

CITY OF POCA TELLO, IDAHO
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
OCTOBER 13, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Mayor Brian Blad called the City Council Study Session to order
ROLL CALL at 9:01 a.m. Council members present were Heidi Adamson, Roger Bray, Steve Brown, Jim Johnston, Gary Moore, and Michael L. Orr.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Representatives from the African Sister Cities Subcommittee
AFRICAN SISTER CITIES were not present to discuss the Subcommittee's goals and
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE projects, as well as Council's policies and expectations. Therefore, no report was given.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Heather Buchannan, Human Resources Director; and Nicole
MERCER CONSULTING Harms, Human Resources Consultant; and Shelli Stayner,
SERVICES PRESENTATION Mercer Consulting Services representative; were present to give a
breakdown of services that Mercer provides for the City and to
answer any questions Council may have regarding the service.

Ms. Harms reviewed the reasons Human Resources uses a consultant for determining health benefits. They are: 1) obtain competitive quotes; 2) establish comprehensive claims reports; 3) provide cost projections and funding analysis; 4) act as a liaison between the City and Insurers; 5) review policies and contracts for accuracy; and 6) maintain compliance with insurance regulations. It was noted Mercer provides benefit provider assistance for medical (Aetna), Dental (Delta Dental of Idaho); Vision (VSP), Life Insurance (LifeMap); and Supplemental Insurance policies. Ms. Harms explained Mercer also provides Compliance Assistance to assist the City with meeting regulations/requirements such as: Affordable Care Act, Medicare reporting, insurance notices to employees, new law pertaining to benefits/insurance and policy compliance.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Buchannan explained Human Resources staff cannot do the research and track policy changes that Mercer provides without hiring another employee. The City has been with Mercer for 14 years. She feels if Council would like to consider a new contractor to provide these services, City staff could begin this process in the spring of 2017.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Stayner explained most individual insurance agents use local information to base coverage options. However, Mercer has information and contacts at a national level to search for insurance options. Ms. Stayner feels because they are looking at insurance beyond a local level, the City receives the best value. She noted that Mercer works for the City and understands the City's needs. Mercer does not represent any particular insurance agency and can organize multiple health coverage options.

Ms. Harms explained when staff has questions for a medical provider regarding a policy issue Mercer participates in the conversation to make sure the questions being asked are appropriate.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Stayer explained currently their consultant fee it is not based upon the number of City employees receiving health benefits. If the number of employees receiving health insurance benefits decrease, the cost for their service remains the same. She feels their consultant fee is less than what a commission would be.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Buchannan anticipates Mercer will have more involvement with managing benefits for necessary changes such as cancer policies and ADA requirements, etc., once the number of insured employees decrease. The last Request for Proposals

(RFP) to hire a medical benefit consultant was in 2002. (The year Mercer Consulting Services was approved by City Council.)

Ms. Harms explained the Federal Affordable Care Act is a challenge for employers. Mercer provides reminders of important dates/changes, and evaluates the City's medical plan to ensure it is in compliance. Ms. Harms noted that information distributed to the Council regarding the differences in providers was provided by Mercer.

General discussion continued regarding medical benefit renewals and value comparisons. Cost savings were also discussed. It was mentioned the City attempts to provide great benefits for City employees and Mercer has been helpful to meet this goal.

A majority of the Council supported having Mercer continue to provide medical insurance consulting services at this time. A final decision regarding the consultant contract will be voted upon during the October 20, 2016 Regular Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Hannah Sanger, City Science and Environment Manager; Ben
PORTNEUF RIVER Swaner, Project Manager for Portneuf River Vision Study and
VISION STUDY UPDATE Tattan Suter, Project Manager/Outreach Coordinator for future
City-Corps Section 206 Project, representing the Army Corps of

Engineers; were present to discuss the Draft Portneuf River Vision, including public comment received and potential next steps for the project.

Mayor Blad was excused from the meeting at this time and turned the Chair of the meeting over to Council President Steve Brown.

Ms. Sanger introduced Mr. Swaner and Mr. Suter from the Army Corps of Engineers. She also identified City staff that assisted her with the River Visioning project. She mentioned a resolution outlining Council's support of the project would be introduced for Council's consideration at a later date.

Mayor Blad returned to the meeting, at which time Council President Steve Brown turned the Chair of the meeting back over to Mayor Blad.

Ms. Sanger explained the purpose of the study/vision is to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life. She noted the Portneuf River Vision Study integrates existing policies, plans, and innovative ideas into a single vision, outlining goals and recommendations for improved river corridor management, and identifying opportunities for improvements and restoration. The recommendations are based upon the community's ecosystem health, recreation, access, community engagement, and economic development goals.

Council discussion followed regarding the maintenance easement on both sides of the levee and possible options to change the design of the river.

It was clarified that the proposed recommendations are strictly voluntary, and are non-binding for landowners and land managers. Implementation is contingent on these voluntary actions, future rule-making, planning, and available funding through various governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and public-private partnership entities.

Mr. Swaner reviewed the following projects:

Priority Short-term projects: 1) Water Trail and River Cleanup; 2) Streambank restoration; 3) Rainey-Centennial Park; 4) Sacajawea Park; and 5) signage and wayfinding;

Long-term projects: (completed over 20 plus years) 1) Greenway Extension; 2) Historic River Meanders; 3) Levee setbacks; 4) Concrete channel streambank restoration and greenway; 5) Center Street Riverfront shopping area/multi-use; 6) Memorial Park; and 7) Raymond Park.

Additional Priority Projects: 1) Seek Levee Vegetation Variance; 2) Develop Portneuf River Zoning Overlay District; 3) Re-assess Flood Control Project Capacity Requirements; 4) Reduce volume of Urban Runoff reaching the Portneuf; 5) Increase in-stream flows; 6) identify and purchase Greenway easements and flood prone homes from willing sellers; and 7) improve upstream water quality.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Underway: a) Trash and debris jam removal near Hoku; b) create a water trail from Sacajawea Park to Simplot; c) Gibson Jack Creek culvert improvements; and d) ask the Army Corps to revisit flood control capacity and levee vegetation requirements.

Next steps: a) Identify the entity that will lead the proposed implementation effort and b) Draft an Implementation Plan.

City Council guidance sought for the following: 1) adopt resolution supporting the Vision Plan; 2) Direct Public Works Department to allocate sufficient staff resources to develop an implementation plan, secure funding and implement the Vision; and 3) City Council direct the Mayor to create a Vision Study Advisory Committee.

Council discussion regarding the budget aspects of moving forward with the recommendations followed. Funding programs and costs will need to be researched and evaluated. Restoration projects are usually easier to fund through grants than modifying a park.

A majority of the Council supported the draft resolution regarding the Portneuf River Vision Plan. Final adoption of the resolution will be voted upon at a later date. It was suggested that a public hearing regarding the River Vision Plan be held during the same meeting as Council's consideration of the proposed resolution showing Council's support.

Mayor Blad thanked City staff for their hard work in developing a plan. He has heard great things regarding the public outreach and high volume of feedback from individuals in the community. The proposed changes will impact the future design of the river.

Mayor Blad adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

APPROVED:

BRIAN C. BLAD, MAYOR

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ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:

RUTH E. WHITWORTH, CMC, CITY CLERK