the City was recently contacted by the Idaho Attorney General's Office with a request that it consider participating in the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. He said that the ICAC has been in existence for many years and the Idaho Task Force is one of the 62 across the country that seeks to investigate and prosecute individuals who use the internet or other technology to criminally exploit children. He explained that the cases are generated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) or other established means, and then investigated at a local or state level. He added that in 2023, the State received 2,424 cybertips and Idaho is expected to have nearly 3400 this year. Chief White explained that some of these tips end up being non-criminal in nature, but many become criminal cases regarding sexual exploitation of minors. He further said that in Kootenai County in the past five months, there were 32 new cases assigned for investigation. He noted that the Task Force is funded through the Idaho Attorney General's Office (OAG) which pays the salary, benefits, overtime, computer, and electronic equipment, while the City would pay for vehicle, uniforms, and regular police equipment. Chief White said that one current detective will be assigned to the ICAC Task Force and then the PD will hire a new officer to backfill the additional position. He said that this detective will be housed at the PD but will routinely work with other ICAC detectives. He proposed for the Council's approval for the City to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Office of the Idaho Attorney General and accept funding for one detective to participate in the ICAC Task Force.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McEvers asked how long the engagement of the detective will be and if the matter has been addressed internally in the past, to which Chief White explained that Mr. Nick Edwards, the Idaho ICAC Task Force Commander, has put a program in place where it will require the individual at least remotely virtually participate in a counselling session twice a year. Further, he said that there was no detective assigned to the caseload and they just worked on cases when they were able to do that. Councilmember Wood said that she fully supports this considering the amount of caseload at the PD that requires an intensive amount of work.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Wood, to approve **Resolution No. 24-023** - Approval of an Interagency Agreement with the Idaho Attorney General's Office to accept funding for one detective to participate in the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

ROLL CALL: McEvers Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING A GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/ GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CORE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC., FOR THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS REMODEL AND EXPANSION PROJECT.

STAFF REPORT: Police Chief White noted that the original police station was built in 1999 and there were only 75 staff members, but now the police force has grown to 121 or 61.98% increase. He said that their restroom facilities were inadequate, three squads who don't have their own workspace, eight patrol sergeants share one office that has only six desks, but the space is only for four. He added that the proposed expansion remodel will provide additional desk space, lockers for all their employees, and adequate restrooms.

Police Captain Dave Hagar showed the pictures of the proposed plan and schematic design for the PD remodel and expansion project. In terms of the locker rooms, he said that they have projected how much they will need for at least the next five years. He explained the additional costs which include the Northern driveway approach and electronic access control worth \$207,747 as well as the precast stained wall for the fencing worth \$29,036. He said that there are additional alternates that they did not recommend such as additional windows for \$38,000, masonry and steel fence for \$270,854, ceiling baffles at entrance for \$25,381, and additional personal storage lockers for \$10,770. He noted that the Council already approved the ARPA funding for \$4.5 million and the PD currently has \$478,124 in impact fees, and they request approval of and additional \$1,164,188 from the General Fund. As a result, Captain Hagar said the PD is requesting approval of the gross maximum price for CORE construction worth \$5,453,336, the builder contingency worth \$148,927, and inspections worth \$688,977 for a total project cost of \$6,142,312. He said that they have done enough work to ensure that they will not apply for any change orders.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McEvers inquired if the City has available funds, to which Mr. Tymesen replied that as of September 30, 2023, the city's General Fund balance has grown year over year because all the departments were having savings and the Police Department, being the largest department, does not stay full staffed. Mr. Tymesen said that there is \$12.9 Million in the general fund balance that is not assigned, hence if Council will approve the \$1,164,188 to come from the fund balance, then it will lower the fund balance to \$11,779,000 which is acceptable 20% cash available and meets the General Finance Officer Association guidelines. Councilmember Gookin said that he is in support of spending the fund balance if it's for a capital item expense. He added that he is willing to put the funds into the project for the windows. Councilmember Wood supported the idea of adding the windows and said that the project should absolutely move forward.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Wood, to approve **Resolution No. 24-024** - Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment with CORE Construction Management, Inc., in the amount of \$5,453,335 for the Police Headquarters Remodel and Expansion project, and

Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Project Cost of \$6,142,312, and to include \$38,000 for the windows remodel.

