City of Wendell  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 7th, 2019

**Council President Dunn** called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 7:00 PM. Council members present **BJ Marshall, Herb Allred, Don Dunn** and **Seaira Gold**. City Attorney **Tim Stover** was present.

**AGENDA**  
Councilman Allred made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. All approved; none opposed; motion passed.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
Councilman Allred made a motion to approve the October 17th, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. All approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Councilman Allred made a motion to approve the October 23, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. All approved; none opposed; motion passed.

**BILLS**  
Councilman Allred made the motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of $53,532.56. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS (action items)**  
**Vanessa Ringling-Fence Height Variance for Bees**  
Vanessa Ringling owns a property at 443 1st Ave East. She came before Council to discuss the issue she is having with the huge sycamore tree she has on her property that has been over-taken by bees. Vanessa stated that she has had an exterminator come out to the home three times as well as a bee specialist, who had suggested to cut down the whole tree due to the bee infestation. Vanessa and her husband looked into how much cutting down the tree would cost and it would be a couple thousand dollars, which she and her husband cannot afford to
do. This is why they have come to Council to ask for a 6 foot fence variance to build a fence that would surround the tree. Vanessa says that this bee infestation is a huge liability to them due to the number of kids, neighbors, and tenants that they have near the home. She also said that the 6 foot fence would help change the bees flight pattern, allowing them to fly upward and over the fence, rather than at human level. Vanessa stated they have also looked into a high-density foam that you put on the tree that is supposed to kill the bees when they consume the foam; however, they have found that to be unsuccessful as well. **Councilwoman Gold** stated that she cannot understand how the fence would help the bee infestation. **Councilman Allred** suggested calling Clif Bar, as they may be interested in coming to the home to take the tree, as well as save the bees, at no cost to the Ringlings.

**Councilwoman Gold** made a motion to table this so Vanessa can look into other options. **Councilman Allred** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

**Vanessa Ringling-Criminal Activity in City**
Vanessa came before Council to talk about the increase in crime she has noticed within the City of Wendell. Vanessa owns multiple properties around the city and at all properties she is experiencing attempted break-ins, theft, and speeding in school zones. She stated that she caught Charlie Kraus on her property twice and the cops wouldn’t do anything about it, even though she has posted “No Trespassing” signs on all of her properties. She has had fence damage to property fences due to people trying to break in, construction equipment taken out of her garage, as well as utility theft where a family had plugged their 5th wheel into the home they were renting and stole water and electricity causing Ringling’s bills to sky-rocket. Vanessa stated that when she calls the police and they come out, they refuse to make a report about the incident or cite anyone. They tell her that she needs to drive to Gooding County to make a report. **Gooding County Deputy Sheriff Cornett** was present and let Vanessa know he actually did just let an officer go due to lack of doing his duty and was going to be looking into who was on these calls and why no reports were written or/citations were issued.

**Remove Lori Swainston from all Farmers National Bank Accounts and CC**
**Councilwoman Gold** made a motion to remove Lori Swainston from all Farmers National Bank Accounts and credit cards.
Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Upgrade 9 City Computers to Windows 10-IdaComp

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to table this until they can discuss with the Library Board whether they can afford to do this with their budget, as a majority of the computers needing the upgrade are in the library. Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll Call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Sam Sites-Lana Sites Lien

Sam Sites, who is Lana Site’s son and has his mother’s medical and financial power of attorney, came before Council to ask that the lien of $12,075.78 on his mother’s property (237 6th Ave East) due to the non-payment of penalties and interest and monthly $32.19 wastewater bond fee; be removed. Sam stated that he spoke with Lesley, our City Clerk earlier this week regarding this lien and let her know that neither he nor his mother have ever received a bill for this wastewater bond billing, and if they would have, they would have gotten it taken care of, and it would not have gotten this out of hand. He said that Lesley did some research on the account and she found out that somehow the billing was turned off for this account, therefore no bills were ever sent out to them regarding this monthly charge. Sam stated that he feels like he should not have to pay the interest/late fees on bills that he never received. Sam asked Council if they could remove the late fees applied to the account and have him just pay the initial principal.

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to waive the late fees as well as remove the lien from the property. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Tree Board-Melody Finley
Skipped-Melody was not present.

