
**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1:
ROLL CALL**

Mayor Brian Blad called the City Council Work Session to order at 9:02 a.m. Council members present were Rick Cheatum, Brent Nichols and Hayden Paulsen. Council member Corey Mangum was excused.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2:
SISTER CITIES FOUNDATION OF POCATELLO UPDATE**

Peggy Johnson, Board Member for the Sister Cities Foundation of Pocatello, reported on the Foundation's work with Pocatello's African sister city – Kwaremanguel, Burkina Faso. She noted the country was in turmoil, and the issues affect small cities, like Kwaremanguel, the most. Many people have left the village for safety, but the Foundation still sends donations to their local contact.

The Foundation has been sponsoring students' education for 10 years, and one girl recently graduated with her medical degree. Students have graduated with degrees or become successful civil servants. Mrs. Johnson noted most schools were closed due to the turmoil, but local villages were working hard to keep schools open. Mrs. Johnson informed the Council that the Foundation helps not only with education, but also medical and other needs.

Mrs. Johnson read from a letter the Foundation received from their local contact. He wrote about terrorist actions and the death of citizens, the closure of schools, health centers and other local infrastructure, and expressed thanks for Pocatello's support. The local contact also appreciated the Foundation's willingness to allow the village to use their donations where needed, such as purchasing land for an education center. They have a building for a computer, desk and printer so students can look up information for school, and they hope to build in the future.

Mrs. Johnson informed the Council that the Foundation was committed to assisting the Kwaremanguel villagers, even if they were currently in another village. The Foundation will continue to help with education, food and other necessities.

Over the years, the Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, but fundraising has dropped since COVID-19. Mrs. Johnson and other Foundation members have been spending their own money for flyers and mailings, and she requested monetary assistance from the City for mailings, office supplies, printing, etc. She discussed the previous history of City financial support and reiterated the need for the City to provide assistance.

In response to questions from the Council, Mrs. Johnson stated the Foundation would request \$800 per year from the City and that funds would be wired to the local contact.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3:
BANNOCK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATE**

MiaCate Kennedy I, Chief Executive Officer, informed the Council that Bannock Development Corporation (BDC) would be rolling out its regional marketing plan soon. Their tagline will be "Gateway to Adventure and Opportunity." As part of the plan, BDC interviewed 40 business officials asking them if they would relocate to Pocatello and if not, why. The most common reason not to relocate was a miscommunication regarding Pocatello's identity.

Ms. Kennedy gave an update on the CREST project. The feasibility study was going forward, and after the study, they would create a "sell book" to sell the project to businesses and potential investors. A tax increment financing district already exists at the airport, and the Federal Aviation Administration and Power County were also resources. Ms. Kennedy offered to meet with Council members individually to provide further details if they were interested.

Ms. Kennedy stated BDC needed to increase fundraising. They have not been able to travel and represent the community effectively to site selectors.

BDC has been working with the Idaho National Laboratory on a feasibility study for mini-reactors. Ms. Kennedy noted Pocatello is one of three areas working on a feasibility study, and the study will allow Pocatello to be listed for consideration for nuclear energy projects.

Mayor Blad called for a break at 9:33 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4:
SOUTH 5TH AVENUE AREA WIDE PLAN UPDATE**

Jennifer Flynn, Assistant Planner, and Brent McLane, Planning and Development Services Director, gave an overview of the South 5th Avenue Area Wide Plan. Ms. Flynn explained the plan targets brownfield areas, which was a way to target potential commercial development areas that need improvement or were underutilized. The plan considered what was there now and what could be done and was aspirational only. Not every suggestion will be done. Input was collected from the community and from a working group made up of plan area businesses, citizens and government departments. Other existing plans, such as the Idaho State University Master Plan, City Comprehensive Plan, and Bannock Transportation Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, were incorporated.

Council President Leeuwrik asked if this was part of the Federal grant recently terminated. Mr. McLane assured Council it was not and that there was one and a half years remaining on the grant.

Ms. Flynn informed the Council that there were multiple phases to the plan. However, the City's funding stops at Phase 2. Southeast Idaho Council of Governments had funding for additional phases, and then investors, a possible tax increment financing district, etc. would pay for additional phases. The draft plan is now ready for Council input and would be considered for official adoption at a future Regular City Council meeting.



The plan encourages mixed use zoning, increasing housing opportunities and commercial options, and suggests vacant land be zoned for multifamily housing. The zoning changes would promote multifamily housing in commercial general districts, promote single family housing, townhomes and duplexes and parking districts for centers of activity. Funding options for improvements could be business improvement districts (BID), local improvement districts (LID) and tax increment financing (TIF) districts.

