



Twin Falls City Council Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2024, 5:00 PM

Council Chambers
203 Main Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Present: Mayor Ruth Pierce, Vice Mayor Jason Brown, Council Members Craig Hawkins, Christopher Reid, Spencer Cutler, Cherie Vollmer & Grayson Stone.

Absent:

Staff Present: City Manager Travis Rothweiler, Deputy City Managers Mitch Humble & Gretchen Scott, City Attorney Bruce Castleton, Planning & Zoning Director Jonathan Spendlove, City Planner Kelli Ebersole, City Engineer Troy Vitek, Budget Coordinator Mat Farnes, Planning Technician Jody Green

Mayor Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was present.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pierce invited all present, who wished, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3) PROCLAMATIONS

a) Constitution Week

Mayor Pierce read and presented the Constitution Week Proclamation.

Dr. Wendy French gave a brief account of Constitution Week.

4) CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Council Member Hawkins moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion, 7 to 0.

a) Request to approve City Council 2024 September 09, Minutes.

b) Request to approve Accounts Payable for September 5-11, 2024.

c) Request to approve September 11, 2024, Travel Requests.

d) Request City Council to approve the Special Event Permit for the organizers of the Twin Falls Public Library, Read & Treat event.

e) Request City Council to approve the Special Event Permit for the organizers of the Festival of Lights Parade event.

5) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

a) Request to Award a Construction bid for Shoshone Falls Grade to RS Jobber Inc. in the amount of 2,447,578.30 and allow the City Engineer to sign the contract along with reserving 244,758 for unforeseen contingency utilizing \$335,668 of Dierkes reserves to complete the project as bid.

City Engineer Vitek requested to award a construction bid for Shoshone Falls Grade to RS Jobber Inc. in the amount of 2,447,578.30 and allow the City Engineer to sign the contract along with reserving 244,758 for unforeseen contingencies utilizing \$335,668 of Dierkes reserves to complete the project as bid.

Discussion ensued on the following:

Mayor Pierce asked for clarification on the total numbers and what is being approved.

City Engineer Vitek talked through the numbers.

Council Member Brown asked if things that have been previously talked about in the past are being done.

City Engineer Vitek walked them through on the map where they are starting and finishing. He stated they would like to work through the winter.

Council Member Reid asked if it would connect through.

City Engineer Vitek stated that is not part of the project at this time.

Council Member Stone added numbers together for clarification - \$2,692,336.30 from that \$335,668.30 is applied.

MOTION: Council Member Brown moved to approve the request to award a construction bid for Shoshone Falls Grade to RS Jobber Inc. in the amount of \$2,692,336.30 and allow the City Engineer to sign the contract along with reserving \$297,000 for unforeseen contingencies also utilizing SLFRF Funds \$2,356,668.30 also using \$335,668 of Dierkies reserves to complete the project as bid. **Council Member Vollmer** seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion, 7 to 0.

- b) Request to authorize City engineering staff to use up to \$60,000 to acquire Right-of-Way along Eastland Drive.

City Engineer Vitek requested to authorize City engineering staff to use up to \$60,000 to acquire Right-of-Way along Eastland Drive and to allow a full road closure on Eastland during roadway reconstruction.

Discussion ensued on the following:

Council Member Reid stated he is excited that this area is being done and is thankful for the grant to do this.

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to approve the request to authorize City engineering staff to use up to \$60,000 to acquire Right-of-Way along Eastland Drive. **Council Member Brown** seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion, 7 to 0.

City Engineer Vitek explained why the road closure is needed. He stated it would be nice to have options for the winner of the bid.

Mayor Pierce asked about the intersection of Falls and Eastland and the combination of being closed for a period of time.

Council Member Reid asked how long Falls was closed.

City Engineer Vitek stated it was scheduled for 60 days but only closed for 42.

Council Member Reid wouldn't go longer than that.

Mayor Pierce asked what the distance for the closure would be.

City Engineer Vitek stated the full length of Eastland is an option. There are different options

of the length to close. Falls to Hill Crest is the area to be worked on.

Council Member Hawkins asked about the private residents in the area and would they have access.

City Engineer Vitek replied that they always leave the road open for residents.

Council Member Stone feels the contractor should give options.

City Engineer Vitek stated in the past the contractors have given options.

Council Member Cutler feels the full closure would be faster and cheaper.

Council Member Vollmer asked when this would start.

City Engineer Vitek stated the work needs to be done this winter but most of this will be this summer.

Council Member Brown asked about closures.