ROLL CALL: McEvers Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING A COMPENSATION PROJECT PROPOSAL WITH AMERIBEN, HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTING, TO REVIEW ALL FLSA EXEMPT CLASSIFICATIONS.

STAFF REPORT: Human Resource Director Melissa Tosi noted that the last classification and compensation study for the City was completed in 2017 and since then, the Human Resources has done many analyses of hourly classifications to ensure market and internal equity. She said that the FLSA exempt salaried positions would benefit from an outside review due to the higher wages, the larger percentage difference between pay grades, an updated review on paygrade leveling, and incorporating the Police Captains into the pay structure. She added that this compensation project will look at FLSA exempt positions which range from pay grade 14 to pay grade 21 which is approximately 35 classifications. She explained that the Police Captain classification is the only exempt classification that is leveled outside the City's structure. Ms. Tosi said that Ameriben Human Resource Consulting will provide the City with the following: job valuation for internal equity; pay structure chart refinement; and executive summary final report of all completed tasks, methodology, findings, and recommendation. She shared that the completion timeline is 60 days and the proposed cost for the project is \$9,875 to be paid from fund balance.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Gookin asked when the last time that the City has done a classification study, to which Ms. Tosi replied that the full class compensation study was done eight years ago which was more expensive at about \$40,000. She said that the job descriptions are reviewed annually, and adjustments are made. Councilmember Wood said that she is supportive of the concept but requested at least two more weeks to review the proposal. Ms. Tosi shared that she is subscribed to the Northwest Data Exchange which is an external data for comparison of positions and ranges. She added that the consulting firm noted that if the City were to go another step further and pull job descriptions comparisons, it will cost an additional \$6,000 while a full comparison of job descriptions with all the classifications will cost an additional \$12,000. Councilmember McEvers asked if this is a comparison to what they are making in performing their jobs, to which Ms. Tosi explained that the internal comparison is looking at internal equity but also looking at the external market. She further explained that internal equity is looking at common comparisons such as liability, responsibility, supervision, and then comparing the positions to each other. She added that in the comparable, they are looking at cities in Idaho with the same population or same set-up as Boise, Twin Falls, City of Pocatello, Meridian, Kootenai County, and City of Spokane.

MOTION: Motion by Wood, seconded by Gookin, to table **Resolution No. 24-025** – Approval of compensation project proposal with Ameriben, Human Resource Consulting, to review all FLSA exempt classifications for discussion in the April 16, 2024 Council Meeting.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; McEvers Aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AMENDING RULE 11, SECTION 12, OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE PERSONNEL RULES, RETIREMENT CONSULTATION BENEFIT.

STAFF REPORT: Human Resource Director Melissa Tosi noted that the retirement consultation benefit is a discretionary benefit that is available to eligible retirees if there is an identifiable need for consultant services. She said that this benefit has been utilized and approved in the past and the department heads has been responsible for tracking the hours and projects the retiree has consulted on. She added that currently, the benefit pays the retiree/consultant \$1,000 over 24 months for their consulting services. Ms. Tosi explained that the amendment will modify the payment method to compensate the retiree at \$100 per hour for their submitted hours each month, up until they reach the maximum benefit of \$24,000 or they reach the conclusion of the two agreements, whichever occurs first. She said that history would show that as time goes on, the need for consulting typically decreases, hence by amending the Personnel Rules, it would be clear from the beginning that the retiree/consultant will only be paid for hours worked. She added that the proposed amendments have been discussed by the Executive Team and posted for all employees' Association with no concerns noted.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McEvers asked how often this is used and if it's a budgeted item and Ms. Tosi replied that it's a budgeted item, and it was used a couple of times in the last five years but not very often because it should be for a specific need and the employee has to have a specialized consulting field. Mayor Hammond said that the advantage of the retiree is that they enjoy the benefit of the total amount through the VEBA, otherwise they will have to pay taxes. Councilmember Wood inquired regarding the feedback of the employees' associations on the proposed amendments, to which Ms. Tosi replied that she sent the language to them a couple of months ago, but she did not hear back from them. She added that she discussed it with the Executive Team, and they are in support of the amendments.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by McEvers, to approve **Resolution No. 24-026** – Approval of amendments to Personnel Rule 11, Section 12, Retirement Consultation Benefit.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; McEvers Aye. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MELISSA COLE FOR THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC ART ENTITLED "GREEN ENERGY DRAGON" AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY BIOGAS FLARE.

