



**Twin Falls City Council
Minutes**

Monday, July 9, 2018, 5:00

PM City Council Chambers
203 Main Avenue East- Twin Falls,
Idaho

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Present: Mayor Shawn Barigar, Vice Mayor Nikki Boyd, Council Members Suzanne Hawkins, Chris Talkington, Greg Lanting, Christopher Reid & Ruth Pierce

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Travis Rothweiler, Deputy City Managers Mitch Humble & Brian Pike, Grants & Community Relations Specialist Mandi Thompson, City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich, Deputy City Attorney Shayne Nope, Chief Financial Officer Lorie Race, Budget Coordinator Mat Farnes, Accounting Specialist Janie Higgins, Economic Development Director Nathan Murray, Public Information Officer Joshua Palmer, Building Official Jarrod Bordi, Staff Engineer Lee Glaesemann, Fire Chief Les Kenworthy, Police Chief Craig Kingsbury, Code Enforcement Coordinator Sean Standley, Utility Services Supervisor Bill Baxter, Airport Manager Bill Carberry, Planning & Zoning Director Jonathan Spendlove, Help Desk Technician Kim Hafer & Finance Administrative Assistant Amy Luna.

Mayor Barigar called the meeting to order at 05:00 PM

A quorum was present.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barigar invited the Boy Scouts to lead all present, who wished, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3) PROCLAMATIONS: None

4) GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT: None

5) CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a) Request to approve the Accounts Payable for July 3 thru July 9, 2018.

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to approve the Accounts Payable for July 3 thru July 9, 2018, as presented. Suzanne Hawkins seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of motion. Approved 7 to 0.

- b) Request to approve the July 2, 2018 City Council Minutes

Discussion ensued on the following:

Mayor Barigar, Council Members Hawkins & Lanting all wished to abstain from voting as they were not present for the July 2, 2018 Meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to approve the July 2, 2018, City Council Minutes as presented. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted with 4 voting in favor of the motion as presented and 3 members abstaining. Approved 4 to 0.

6) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION:

- a) **Chief Financial Officer Race** made a presentation on the finances of the City of Twin Falls for nine months of FY 2017-2018. This presentation will be an overview of the tax-supported funds and the three major enterprise funds: Water, Wastewater, and Sanitation.

Discussion ensued on the following:

Council Member Talkington: The reason that we are a little bit over on our property tax support revenue is the way that the taxes are collected & distributed by the County? At the end of this month, we will be right on track.

Mayor Barigar thanked CFO Race for her presentation.

- b) **City Manager Rothweiler** made a presentation of the City Manager's *Recommended Budget to FY 2019*.

Discussion ensued on the following:

Council Member Hawkins: Overall property values are going up, we are lowering our multiplier but some people may pay more in property taxes, so we know that there is a greater value in our community but yet we are lowering our budget dollar, but are we collecting more money?

City Manager Rothweiler: Explained that the property taxes are only a portion of the total revenue for the City.

Council Member Lanting: Have we compared the numbers from Zillow with the County numbers to come up with an average based on their assessed values?

City Manager Rothweiler: Explained that they have reached out to the County Assessor's Office and asked him to share the net taxable value of the residential structures that are within the City of Twin Falls. This number will be used to find the median value by examining that number with the total number of residential utility billings that the City has set up.

Council Member Lanting: Do we have a firm hand on the amount of farmland that we have within the City? Understand that this can be assessed differently.

City Manager Rothweiler: We can ask for this number from the County Assessor's Office.

Council Member Lanting: At some time in the future can we include Boise & Meridian in the comparison even though they do not take care of their streets?

City Manager Rothweiler: We can do that as we have access to that data

Council Member Talkington: Have we ever had the residential information available before from the County?

City Manager Rothweiler: We have never asked for it before.

Council Member Talkington: Need to discuss a way to cooperate with the County, perhaps even putting some bucks in, to get the residential figure to give us more confidence that our budget figures are accurate.

Chris Talkington: 6.4% increase for health care increase where does this come from?

City Manager Rothweiler and CFO Race: Explained.

