



CITY OF STANLEY

City Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Stanley Community Center, 510 Eva Falls Stanley, ID 83278

Regular Council Meeting (Idaho Code 74-204 (1))

Call to Order: (Mayor Botti) Mayor Botti calls the meeting to order at 5:38 PM; Councillor Cardoso and Councillor Cron are absent and therefore an official meeting cannot be held.

Mayor Botti calls the official meeting to order at 6:04 PM after Councillor Cardoso arrives.

Roll Call: Mayor Steve Botti (Present), Councilmember President Laurii Gadwa: (present), Councilmember Kim Hernandez (present), Councilmember Tim Cron (absent), Councilmember Gabe Cardoso (present). All answered roll call. Also present for the City: Acting City Clerk Clare Vergobbi, Mayoral Assistant Jennifer Folsom, Operations Manager Kimberly Murphy, Treasurer Savannah Pedersen.

Agenda Amendments [Idaho Code 74-204 (4)(b) and (c)]:

Mayor Comments:

Trailhead grant: The Federal Highway Administration is requiring the City to file a form with the FAA demonstrating that the restroom will not interfere with the operations of the airport. The mayor is working on this form and it should be filed soon. The FHA also wants the exact area of land that will be disturbed in the park due to the project. The Mayor has talked to the City's engineers and thinks he has a good estimate to give them. The project should continue to move forward.

January Council Meeting date: The Council usually does not meet on the second Thursday of January because many are not back in town from the holidays yet. We will tentatively plan for the meeting to take place on January 23rd, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

There is a school fundraiser open house on Friday December 13th from 4-6PM.

There is a snowmobile club fundraiser and food drive on Saturday the 14th at 11AM.

The City has hired a new Treasurer, Savannah Pedersen, and the Mayor is very pleased to have her joining the team. The City continues to search for a new City Clerk and currently have a few people pitching in to carry out Clerk duties.

Council Comments:

None

Presentations/Citizen Participation:

- Bill Nicholson and others with the Idaho Department of Transportation Avalanche Control office share a short presentation on avalanche forecasting and safety on Highway 21.
 - The goal is always to keep the highway open as much as possible and as safely as possible.
 - The canyon of avalanche alley has 3000 feet of vertical between the road and the top of the ridge. Avalanches move at incredible speed down the slope and the slope angle is steep, which is part of the reason why it is so dangerous. Additionally, cloud seeding from Idaho Power can add as much as 10% more snow to a storm that cannot be predicted or forecast, which makes forecasting difficult and can cause closures without warning.
 - Last year, there was 272 inches of snow, 20 avalanches impacted the highway, and the highway was closed for fifteen days in total. An average year is around 317 inches, 35 avalanches, and 16 days closed per season.
 - They attempt to close the highway with at least eight hours of notice, though this is not always possible. They use forecasting, evaluating the strength of the existing snowpack, and evaluating incoming stress to the snowpack to forecast avalanches and plan closures. Rapid snowfall, large snowfalls, rain on top of recent snow, rapid warming, and prolonged warming patterns all lead to increased risk of avalanche and probability of highway closures.
 - To stay informed, the public can keep track of the National Weather Service site, which produces an avalanche forecast twice a day specifically for avalanche alley. Idaho 511 and the ITD website also provide up to date information on avalanche forecasts and closures.
 - The climate forecast is for a heavier snow year than normal, but sometimes this doesn't mean there will be more avalanches or closures. That depends on type of snow and snowpack, temperatures, and so many other factors.
 - DO NOT STOP IN AVALANCHE ALLEY FOR ANY REASON. Don't stop to move rocks, pull over for any reason, or attempt to assist in the case of a slide or avalanche. Stopping greatly increases the risk of being hit by an avalanche. Similarly, if the road is closed on short notice and you are stuck in a line of cars, attempt to turn around and go back the way you came rather than staying in the lineup or waiting for the road to clear.
 - The Mayor asks if the Wapiti fire will change anything about avalanche behaviour this winter—is there an increased risk of slides or debris on the road?
 - It won't increase the likelihood of avalanches themselves, but there may be more wood and debris coming down, which can slow the clearing process.
 - Some sloughing and mudslides have occurred this fall already and there will likely be more, especially in the spring. Anything really large would involve bringing in contractors, beyond what ITD and the avalanche team do.
- Hans Buhler asks if there is any update on the county garbage dump. It has been a long time since the transfer station was closed—what are residents supposed to do with their garbage? Usually there would be some domestic solution to a problem like this.
 - The Mayor talked to county commissioners the morning of the 12th about this issue and it is being worked on. For now, city residents can throw garbage away in one of the dumpsters at the Park—those are for public use.
 - Clare Vergobbi asks if there is any plan to re-open the transfer station in the near future. The Mayor reports that the County just purchased two new dumpsters for \$30k and plan to reopen the transfer station two days a week as long as they can find someone to staff it. The City is helping the County find someone who may be interested in working for the County two days a week. Anyone interested can call the City or County Clerk for more information.

Consent Agenda:

- October 14, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes, and the Payment approval – Unpaid and prepaid bills for October— **Action item**.
 - Councillor Gadwa motions to approve, Councillor Hernandez seconds. All in favor, none opposed.

*Any person needing special assistance to participate in the above noticed meeting should contact the Stanley City Office prior to the meeting at 208-774-2286.

Law Enforcement:

- Sheriff's Reports:
 - Levi is present and hands out Sheriff's office reports, available for questions.
- Incident Reports

Community Building:

- Operations Manager Kimberly Murphy reminds all that there will be a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday December 14th from 8AM to 10AM immediately followed by a Christmas Bazaar with local artists from 10AM to 3PM.
- January pancake breakfast will be held on January 11th.