STAFF REPORT: City Accountant Stephanie Padilla noted that the Arts Commission issued a national request for artist qualifications on August 22, 2023, for the installation of public art at the Advance Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) incorporating biogas flare located near the Centennial Trail and the Spokane River on the AWTF property. She shared that the City received a total of 46 artists submissions which was narrowed down to four finalists who were offered to submit details and a maquette of their proposed art piece. Ms. Padilla said that the Selection Committee met on March 21, 2024, to review the public votes and chose artist Melissa Cole of Spokane, WA and her art proposal entitled "Green Energy Dragon." She explained that Ms. Cole has a background in Biology so the mosaic that she is proposing will run the length of the dragon and has the symbols of biogas, which will be good for educational purposes when students come for tours. She added that the recommendation was then presented to the Arts Commission at their meeting on March 26, 2024, where the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Council to approve a contract with Melissa Cole in the amount of \$75,000.00. Lastly, she said that a recommendation to name the dragon "Sid" after the longtime Wastewater Superintendent, was also unanimously approved by the Commission. According to Ms. Padilla, the artwork is scheduled for completion and installation in October 2024.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McEvers asked how the public art is funded, with Ms. Padilla explaining that it will come from ignite funding. She noted that ignite is providing 2% a year from the River District. Councilmember Gookin said that he was also asked the same question on funding, and he would say that for every public arts project, a percentage of the fund is also set aside for maintenance of the art. He said that the Green Energy Dragon is his favorite art piece; however, he requested that in succeeding projects to the Council be provided all the submittals during presentation so they can confirm rather than just being asked to accept.

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by English, to approve **Resolution No. 24-027** – Approval of a contract with Melissa Cole for the design, fabrication, and installation of public art entitled "Green Energy Dragon" at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility biogas flare in the amount of \$75,000.00. name Sid.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; McEvers Aye. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EMERGE CDA, INC., TO PROVIDE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ART CLASSES.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Troy Tymesen noted that Emerge CDA is an Idaho non-profit company located in Coeur d'Alene and was organized in part to benefit the community through arts education and artist development. He said that through the MOU, the City and Emerge will promote their mutual interests and goals by providing a \$25,000 scholarship program per year from the Art Fund to assist young artists to attend classes for the development of their artistic talents. Mr. Tymesen pointed out that the scholarship will be awarded to young artists from 7 to 18 years old. He shared that Emerge has several classes for the month of April such as ceramic throw down, pottery, crochet, and dance. He added that the scholarship will be between \$75 to \$125 per student.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McEvers asked if there are any other scholarships being offered from the Art Fund to which Mr. Tymesen replied that another Councilmember suggested to have scholarships for theater or performing arts which they are looking into, but it is not in place at this point. Councilmember Gookin said that Councilmember Miller wanted to mention about offering scholarship on performing arts. He inquired if there will be opportunities in the future for performing arts such as music, to which Mr. Tymesen replied that it will be a good opportunity to work with Emerge since they have a great space in their facility. Councilmember Evans said that she fully supports this program and thanked Mr. Tymesen, Ms. Padilla, Mr. Adams, and Ms. Jeni Hegsted of Emerge CDA for the working with the City for this scholarship program.

MOTION: Motion by English, seconded by Evans, to approve **Resolution No. 24-028** – Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Emerge CDA, Inc., to provide student scholarships for art classes in the amount of \$25,000.00.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; McEvers Aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Wood, seconded by Evans that there being no other business this meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58p.m.

ATTEST:

Jo Anne Mateski Executive Assistant