

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

March 19, 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 March 19, 2024, at 6:00pm., there being present the following members:

James Hammond, Mayor

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

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

**INVOCATION:** Michael Maksimowicz with Ignite World Ministries led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilmember Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

James Fillmore, DarkSky Delegate, accepted the Proclamation declaring April 2-8, 2024 as International DarkSky Week. He noted that the proclamation aims to raise awareness of the splendor of the night sky and the risk caused by inappropriate lighting. Mr. Fillmore said that he gave talks in schools and with private groups and has been frequently told about bright, non-shielded lights across streets or alleyways that bother people at night, affecting their sleep. He also mentioned that aside from human health issues, excessive night lighting also affects wildlife such as birds and insects. With the rise of housing developments in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls, Mr. Fillmore said that smart lighting ordinances enhance development, and offered himself as a resource person for the city in the development of modern smart code amendments geared towards safety and protection of the human health, wildlife habitat, and having an awesome night sky.

Mayor Hammond read the Proclamation declaring April 6-12, 2024 as the Week of the Young Child which was requested by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children. The said proclamation encourages all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Fire Chief Tom Greif, Deputy Chief of Operations Jeff Sells, and EMS Officer Steven Jones provided a report regarding the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department (CDAFD) operations. Mr. Greif said that the Fire Department constantly measures and reevaluates their service delivery and is

always on the lookout for opportunities to enhance it. He said that they wanted to report on their response analytics in support of their upcoming request for approval of a third General Obligation Bond in May 2025 which will include replacement of fire apparatus fleet, upgrade and expansion of fire stations, and possible request of additional resources.

Deputy Chief of Operations Jeff Sells noted that they are now using a new reporting software, the NFPA 1710, and started implementing in October which gave them the extra ability to track statistics that they didn't have the ability to track before. He said that in 2023, the CDAFD responded to 10,022 incidents where 78% were EMS of which 113 are cardiac arrest incidents; while 22% were coded as fire incidents composed of 8% calls for assistance, 4% fire alarms, 8% as "other fires," and 2% were structure fires. He explained that NFPA 1710 establishes parameters that they try to comply with regarding staffing and chute times or the time when they received the alarm until they are rolling out the door plus the travel time. He said that their goal is to have 4 minutes or less travel time, noting that only a few districts needed improvement. He specifically noted that the response started crawling over the 4 minutes mark in the areas which include: the hospital district at 3minutes, 58seconds; south of I-90 at 4minutes, and Atlas corridor at 6minutes, 27seconds. Mr. Sells said that the average response time to a reported structure fire was 5 minutes, 38 seconds, and the average response time for full first alarm was 10 minutes, 37 seconds, which is behind the NFPA 1710 recommendation of 8 minutes. Councilmember McEvers asked about the difference between the first and second alarm, to which Mr. Sells answered that the first alarm deploys 14 firefighters on the scene composed of the Battalion Chief, two engines, a ladder truck, and two ambulances; the second alarm adds another Battalion Chief, two more engines and a support vehicle; and then the third alarm gets another Battalion Chief, three more engines and support vehicle. He explained that these response plans are built not just for structure fires but also to consider mass casualty or aircraft accidents. He added that the NFPA 1710 also recommends deployment of 43 firefighters on first alarm of a high-rise fire.

In terms of ambulance response to incidents for the six months period from March 1 – August 31, 2021 to 2023 when Medic 34 was put in service, Mr. Sells reported that the call volume for Medic 31 and 32 decreased by 194 calls. Because of Medic 34, they were able to absorb more calls and still reduce the number of calls for the other two ambulances. Councilmember Gookin requested clarification if there is a demarcation line on calls, with Mr. Sells replying that the ambulances will also respond outside of the city. He added that EMS measure is to achieve 8 minutes response time which they were able to achieve with the addition of Medic 34. Councilmember McEvers asked for the difference of response time between EMS and fire. Mr. Sells clarified that the 4 minutes response time is travel time for structure fire but it also applies to EMS because the assumption in NFPA 1710 is that all engines are basic life support (BLS) and all ambulances are advance life support (ALS), hence the standard is BLS on scene within 4 minutes and ALS on scene within 8 minutes. He further explained that NFPA 1710 is a standard that helps the fire department determine staffing levels and travel times. Councilmember Wood asked what the city has done in the last 10 years and how we compare it with other cities, with Mr. Sells explaining that it is hard to compare with other cities as every fire district manages differently.

