

CITY of ROBERTS
January 11, 2022
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Robert (BJ) Berlin.....Mayor
Connie Surerus.....Council
Ben Poston.....Council
Edidt Sanchez.....Council
Shauna Lounsbury.....Council
Gale Scrivner.....Clerk
Ron Grant.....Maintenance (Absent)
April Galbraith.....Librarian

Also present: Karol Poston, Karen Maritt, Tom Keiser with the Roberts Fire Station, Sheriff Anderson with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Dustin Mathie, James Zillinger, and Ursula Benkenstein.

Shauna offered the opening prayer, Mayor Berlin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Council Minutes: Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve, the minutes for the December 14, 2021 council meeting. 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 14, 2021 council meeting, seconded by Edidt, all ayes.

Pay Bills: Mayor Berlin asked the city council if they had looked at the bills and had any questions. With no questions, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to pay the bills.

Connie made the motion to pay the bills, seconded by Ben, all ayes.

Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk, Shauna aye, Edidt aye, Ben aye, and Connie aye.

Swearing in Newly Elected Officers: Mayor Berlin swore in re-elected City Council Members, Ben Poston and Shauna Lounsbury. Mayor Belin administered the oath of office. Ben and Shauna stood and raised their right hand as Mayor Berlin read the oath of office. Ben, "I do." Shauna, "I do."

Mayors Report: Mayor Berlin gave the State of the City Address.

STATE OF THE CITY
Roberts, Idaho January 2022

There is no doubt that 2021 was a unique and unusual year.

As we rolled into year two of a pandemic world, we had already learned a lot. Our city had already made the conscious decision to move forward despite a world of worry and trepidation.

This attitude of positivity served us well, and will continue to do so in the future.

We continued our planning and execution of our plans to make improvements to our city. There have been, and certainly will be challenges due to the supply chain issues affecting the world.

With the "one time money" the city had from the sale of the property near the fire station, we purchased new to Roberts equipment to further our plans and emergency preparedness plans.

Our maintenance operators, Ron and Jeff were rearing to go, and with their energy and desire pushed ahead with great gusto!

We began relatively aggressive street repairs this last season, due to our equipment on hand and street experience of our maintenance operators. In places we continue to patch, but two intersections were completely rebuilt.

Sidewalk construction also took a great leap forward. With planned work, a State Grant, donated labor and one-time surplus money, our planned sidewalk infrastructure is about two years ahead of where we expected to be.

Roberts received a grant to make fiber-optic internet available to everyone in the city who wanted it. This project to improve internet broadband is a tremendous asset to our residents, with as much or more internet service availability than most areas around us.

With donations and lots of help, we celebrated one of the best Market Lake Days ever.

Our Roberts City Library is like a Phoenix, rising from the pandemic quagmire to be as or more effective and of great value than ever.

April, our librarian has jumped in whole heartedly, got us back on track and then created and brought in more new wonderful programs.

April has made community buy in and value a priority, and it shows!

Our wastewater collection system study has been completed, and we are now moving forward with plans to update our wastewater infrastructure to be serviceable well into the future.

Our city is growing! With numerous new homes being built, we have added responsibilities.

New homes add new work for our staff. They have stepped up to the challenge.

Moving into this new year, we plan to continue to build on our progress, while keeping our budgets sound.

Street, sidewalk and park improvements will continue.

Continued maintenance of our utilities are always of the highest priority.

Our Mustang Events Center has been a difficult quandary, as it needs a lot of work, and funding for it has been scarce. I am pleased to point out that in this last year, some gains have been made in the deferred maintenance of this asset.

Ron Grant, one of our maintenance operators has roofing experience, and has made significant progress on roof repair. There is much work yet to be done, but I feel we have begun to slow deterioration and hopefully can come up with more solutions in the future.

Law enforcement in our city continues to bring a smile to my face. Our city is a nice quiet place, and our problems in this area tend to be minor. That said, occasionally crime and drugs will rear their ugly heads in our community. Thank you whole heartedly to our deputies, firefighters and Emergency Medical responders for their invaluable service.

All of the great work in our city is due to a great team who Loves and Cares for our city! Unfortunately, Jeff Ammons, who only joined our team a year ago has had to resign due to medical limitations. The rest of the team has stepped up till we hire a new maintenance operator. I have received applications for the position, and will begin preliminary interviews soon.

