

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.