City Engineer Vitek stated that Nampa was about 16 months with a project this size.

Council Member Brown would rather a staged closure and work in phases.

Council Member Reid feels a full closure would not work.

6) GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

7) ADVISORY BOARD REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Hawkins reported that the citizens academy started.

Council Member Stone reported that the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce doing a mini masters on the 26th of September.

Council Member Brown reported the Magic Valley Metropolitan planning organization hired an Executive Director and will help with transport planning and project functions.

City Manager Travis Rothweiler reminded the Council there is a joint meeting next week with Planning and Zoning.

8) PUBLIC HEARINGS

a) Public Hearing to Amend the FY 23-24 Budget

Budget Coordinator Farnes requested approval of the amendment to the FY 23-24 Budget.

Discussion ensued on the following: None

Public Hearing Opened: 5:38 pm

Public Hearing Closed: 5:38 pm

Discussion ensued on the following:

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to dispense with the reading rules and put Ordinance 2024-015 on 3rd and final reading by title only. **Council Member Brown** seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion, 7 to 0.

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to approve Ordinance 2024-015. **Council Member Vollmer** seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion, 7 to 0.

b) Request to Appeal the Planning and Zoning Commission's decision regarding Special Use

Permit PZ24-0047 to allow drive-thru services and extended hours of operation on property located at 1965 Blue Lakes Blvd. North c/o Todd Smith on behalf of In-N-Out Burgers. (PZ24-0085)

Council Member Stone recused himself from the hearing with a conflict of interest.

City Planner Ebersole presented a request to Appeal the Planning and Zoning Commission's decision regarding Special Use Permit PZ24-0047 to allow drive-thru services and extended hours of operation on property located at 1965 Blue Lakes Blvd. North c/o Todd Smith on behalf of In-N-Out Burgers. (PZ24-0085)

City Engineer Vitek explained that he contacted the state and they had no concerns for him. He spoke about the roads in the area. He explained which are the public and which are the private portions. He talked about issues with the round-about and why it's an issue. The city has no say in fixing the roads that belong to the state.

Mayor Pierce asked who owns the private road.

Director Spendlove replied the owner is Wood Investment Group. He clarified that this is for a drive thru and extended hours. He answered a few questions that were sent in. 2 special use permits have gone through the revocation process, they went back to Planning and Zoning Commission and conditions were amended. He couldn't find any public issues with Meridian and their opening. He explained they (Meridian) have the same issue with others owning the roads.

Council Member Hawkins asked if it's approved and there is a problem can it be corrected.

Director Spendlove stated that it can. If an issue is found it will be brought to public hearing for the P&Z Commission to look at and amend conditions or revoke if it is warranted.

Applicant comments:

Todd Smith representing In-N-Out as their Development Manager gave his presentation. In the presentation a few different options showing que of vehicles and overflow drive-thru areas. They feel confident they can handle the traffic with no detriment to the area.

Discussion ensued on the following:

Public Hearing Opened: 6:17 pm

Kirsten Stewart feels the traffic will be an issue. She asked about the Visitors Center name changed and asked if the Council feels it needs protection.

Mary Carscaden is thrilled that In-N-Out is coming but she is concerned with the location. She wonders if maybe it should be closer to the college or schools.

Joel Brown feels the commission failed in the denial. He feels the applicants plans exceed requirements and the decision was biased.

Public Hearing Closed: 6:24 pm

Discussion ensued on the following:

Council Member Brown feels In-N-Out has provided a good plan for the que and considered the extra parking area. He feels they meet the requirements for the permit.

Council Member Reid learned a lot about the property in the area and that the private road is treated like a public road.

Council Member Cutler voiced concerns with extra vehicles. The hours are not an issue. He feels the information provided confirms it will. Studies have confirmed more traffic than is appropriate will happen.

Council Member Hawkins feels they have done their due diligence.

Council Member Vollmer feels if the owner doesn't have an issue with the overflow being used, this will work with opening.

Mayor Pierce stated she was concerned about the traffic and the round-about but is pleased with the options with the overflow. She has faith with Police and Fire to keep things safe.

MOTION: Council Member Reid moved to approve the request to Appeal the Planning and Zoning Commission's decision regarding Special Use Permit PZ24-0047 to allow drive-thru services and extended hours of operation on property located at 1965 Blue Lakes Blvd. North c/o Todd Smith on behalf of In-N-Out Burgers. (PZ24-0085) **Council Member**

Brown seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed all members present voted, 5-1-1.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 06:36 PM

Jody Green

Jody Green, Planning Technician