Pioneer Park: The Park is closed for the winter.

Streets and Roads:

- The Winter Streets and Roads Contract has been signed by Stanley Construction and they have begun plowing and maintaining roads.
- The Custer County Sheriff's Office removed two snowmobiles, a trailer, and a truck with a plow from Ace of Diamonds on December 2nd due to continued noncompliance with a directive to remove them by the owner.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs:

Cemetery: (Laurii Gadwa): Nothing to report.

Code Review/Revision: (Steve Botti): Nothing to report-will re-focus on this in the New Year.

Sawtooth Association (SIHA): (Lin Gray): There is an oral history presentation this evening so Lin couldn't attend the meeting.

Snowmobile Groomer: (Gary Gadwa): Kimberly worked with Caitlin Frawley at the FS to apply for a \$10K Goat Plate grant to fund grooming this winter. There is the potential to receive this funding quarterly.

Increased wages for groomers this year.

The City has received some calls about when grooming on the Lowman side will begin, but we cannot groom until there are at least 16 inches on the ground. Someone went out to measure Deadwood snow depth but we don't have that measurement yet.

Park Creek and Alturas ski trails have been rolled but not groomed yet.

Chamber of Commerce: (Chamber Representative)

The Chamber has received 11 replies to the workforce housing questionnaire. They will send it out with the 2025 member notifications, too.

The Mayor plans to have another workforce housing town hall sometime in January or February to share updates.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The City has hired Savannah Pedersen to be the new Treasurer. She must be appointed by the Council.

Action Item

- o Savannah will work remotely from Challis most of the time, but will be in the office at least once a week.
- o Councillor Gadwa motions to appoint Savannah as the new Treasurer; Cardoso seconds; all in favor, none opposed. Savannah Pedersen is appointed City Treasurer.
- o Councillor Gadwa notes that in the code review they plan to change the ordinance that requires the Council to appoint the Treasurer. The Mayor will be able to appoint the Treasurer just as they can appoint the Clerk.
- Kimberly Murphy requests \$500 from the City event fund for jerseys for the City bonspiel team.
Action Item
 - o Needs to order the jerseys within the next few days for them to be ready in time for the Bonspiel
 - o The Mayor believes he needs to check the budget; Councillor Hernandez notes that only two hundred dollars from the event fund have been allocated so far, so we should be able to allocate this—the Council shouldn't need to approve individual allocations since the fund has already been approved, allocated, and budgeted for City events.
 - o Councillor Gadwa moves to approve, Councillor Hernandez seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Approved.
- Discussion and possible action on usage of the conference room in contracts/the LDS Church yearly use contract. **Action Item**
 - o The Church uses the meeting room in the Chamber office for kids activities, but it the use of that room is not in their contract. Thus, the City needs to either amend the current contract or negotiate a second contract for the use of that room.
 - o There must be adult supervision if there is use of that room because in the past there has been damaged and missing property.
 - o There may be no access to City offices or the rest of the Chamber office.
 - o Councillor Gadwa wants to discuss this further with the Church and agree on some expectations before granting a revised or additional contract. Councillors Hernandez and Cardoso agree.
 - o The Mayor has talked with the Church and they are aware of these issues. The Church has agreed to provide adequate supervision and can pay to replace damaged property. However, given the history, any agreement would be conditional and if the same problems persist the contract would be revoked. Councillor Hernandez says that conditionality should be written into the contract—i.e. if there continue to be problems the contract will not be renewed.
 - The Mayor will add this to the existing draft contract.
 - o Councillor Cardoso mentions that this would also covers the City for anything that isn't considered now.
 - o Councillor Hernandez and Operations Manager Murphy note that there should be more supervision in the Community Building too because kids are running around, jumping on things, walking on top of tables, moving things, etc. and the room is not left clean. There should be something about more supervision in the contract in general.
 - o Councillor Gadwa says the City should charge a fee if either room is left messy or dirty. Councillor Hernandez notes that that only adds to the Operations Manager's job because then if it's left messy the City has to clean it up, so it should just be that if the contract is breached it will be terminated. Councillor Cardoso agrees with this.
 - o The Mayor agrees and notes that if anyone sees anything then it needs to be reported to him immediately so he can discuss it with the Church in a timely manner.
 - o Councillor Cardoso notes that the City should encourage the Church to find a childcare option outside of the City office or anything included in their contract. The City is not obliged

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to provide childcare space. This could be further action if this new contract still does not lead to clean and undamaged spaces.

- o Councillor Cardoso motions to approve, Councillor Hernandez seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes to rewrite contract.
- The City still has the outstanding issue of the old easement in the Sawtooth TerraTrax neighborhood, but could not get the full information required for a vacating ordinance in time for this meeting. This issue will be pushed to the January meeting.

Building Permits approved by the Building Administrator:

- None.

City Clerk Report:

- The City office will be closed from December 23rd through January 1st. It will reopen with regular hours on the 2nd. Clare will be checking emails and Jennifer will be checking the physical mail while the office is closed.

Option Tax/Treasury Report:

- Option Tax update-We have an updated estimate of Option Tax totals for FY2024. Currently we are at \$472,155.69.
 - o Sent out letters for delinquent taxes on Monday December 9th; have already received a few replies and checks which are not figured into this report.
 - o The City is sitting at a net loss of about \$91,000 compared to FY23.
 - o The Forest Service paid \$9000 to rent the community center for the fire teams, which gave the City about 10% of the total losses.

Adjournment: Mayor Botti adjourns the meeting at 6:39 PM.

Steve Botti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk/Treasurer