

CITY of ROBERTS
March 14, 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
Ben Poston..... Council	Julie Garcia..... Library Director (Absent)
Edidt Sanchez..... Council	Sean Coletti..... City Attorney
Shauna Lounsbury..... Council	Dustin Parkinson..... Certified Operator

Also present: Sheriff Anderson with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Ursula Benkenstein, Karol Poston, Jaden Jackson with Keller Associates, Rebecca Gullett, Payton Gullett, Tim Jones, Dani Larsen, Valentine Larsen, Mr. & Mrs. R.V. Golbert, Kathy Payan, Richard Payan, Robert Loftis and Matt Foster with Mountain West Environmental, and Craig Sturman with Idaho Rural Water Association.

Mayor Berlin opened the meeting and welcome everyone.

Connie gave the opening prayer.

Mayor Berlin lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff Anderson read the report from 2/04/23 thru 03/03/23, 82 hrs, 14 complaints, 4 arrests, 0 DUIs', 0 citations, and 16 traffic contacts.

Mayor Berlin said that our community has had a difficult month and during that time there has been some ugliness towards the city employees in the form of harassment and threats. Staff have not filed any reports with the sheriff's office but from here on city staff is instructed to call the sheriff's office and file reports. Mayor Berlin said that everyone has been working hard, putting in overtime, and that the employees are appreciated and the behavior towards the staff will not be tolerated.

Sheriff Anderson said that the staff is to call them and file a report and it will be handled by the sheriff's office.

Mayor Berlin voiced his appreciation to the sheriff's department for the hard work that they do.

Sheriff Anderson excused himself.

Vote to Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2023, February 27, 2023, and March 2, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes: Mayor Berlin asked if there were any questions regarding the draft minutes in the council's packets.

Connie said she did have some questions: February 21, 2023 Minutes page 5 under *Discussion Regarding Ordinance 491 & 491-A (Placement of Mobile Homes)*, the line "He said that in the past there were ordinances that," was incomplete. Mayor Berlin said that the line should be completed with "prohibited mobile homes but are no longer in effect."

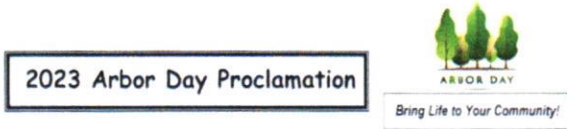
Connie said that there was a spelling error on February 21, 2023 and a spelling error on March 2, 2023 that she would get with the Clerk for.

Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2023, February 27, 2023, and March 2, 2023 council meetings with corrections.

Ben made the motion to approve the minutes for February 21, 2023, February 27, 2023, and March 2, 2023 council meetings with corrections, seconded by Edidt, all ayes.

Agenda Amendment: Mayor Berlin said that there was an error on the agenda, review and pay approve the bills was left off due to a clerical error.

Connie made a motion to add a line item to review and approve the bills after the Update on the Mustang Park Project, seconded by Ben, all ayes.



Whereas In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and
Whereas the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and
Whereas Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and
Whereas trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water; lower our heating and cooling costs; moderate the temperature; clean the air; produce oxygen; and provide habitat for wildlife; and
Whereas trees are a renewable resource giving us paper; wood for our homes; fuel for our fires; and countless other wood products; and
Whereas trees in our city increase property values; enhance the economic vitality of business areas; and beautify our community; and
Whereas trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal

NOW THEREFORE I Robert (BJ) Berlin
Mayor of the City of Roberts do hereby proclaim
May 1st 23 as Arbor Day in the City of Roberts
and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and
Further I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations
Dated this 14th day of March in the year 2023
Mayor Robert (BJ) Berlin

Mayor's Report: Mayor Berlin said that the city has been working on projects. Arbor Day is coming up and the city has applied for a grant from the Idaho Nursery Landscape Association. The Association asks the mayors to do an Arbor Day Proclamation. Mayor Berlin has proclaimed Arbor Day for the City of Roberts be May 1, 2023.

Mayor Berlin said during all that has been going on in our city, there has been a tremendous amount of people that have come to the aid of the city and its citizens. Volunteers have helped with water distribution, snow removal, on streets and sidewalks, answered phones at city hall, and all are greatly appreciated.

Mayor Berlin thanked all that have stepped forward to help out.

Mayor's Appointment of Sean Coletti as City Attorney: Mayor Berlin said that he asked Sean Colette to be the City's legal counsel and he has agreed. Mr.

Coletti is also the Mayor of the City of Ammon.

Confirmation of Sean Coletti: Edidt made a motion to confirm Sean Coletti as the City Attorney for Roberts, seconded by Ben, all ayes.