Roberts has become a shining little star in our state. Our example and influence are noted by many, and we gladly answer and assist other cities large and small where we can. I am proud of our great little city, and look forward to continued prosperity and benevolence.

Mayor Robert (B.J.) Berlin
January 11, 2022

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Mathie read the report from 11/13/21 thru 12/10/21, 79 hrs. 17 complaints, and 26 traffic contacts. Sheriff Anderson stated that the data for number of arrests, DUI's, and citations were not readily available but would be available soon.

Holocaust Remembrance Proclamation: Mayor Berlin declared January 27, 2022 as Holocaust Remembrance Day and read the following proclamation.

A Proclamation of a Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust
January 27, 2022

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day—We stand in solidarity with the Jewish people in America, Israel, and around the world to remember and reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust. An estimated six million Jews perished alongside millions of other innocent victims—Roma and Sinti, Slavs, disabled persons, LGBTQ individuals, Catholic sympathizers, and others—systematically murdered by Nazis and their collaborators in one of the cruelest and most heinous campaigns in human history. We honor the memories of precious lives lost, contemplate the incomprehensible wound to our humanity, mourn for the communities broken and scattered, and embrace those who survived the Holocaust. It is painful to remember. It is human nature to want to leave the past behind. But in order to prevent a tragedy like the Holocaust from happening again, we must share the truth of this dark period with each new generation. All of us must understand the depravity that is possible when governments back policies fueled by hatred, when we dehumanize groups of people, and when ordinary people decide that it is easier to look away or go along than to speak out. Our children and grandchildren must learn where those roads lead, so that the commitment of “never again” lives strongly in their hearts.

My wife, Cherilee Berlin, and I visited the Dachau Memorial in December of 2019. The visit will always remain with us as a stark reminder of the horrific event, and the vow to be sure it never happens again. We are reminded not only of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but also reinforces our ongoing duty to counter all forms of dehumanizing bigotry directed against all people who may be “different from us.” Hatred is true poison to the human condition and we should guard against it as we would any other disease or threat.

NOW, I, Robert “B.J.” Berlin, Mayor of the City of Roberts, Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim January 27, 2022, as a day of observance of the Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust, and call upon the people of Roberts, Idaho to observe this day and pause to remember victims, and survivors of the Holocaust.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this Eleventh Day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-two.

ROBERT “B.J.” BERLIN

1st Quarter Library Report: April gave the first quarter library report. She reported that patron attendance is down. She stated that most of the American Rescue Plan Act grant money had mostly been utilized. The library has purchased personal protection items, electronics, and other materials that will allow the library to stay open during pandemics. She reported that the Summer Reading Program planning has begun.

Discussion of Upcoming Waste Water System Project: Mayor Berlin asked City Council if they had any questions, comments, or public comments to share. There were no questions, comments, or public comments to share at this time.

Discussion Regarding Recreational Vehicle Ordinance: Mayor Berlin asked City Council if they had any questions, comments, or public comments to share. There were no questions, comments, or public comments to share at this time.

Discussion Regarding Animal Ordinance: Mayor Berlin asked City Council if they had any questions, comments, or public comments to share. There were no questions, comments, or public comments to share at this time.

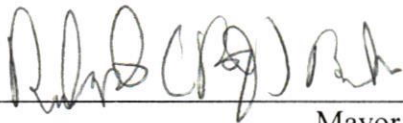
Discussion regarding Demolition and Mobile Home Ordinance: Mayor Berlin asked City Council if they had any questions, comments, or public comments to share. There were no questions, comments, or public comments to share at this time.

Mayor Berlin will begin drafting the Recreational Vehicle, Animal, and Demolition and Mobile Home ordinances for City Councils review.

Maintenance Report: Mayor Berlin reported that the hiring process has begun to fill the open maintenance position. Ron has been working on snow removal and keeping the streets plowed. Tom Kaiser, Roberts Fire Chief, asked if the city could plow the fire station parking lot.

Adjourn: Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Edidt made motion to adjourn, seconded by Shauna, all ayes.



Mayor Robert (BJ) Berlin



Clerk