Greg Lanting: Do not see any additional firemen added to the budget. What is the status of the Grant that we applied for?

City Manager Rothweiler: Explained the Grant process for additional firemen.

Council Member Talkington: Strongly disagreed with not putting another patrol officer in the budget.

Mayor Barigar: Would like to see the presentation on the wastewater rates.

City Manager Rothweiler: Are you interested in exploring the continuation of the recycling program? Yes

Council Member Hawkins: Received an email about sales tax on garbage cans- are we collecting that or are we just a pass through? So, we were not collecting it and now we are? Continuous tax or a one-time tax when we purchase?

CFO Race: The containers that we rent out; we are supposed to be collecting sales tax with each bill. Janie Higgins is working on how to make this happen with the least amount of impact to our customers.

City Manager Rothweiler: Informed the Council about the foregone balance and usage of said balance and gave amounts related to the usage of the full foregone balance as follows:

Our balance at this time is \$2,186,253.

This Budget - no foregone balance used:

If no change and the rate stay at \$7.31

Analysis of using the foregone balance:

\$342,000.00 keeps the tax rate at \$7.43

\$500,000.00 increases the tax rate to \$7.48

\$1 M increases the tax rate to \$7.66

\$1.5 M increases the tax rate to \$7.83

\$2 M increases the tax rate to \$8.00

Entire balance would increase the tax rate to \$8.07

Need a decision on whether to use any of this foregone balance by July 30, 2018.

Council Member Talkington: Have had this conversation for all of the years that he has been on the council with no resolution - concerned that the legislature will take the funds away from us. Encourages the Council to give some consideration to using this money.

Council Member Lanting: Did use some of the funds for a project in the past and need to look for projects that could use the funds. Concerned that the legislature will take away some of our shared revenue if we don't use our foregone funds. Looks forward to seeing the presentation from Dean on possible capital projects.

City Manager Rothweiler: All foregone balances within the State of Idaho:

Total is \$31.595 M.

Out of the 198 Cities 8 have 80% of that total

Pocatello is the smallest at \$1.461 M.

Idaho Falls is the largest at \$6.282 M.

Showed the corresponding tax rates as well.

Mayor Barigar: Asked to see a list of Capital projects that did not make the list not only street projects

Council Member Hawkins: Should we use these funds they would be continual year after year so thinking that they would not necessarily have to be capital projects. Why would these funds not be used for firefighters?

City Manager Rothweiler: Explained the effort to keeping market competitive salaries and how the growth in those positions could outpace the revenues coming in.

Final Calander:

July 16th: Discussion of Strategic Plan Focus Areas 4 & 5

July 23rd: Discussion of Strategic Plan Focus Areas 2 & 3

July 30th: Discussion of Strategic Plan Focus Areas 1 & 6

August 6th: Discussion of Strategic Plan Focus Areas 7 & 8
Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Adjustments
Council Adoption of FY 2019 Preliminary Budget

August 13th: Preliminary Budget to Council for review - All Sections

August 20th: Public Hearing - FY 2019 Proposed Budget
Council Adoption of FY 2019 Budget

Council Member Talkington: Told the Boy Scouts sitting in on the budget meeting for an hour and a half was above their call of duty and to not let this scare them away from public service.

Mayor Barigar thanked City Manager Rothweiler and the whole finance team for their presentation on the *Recommended Budget for FY 2019*.

7) GENERAL INPUT/ADVISORY BOARD REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Lanting: Friday & Saturday's festivities were wonderful, thank you to the sponsors & Urban Renewal Agency for their hard work.

Council Member Boyd: Random survey for the Community Center should be in the mail in the next few days and have until July 20 or 21st to get those in. Also reminded that you can do the survey on-line.

8) PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

9) ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Council Member Boyd moved to adjourn to Executive Session 74-206(1)(c) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated to fill a particular vacancy or need, unless a vacancy in an elective office is being filled. Council Member Lanting seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. 7 to 0.

Adjourn to Executive Session 74-206(1) at 6:47 pm.



Amy Luna, Finance Administrative Assistant