Discussion and Vote on Attorney Contract: Council was provided a copy of the contract in their council packets. The contract with the law firm that Sean Coletti works for is *Hopkins Roden Crockett Hansen & Hoopes* in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The contract is for a fee of \$500.00 per month with an additional \$200.00 per hour.

In regards to the contract, on page one (1), *"This rate is subject to change in January of each year. By execution of this engagement letter, you agree to pay the increased rate when it is increased,"* Connie voiced her concern that the city would be bound by contract to pay whatever amount the law firm increased. Mr. Coletti said he would be sure to give the city ample amount of notification and that he understands that the city has to budget for attorney services.

Connie asked for clarification on what services fell under the monthly retainer fee and the hourly fee. Mr. Coletti clarified that the services covered by the monthly retainer would be for all legal counsel except; civil or criminal litigation matters and attending city meetings.

Mr. Coletti said that the contract could be severed by the city at any time.

Mayor Berlin asked if there were any other questions.

With no questions, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to accept the contract legal services of Hopkins Roden Crockett Hansen & Hoopes, PLLC.

Ben made the motion to accept the contract legal services of Hopkins Roden Crockett Hansen & Hoopes, PLLC, seconded by Connie, all ayes.

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

Motion Carries.

Mayor Berlin swore in Sean Coletti as City Attorney. Mayor Berlin administered the oath of office. Sean stood and raised his right hand as Mayor Berlin read the oath of office. Sean, "I do."

Discussion and Vote on Jensen Poulson Letter of Engagement: Council was provided a copy of the contract in their council packets. Mayor Berlin said Jensen Poulson & Company has been auditing our budget for years.

Discussion regarding fees was had.

Mayor Berlin asked if there were any other questions or concerns.

With no other questions or concerns, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to accept the letter of engagement for Jensen Poulson & Company.

Edidt made the motion to accept the letter of engagement for Jensen Poulson & Company, seconded by Shauna, all ayes.

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

Motion Carries.

Update on Street Project 2558 E: Mayor Berlin said that he had been in Boise last week. While there he attended a board of directors meeting for the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council and brought back a grant check for \$100,000.00 for the 2858 E Road Project. Mayor Berlin invited Jaden Jackson from Keller Associates to speak. Jaden said that with the road project, the city has the grant money and money set aside for the project as well. To get the most out of the money Jaden suggests having the road work for both the 2858 project and the asphalt work associated with the upcoming wastewater projected bid together. This may allow the money to go further because the amount of asphalt needed will increase. It will be up to all grantors to agree to have the bids to be combined the road project and asphalt repairs for the wastewater project.

Keller will begin the topo survey as soon as the snow and water is cleared off the roads and pavement edge.

Update on Wastewater Project: Mayor Berlin invited Jaden with Keller Associates to speak. Jaden said that the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) grant has been awarded to the city. It is still unknown when the money will come to the city and which governmental department will be over the grant. Recently, the city did send a letter of interest to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for \$1.4 million in funding. The City is awaiting news on that grant.

Update on Mustang Park Project: Mayor Berlin invited Jaden with Keller Associates to speak. Jaden said the project is moving forward. Next week the engineers can begin planning the project, however they will need to wait until the snow melts to be able to start.

(Agenda Amendment Item) Review and Approve Bills: Mayor Berlin asked the city council if they had had time to review the bills.

Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the bills.

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

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

Motion Passes.

Maintenance Report: Mayor Berlin said that the surrounding areas are experiencing street issues as the snow recedes and that Roberts can expect the same issues with potholes. Replacement water meters should be in the first week of June. Mayor Berlin said that the Boil Advisory was lifted today and that there is a lot of work to be done on our water system. He invited Dustin Parkinson from Mountain West Environmental to give a summary on the Water Situation. Dustin said that they were hired around the ninth of March, since then his team has been working on correcting the water system, flushing water, and taking necessary samples. He said that between DEQ, the previous certified operator, and MWE-18 samples were gathered that were clear of E.coli bacteria. Well #3 has been installed and they are preparing it to be sampled. Once the samples come back then MWE will ask DEQ for the all clear to turn Well #3 back in to the system.

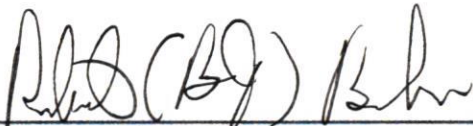
Discussion Regarding Animal Ordinance: Mayor Berlin said that the city has been working on an animal ordinance that puts standards on the animals allowed within the city boundaries. Mayor Berlin presented council with a draft of an animal ordinance. The draft includes how

many animals are allowed on a property based on property size, what animals are allowed to be in city limits, animals that are prohibited, exotic animals, and will include the current chicken and dog ordinances currently in place. Work will continue on the ordinance.

Adjourn: Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Edidt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Connie, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned.



Mayor Berlin



City Clerk