



**MINUTES OF THE  
COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF RUPERT  
AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and the City Council of Rupert, Idaho on the tenth day of August, 2021 in the Council Chambers located inside City Hall at 624 F Street, Rupert, Idaho, at the hour of 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Mayor Michael D. Brown  
Councilmembers Present: McGhie, Jones, Heward  
Councilmembers Absent: Swensen  
City Administrator Kelly Anthon  
City Clerk Bayley Maughan  
City Attorney Lance Stevenson

**Visitors:** Leslie Garner, Suzette Sorensen, James Wardle, James Taylor, Jeff McEwen (Employees)  
Bill Harmon, Jeff Faux (Visitors)

Mayor Brown welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Jones led everyone in the Pledge.

Jeff Faux gave invocation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Items: A. & B. Approval of the Bills, Payroll and Minutes**

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the bills, payroll, and minutes of the July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular council meeting. Councilwoman Faux seconded and the motion carried.

**ORDINANCES – RESOLUTIONS**

**Item: A. Resolution 21-108 NRU Board Appointments**

City Administrator, Kelly Anthon, explained that the City is a member of the Northwest Requirements Utilities, for the purpose of getting assistance navigating through power purchase issues. The City currently has a voting seat on the NRU board, however James Bowers fills the seat, and will be retiring in the very near future. This resolution assigns Billy Palmer as the board representation from the City, with Anthon as the alternate.

City Attorney, Lance Stevenson, read Resolution 21-108 aloud by title.

Councilman Heward made a motion to adopt Resolution 21-108. Councilwoman Faux seconded and the roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Councilman Heward, Councilwoman Faux, Councilwoman Jones

**Nays:** None

Councilman Swensen was absent and not voting. The motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item: A. Discussion & Possible Approval of the MID Ditchrider Agreement**

Water Superintendent, James Taylor, presented an agreement that had been drafted regarding the Ditchrider duties and areas of responsibility that would be split between the City and Minidoka Irrigation District. The City had recently decided to no longer contract for Ditchrider services with MID, but rather hire an extra water department employee to handle the City's needs.

The MID Board had already approved the agreement and the City Administrator and Attorney had not found any issues with it.

Councilwoman Faux made a motion to approve the MID Ditchrider Agreement as presented.

Councilwoman Jones seconded and the roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Councilman Heward, Councilwoman Faux, Councilwoman Jones

**Nays:** None

Councilman Swensen was absent and not voting. The motion carried.

### **Item: B. Discussion & Possible Approval of the Beer Sales Application from La Piedad Chiquita #2**

City Clerk, Bayley Maughan, presented a late beer sales application from a local convenience store. The store had missed the deadline for submitting their application in July. All necessary documents and payments had been submitted and there were no concerns.

Councilwoman Faux made a motion to approve of the beer sales application from La Piedad Chiquita #2 as presented. Councilwoman Jones seconded and the roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Councilman Heward, Councilwoman Faux, Councilwoman Jones

**Nays:** None

Councilman Swensen was absent and not voting. The motion carried.

### **Item: C. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding the Access Idaho Service Level Agreement**

Maughan came before the Mayor and Council with a service agreement from Access Idaho to provide credit card and automated clearing house (ACH) payments for the City. It was discussed during budget meetings that the City was paying far too high amounts on credit and ACH payment fees, and that a change in processors and a shift in fees was necessary. Access Idaho would be able to provide the City with credit and ACH processing service with no cost to the City.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve of the Access Idaho Service Level Agreement as presented. Councilman Heward seconded and the roll call was as follows:

**Ayes:** Councilman Heward, Councilwoman Faux, Councilwoman Jones

**Nays:** None

Councilman Swensen was absent and not voting. The motion carried.

Item: D. Annual Report from the Police Department

Detective McEwen came before the Mayor and Council and addressed what the department had been doing over the past year, as well as what the department was working on moving forward.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Harman asked what the fees were for that were discussed with the Access Idaho Agreement.

It was explained that the fees would be credit card and ACH processing fees, charged by Access Idaho, directly to customers choosing to pay with card or ACH, instead of the City fronting all of the fees.

Harman expressed that it was difficult for some people, elderly people especially, to pay these added fees.

It was explained that the fees were user based, and that if someone did not want to pay them, they had other payment options available to them. It was also discussed that the City has a reduced rate program for qualifying individuals, mainly the elderly, to help with the cost of utilities, as well as various other funding sources throughout the year.

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.