

CITY of ROBERTS
January 10, 2023
City Council Meeting

The Roberts City Council met for a hearing at the regular place of meeting, after having been notified of said meeting of said council.

Robert (BJ) Berlin.....Mayor	April Galbraith.....Clerk/Treasurer
Connie Surerus.....Council	Ron Grant.....Maintenance (Absent)
Ben Poston.....Council	Julie Garcia.....Library Director
Edidt Sanchez.....Council	Robin Dunn..... City Attorney
Shauna Lounsbury.....Council	

Also present: Sheriff Anderson and Deputy Lyndberg with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Ursula Benkenstein, Karin Maritt, Karol Poston, Tom Keiser, and Jerry VanLeuvan.

Mayor Berlin opened the meeting and welcome everyone.

Shauna gave the opening prayer.

Mayor Berlin lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Lyndberg read the report from 12/10/22 thru 01/06/23, 79 hrs, 12 complaints, 0 arrests, 0 DUIs', 1 citation, and 20 traffic contacts.

Mayor Berlin and Council thanked Sheriff Anderson and Deputy Lyndberg for their service.

Vote to Approve December 13, 2022 Hearing Minutes and Council Meeting Minutes:
Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2022 council meeting and public hearings. Mayor Berlin asked if there were any changes or corrections.

With no corrections, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Ben made the motion to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2022 council meeting and public hearings, seconded by Edidt, all ayes.

State of the City: Mayor Berlin reported on the state of the city:

"Roberts Idaho is doing well. Many efforts, projects, and a good regional economy have contributed to the measured growth, and improvement of our great little city. Ours being a small close community, prefers less regulation upon it's residents. As our community is growing, we have come to recognize the need for some new ordinances to help protect the quality of life in Roberts. Several ordinances setting standards for our community have been passed after consideration and debate. The process has been open and productive.

Review and updating of Planning and Zoning, animal and other ordinances will be conducted before the summer building season.

Through the year, many maintenance projects, some quite significant were undertaken. Water, sewer and parks projects were some of the significant projects.

This last year brought a significant change, as our long time City Clerk, Gale Scrivner announced her retirement plans. Gale's vast institutional knowledge, and love for our city have been an important component of smooth operations. We are thankful to Gale for her years of service.

I appointed, and the City Council confirmed April Galbraith to be our incoming clerk and treasurer. This gave April time to train with Gale to help have a smooth transfer of the office. As April was our City librarian, it became necessary to hire a new librarian.

Julie Garcia was hired, with training then provided by April.

Between April, and Julie, many new and great things have occurred at our library. Thank you to both April and Julie for their outstanding work.

In 2022 work was completed that made fiberoptic internet service available to anyone who wanted to connect in our city. This was completed through a grant the city received from the Idaho department of commerce.

Crime in Roberts is perhaps at its lowest level since I have been Mayor. With the excellent work of our sheriffs' deputies, and attention to our community by staff and residents, there have been less serious incidents in our community.

We continued to add sidewalks, and repair streets as funding allowed.

This year, with a grant from the Local Highways and Technical assistance council of Idaho, and some city reserves, we will complete some significant renovations on 2858 east from the elementary school headed south.

We will also continue adding increments of sidewalk as budget allows.

Our city has been awarded a Block grant to build handicapped accessible restrooms at Mustang Park.

Planning and administrative work will continue through this year, with construction likely in 2024.

The city is getting very close to repairs and replacements of part of our wastewater collection system. Our study is complete, surveys are being done and funding is being pursued. We applied for, and have been awarded a two-million-dollar grant by congress. Thank you to Congressman Simson for supporting our project.

We enter the new year financially stable, and with a big list of to do projects.

Some of these include,

Installing a new sprinkler system at community park.

Making city hall more energy efficient with added insulation.

Continued street repairs.

More sidewalk.

New residence connections.

And more!

We now have a city website, cityofrobertsidho.gov. It offers our patrons another avenue of information, a way to pay their utilities and the opportunity to sign up for alerts.

We have gotten here by hard work, perseverance and following a vision to make our little city better every day. Our council, patrons and myself continue to strive for greatness for our city. Our wonderful staff do their best to carry out our vision for our city!

Thank You April for your quick learning, and efficient methods that help us move ahead!

Thank You Ron, for your honest and sincere work in all things maintenance for our city.

Thank You Jeff and Sean for your efforts supporting these works.

Thank You Julie for your sincere work and care for our library.

Thank You City council for your input and direction.

Thank you to our patrons for supporting these efforts!

Thank you, Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies, for helping keep us safe.

Thanks be to God, for all that is good in our world!"

Discussion Regarding War on Weeds: Mayor Berlin opened the discussion saying that last year, towards the end of summer there were concerns regarding the amount of weeds throughout the city. He said that the city has been fighting the weeds for decades and that a lot of work, money, and effort had been invested into the weed problem, but the city has always fallen short. He said that at the end of the summer last year, staff and he talked about what could be done to help the problem. Mayor Berlin said that one way is to get ahead of the weeds early and fast and to be prepared with chemicals. He suggested to treat the right of ways that residents are not caring for, encourage residents to fight weeds on their property, and consider give citations to properties with excessive weeds. He said there were about four (4) commercial properties that had significant crops of weeds. Mayor Berlin would like to put out a final War on Weeds plan to the residents. Mayor Berlin asked for Council's input.

How the city can reduce weeds on city properties, right of ways, and around stop signs was discussed. Controlled burning of weeds was suggested as an alternative to reduce chemical costs. Reminding residents that the Jefferson County Weed department has backpacks and chemicals for an affordable price and is right here in Roberts.

Library Report: Mayor Berlin invited Julie Garcia, Roberts City Library Director, to speak. Julie said that the library hours are changing due to a conjoined project with Roberts Elementary. The project includes an after-school program that is hosted at the Roberts City Library. The school is providing the funding and curriculum. The program will be held on Fridays from 1:00pm-3:15pm. The new hours for the library are Monday and Tuesday 2:00pm-6:00pm and Wednesday and Thursday 1:00pm-5:00pm. The after-school program will run from January through May 2023.

Julie said that story time took a break in December and will resume in January. Story time is on Thursdays at 1:15pm.

Julie said that from October 2022-December 2022, 482 patrons used the library, and 209 new books were added.

Mayor Berlin and Council thanked Julie for her service.