Appoint Mayor

Councilwoman Gold made a motion to appoint Council President Don Dunn as the new Mayor of the City of Wendell until the next election. Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll Call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.
Appoint City Council Member

Mayor Don Dunn made a recommendation to appoint Rebecca Vipperman to fill the vacant City Council seat. Councilwoman Gold made a motion to appoint Rebecca Vipperman to fill the vacant City Council seat. Councilwoman Marshall seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Select City Council President

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to select Councilwoman Gold as the new City Council President. Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Annexation of Properties-East Ave H water services

Cheyenne Lewis lives at the property located at 770 East Ave H. She has come before Council tonight to ask to be put back on a rural address. Cheyenne and her husband have just paid about $3000 to have their well repaired, so they do not feel the need to have city services. Since the address change, it has messed up their mail route, making it hard for the postal service to know where to deliver their mail and things that they order online. This also causes a big issue because a lot of medication that Cheyenne takes comes through the mail and she needs to receive that quickly. Council agrees that they need to research more information on the annexation.

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to table this so we can do more research. Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Add New City Council President to all Farmers National Bank Accounts

Councilman Allred made a motion to add Council President Seaira Gold to all Farmers National Bank Accounts and credit card. Councilwoman Vipperman seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Add New Mayor to Farmers National Bank Credit Card

Councilman Allred made a motion to add Mayor Don Dunn to Farmers National Bank credit card. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.
Gooding County Sheriff

Sergeant Kelby Cornett, the Gooding County Deputy Sheriff, was present at tonight’s meeting. Kelby made a few comments in regards to Vanessa Ringling’s concerns with the criminal activity within the city. Kelby said he did arrest Charlie Kraus one of the times he trespassed on her property. He also said that he is going to enforce more police officer presence on Idaho Street during school hours to try to control the speeding problems. Councilwoman Gold told Kelby that she has still not received any reports from the city break-in from July. Officer Damron has been asked multiple times for this information and has still not provided it. It has been over two months and there has been no follow-up. Councilwoman Marshall told Kelby that she feels that there is sometimes a lack of communication between the police department and the City Council/staff. Councilwoman Gold pointed out that Officer Fullerton is very good about letting the City Office staff know where he will be and popping into the office every now and then, and she would like the new officers to do that as well. Kelby said he is going to make an effort to start appearing at the City Council meetings more often and would like the meeting agenda emailed him the day before each meeting.

Sign Legal Service Agreement for New City Attorney Tim Stover

Councilman Allred made a motion to have Mayor Don Dunn sign the Legal Service Agreement for new City Attorney Tim Stover. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (action items)

Lagoon #4 Embankment Project Update

Tracy Ahrens came with an update on the Lagoon Embankment Project. He said that everything is just all about wrapped up and they are going to have a walkthrough to get it signed off on. They are essentially just waiting on paperwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Revels came before Council to talk about how she feels that Paul Isaacson is failing to take care of her daughter’s grave at the Wendell Cemetery and is actually treating it with disrespect. During the big storm that passed
through Wendell on the weekend of October 18th, Amanda said that a tree had fallen down on her daughter’s headstone causing damage. When she went to check on her grave, she found her daughters damaged head stone in a heap of trash, who she said Paul was the one who put it there. Amanda believes that her daughters’ headstone would have been thrown away had she not seen it that day, as the pile of trash was gone a few days later. She said that Paul’s lack of respect towards her daughter’s grave has gone on too long and there have been multiple incidents, including Paul refusing to maintain the lawn around her daughters’ grave. Amanda stated that she thinks this is a personal attack due to a letter to the editor concerning Paul in the newspaper many years ago. Council noted that the Wendell Cemetery is a separate governmental entity, and the City has no jurisdiction over the Cemetery. Councilwoman Gold asked Gooding County Sheriff Kelby Cornett for his thoughts on this. Kelby suggested that Mrs. Revels consider starting a petition to have Paul Isaacson removed from the Cemetery Board.

**Council Executive Session- Idaho Code Title 74-206 (A & B)**

Councilwoman Gold made a motion to go into executive session at 8:37p.m pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1) A & (1) B. Councilman Allred seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

Councilman Allred made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:18p.m with no decisions made. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Roll call vote take; all approved; none opposed; motion passed.

**Council**

Councilwoman Gold stated to Council that they need to register Councilwoman Vipperman for AIC training. She also mentioned registering Lesley for the training as well.

**Mayor**

Mayor Don Dunn expressed a big thank you to everyone during this transition!

**Adjourn**

Councilman Allred made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Councilwoman Gold seconded the motion. Motion passed.