EMS Officer Steven Jones noted that in 2023, they had 113 reported cardiac arrests, 60 of which are true cardiac arrests in nature, and they were able to gain return of spontaneous circulation at 52% of the time. Mr. Jones said that they also provided CPR training to over 190 residents in

Coeur d'Alene. He also discussed their new program in collaboration with EMS agencies and Kootenai Health which aims to provide emergent transport for patients from our hospitals to definitive care in Spokane. He said that these are ambulances that will respond with lights and sirens to pick up the patients from Kootenai Health emergency room and then transport them to Spokane. Their turnaround time in the emergency room is less than 10 minutes, decreasing the overall time to deliver patients to Spokane. He added that they were able to transport 7 patients since this program was implemented in December 2023, and their turn around time for these patients is 6 minutes. Mr. Jones also reported that there are a total of 5,026 billable EMS calls that generated a gross of \$4,057,750, of which 62% is paid by Medicare locally, 13% paid by Medicaid, 21% is commercial, and 4% is self-pay. He said that the total revenue contracted to the CDAFD in 2023 is \$2,097,923. Councilmember Wood asked about the triage that they implement before they even get to the hospital, and Mr. Jones replied that they received the Idaho State Time Sensitive Emergency Certification from Kootenai County for having the fastest chute time for EMS responses, most EMS calls, shortest on scene times for all time sensitive emergencies, and shortest turnaround time. He explained that when they diagnose a time sensitive emergency such as a stroke, heart attack, trauma, or sepsis patient, they call and give a radio report to the hospital to provide specific patient information to get the right medical personnel down to the emergency room to help better prepare for the patient's arrival. Councilmember McEvers asked if they also cover areas outside of the city and if it affects the call times, to which Mr. Jones explained that the primary response area of Medic 31 is downtown, but they will be the first paramedic ambulance to respond to go South towards Worley or down to Harrison and sometimes to Saint Maries or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July pass. Councilmember Miller asked if the Fire Department is also taking into consideration the growth of the elderly population in their projections, to which Mr. Jones replied that they work in collaboration with Kootenai County and EMS to evaluate the need in the last several years which helped to justify Medic 34. Mayor Hammond said that what is most important is that the statistics will help the Council evaluate the next steps in terms of the CDAFD's fleet and facilities.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Janice Dailey, Coeur d'Alene, thanked the Council for amending the code to address the street noise from vehicles. She invited the Council to come to her home downtown and spend half an hour in the evening to hear the noise from modified vehicles. She said that it is a burden to residents, and they are willing to work with the Council to address the problem.

Barb Letchet, Coeur d'Alene, noted she appreciated Councilmember Gookin's My Turn column in the Coeur d'Alene Press about the historic district; however, she wished that it was published during the Comprehensive Plan Review. She recalled sending a letter to the Mayor and Council expressing her views regarding the history of downtown being developed away. She explained that the downtown is the origin of the history of Coeur d'Alene, but the development is focused on making money and the attention to the historic downtown and residents were left out of the process. She asked that the public be invited to committee meetings by placing notices in the Press at the beginning of a developer expressing interest in a property. She appealed for more resident involvement in the development of historic downtown.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Councilmember Wood commended Mayor Hammond for the wonderful job in presenting the State of the City Address today.

Councilmember Gookin, noted in response to what Ms. Letchet mentioned during the public comment about the downtown, he wondered if the downtown parking and height restrictions, billboards, and the NIC rezoning are still moving forward. With regards to the downtown noise, he recalled that during the discussion on the ordinance, there was a mention about signs that would flash or alert people if the noise was getting too loud and requested the city look into those signs and partner with the Downtown Association. He also shared that he was asked about the process for submitting and approving proclamations. Mayor Hammond said that City Clerk Renata McLeod oversees the request for proclamations, and he will discuss the process with her.

Mayor Hammond thanked the Councilmembers for coming to the State of the City Address and for their hard work and substantial contribution to the efforts to govern the city.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Council Minutes for the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting.
2. Setting of General Services/Public Works Committee Meeting for Monday, March 25, 2024, at 12:00 noon.
3. Approval of Bills as Submitted
4. Approval of Financial Report
5. Setting of a public hearing for April 16, 2024 for an Appeal by Joan Woodard of DR-1-24AA; CDA Hotel, LLC (Mariott Hotel) located at 602 & 612 E. Sherman Ave.
6. **Resolution No., 24-018** –
  - a. Approval to surplus Police Department vehicles surplus and sell at auction; one 2012 Chevrolet Impala, one 2013 Chevrolet Impala and one 2013 Ford Taurus Interceptor
  - b. Approval to surplus of vehicles and various pieces of used equipment from the Streets and Engineering department and authorize the surplus items to be sold through auction.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”), WITH THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (“ITD”) FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES LOCAL TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR GOVERNMENT WAY CORRIDOR IMPROVMENTS, INCLUDING TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION AND ADA UPGRADES, AND APPROVING THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WELCH COMER.

**STAFF REPORT:** City Engineer Chris Bosley noted that the Council approved a professional services agreement with Welch Comer in August 2023 to begin preliminary design of the traffic signal coordination project on Government Way. He said that the design also included bringing pedestrian ramps into compliance with the ADA in the corridor and applying for Strategic Initiatives funding through the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to fund the improvements. He explained that in January 2024 the City was notified that the project was approved for \$4,826,000 in funding. Mr. Bosley said that the cost for the design is \$450,000, which would be funded with the grant. Upon signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the \$4,826,000 will be transferred to the City to cover project expenses while any unused funds are to be returned to ITD upon project completion. He proposed the approval of the MOU with ITD and the Supplement to the Professional Services Agreement with Welch Comer Engineers to allow the design to move forward and bidding to be advertised for the corridor improvements.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember McEvers asked whether there will be any structural changes in right turn lanes or sidewalks, with Mr. Bosley noting that all the lanes will remain the same with the only physical change on the ground being the upgrade of PED ramps to ADA such as flattened slopes, truncated domes, and detectable warning strips. Councilmember McEvers also asked about programming, to which Mr. Bosley explained that the programming will be done for the city similar to Sherman Avenue and Northwest Boulevard. He added that the city controls the signals.

**MOTION:** Motion by Evans, seconded by Wood, to approve **Resolution No. 24-019** – Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Transportation Department for government Way strategic initiatives funding and supplement to the Professional Services Agreement with Welch comer.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 24-020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, ACCEPTING AN IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ("IDEQ") GRANT SUBAWARD TO IDENTIFY AND DESIGN A SOLUTION TO ELIMINATE STORMWATER FROM DISCHARGING INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM NEAR THE PONDEROSA GOLF COURSE.

**STAFF REPORT:** City Engineer Chris Bosley noted that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has awarded the City of Coeur d'Alene with a Grant Subaward worth \$31,005 with a 20% match from the city aimed to identify a solution to eliminate stormwater discharge into the sanitary sewer system on North Hill Drive near Ponderosa golf course. On November 21, 2023, the city entered into an agreement with HMH Engineering to perform the design services. Mr. Bosley requested approval that the City accept the grant identified as DEQ Subaward 5138-00.

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Hammond asked how the storm water got into the wastewater system, with Mr. Bosley explaining that at that time they probably had a flooding problem because it is a low area, so they made an intentional effort to channel the water. He said that there were similar problems in other like locations that they took care of last year. Councilmember McEvers asked how much the city can get from the \$31,005 grant, and Mr. Bosley clarified that this will not be a full design but a concept on what they can do because this is considered a planning grant. Councilmember Gookin asked if they will come back to the Council to request funding, and Mr. Bosley said that if the project is simple enough then it can be done in house otherwise, they might come back for a contract.

**MOTION:** Motion by McEvers, seconded by Miller, to approve **Resolution No. 24-020** – Acceptance of the IDEQ Planning and Sewer Overflow and Stormwater (OSG) Grant subaward in the amount of \$31,005.00.

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. 24-021**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, ACCEPTING THE BID OF AND AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE POINT STORMWATER PROJECT TO TERRA UNDERGROUND, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$653,015.00.

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

City Engineer Chris Bosley noted that in 2022, the City of Coeur d'Alene was awarded grant funding through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) for the Leading Idaho Subaward Program aimed to fund projects that will reduce phosphorous loading into Lake Coeur d'Alene. He said that the city was awarded funding for three separate stormwater projects with a total of \$1.3 Million. Mr. Bosley explained that the current project is the final project to be completed under the first round of funding and that the project includes a Base Bid and five Add Alternates. He said that the bids were advertised for two weeks, and the bid opening was last March 13 with two bidders: Terra Underground with a total bid of \$653,015.00 and S&L Underground with a total bid of \$936,610.00. Mr. Bosley said that the Streets and Engineering Department recommends awarding the contract to Terra Underground, LLC, as the lowest bidder for the Base Bid plus Add Alternates 1 through 5, for a total of \$653,015.00. He noted that the construction of the Independence Point Stormwater Project is expected to be completed in June 2024 for reimbursement because this is the end of their funding cycle.

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor Hammond noted that the difference between the bids is substantial and asked if they are comfortable that the lowest bidder will be able to complete the work, with Mr. Bosley replying that they had conversations with Terra Underground and they have a new estimator that put all the bids together and reviewed it and stated that they are comfortable with their numbers. Councilmember Wood mentioned that the Governor's assistant is in the audience and asked him to tell the Governor that the city is thankful for the assistance. Councilmember McEvers

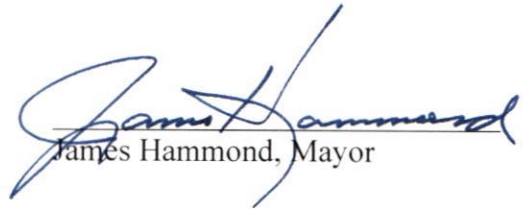
asked if the department will push all the water to the river, to which Mr. Bosley replied that they will reduce the amount that will be going to the lake, noting that there will be water flowing out of the outfall, but it will be less than there is today. He said that the water will go into subsurface units to discharge into the ground. Mayor Hammond asked if the design is as sophisticated as the treatment provided at Sander's Beach area, with Mr. Bosley explaining that there is no sand compost aspect so it is not as sophisticated.

**MOTION:** Motion by McEvers, seconded by Evans, to approve **Resolution No. 24-021** –Bid award and Approval of a Contract to Terra Underground, LLC. for construction of the Independence Point Stormwater Project.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.



James Hammond, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Jo Anne Mateski  
Executive Assistant