Following questions from Council, Mr. McLane explained that BID and LID districts were voted on by property owners within the district. Property owners approve whether or not to pay an additional assessment for specific projects. TIF districts were a government option to pay for public infrastructure and improvements. Mr. Cheatum noted that community improvement districts were also available for use if the area qualifies. General discussion occurred about how many BIDs, LIDs and TIFs already exist and that many of these options were initiated by property owners.

Ms. Flynn noted the plan also attempted to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by creating new paths, changing the location of bike lanes, increasing signage and requiring sidewalks on South 5th Avenue with any new development.

The plan also addressed creation of a “festival block” and pocket parks, as well as improvements to Bremmer Park. Discussion was held regarding lower maintenance materials and different designs.

Ms. Flynn informed the Council that the plan would require open space in multifamily developments with incentives to developers. These open spaces would be open to the entire community. It also identified waterwise landscaping, updated the greenway plan and added screening requirements for outdoor storage.

General discussion was held regarding the defined geographic area of the plan, how to involve residents, property owners and neighborhood associations, how the working group members were chosen and definitions for terms in the plan.

Responding to questions from Council, Mr. McLane noted the two motorist/pedestrian bills passed this year by the Idaho State Legislature and signed by Governor Little would have an effect on the plan. The State restriction may interfere with Federal grants. Staff planned to review the bills and adjust the South 5th Area Wide Plan accordingly.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5:
COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

This time was set aside for the Mayor and Council members to give an update regarding recent advisory board activities.

Mayor Blad reported that the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council has only two more meetings for the school year. The Youth Council’s needs drive held April 19 was a success with two truckloads of items collected – one for each pantry. Youth Council Members also volunteered for the Environmental Fair held April 26. The Pocatello Development Authority Board is reviewing the CREST project’s feasibility study.



Mr. Paulsen noted the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board had held two meetings and that the City dissolved the Child Care Advisory Committee. The Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency (SEICAA) Board discussed the agency's two houses under construction, two houses that would begin construction soon, and land purchases. SEICAA's audit was sent to U.S. Housing & Urban Development. Mr. Paulsen noted that SEICAA's energy efficiency program employees have been laid off, but their Meals on Wheels program is not federally funded and continues. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee gave a presentation at the April Work Session, and Heather Disselkoen was re-elected as Chair at the recent meeting. The next CDBG Advisory Committee will be May 20 at 12 p.m., and the Council is invited to tour the Free Clinic facility with the Committee.

Council President Leeuwrik reported the Historic Downtown Board moved its most recent meeting date. The previous meeting focused on planning for the next Center Street Underpass closure and all the summer plans and activities at Lookout Point. The Investment and Audit Committee held its first quarterly meeting of the year. Members were informed that the 2024 audit would be finished by the June 2025 deadline, which would make the City caught up for audits. The Committee also had a good discussion about the national economic landscape and about housing. Bannock Transportation Planning Organization hired Devin Hill as its new Director, updated the Transportation Improvement Plan and was looking at possibly helping the City with the Hiline project. The Pocatello Development Authority meets later in May.

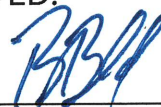
Mr. Cheatum reported that the Senior Activity Center meal service is up dramatically from last year. Daily, they serve an average of 100 to 105 lunches Tuesday through Thursday. Plans were being made to soon take over the Meals on Wheels program to make 70 meals a day Monday through Thursday. Those plans depend on funding availability. Their meals now focus more on protein and less on carbohydrates following a survey of users. Mr. Cheatum informed the Council of upcoming Senior Activity Center fundraisers including the June car show and September golf tournament. The Center also started a Vets and Coffee monthly event with approximately 30 people attending the morning activity and then staying for lunch.

Mr. Nichols noted that Council President Leeuwrik reported on the Investment and Audit Committee, he was unable to attend the Human Relations Advisory Committee and the Animal Shelter Advisory Board meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9:
ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Blad adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

APPROVED:



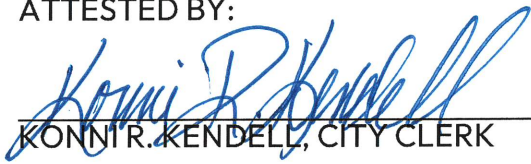
BRIAN C. BLAD, MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MAY 8, 2025

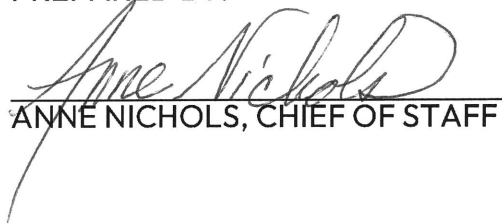
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ATTESTED BY:



KONNI R. KENDELL, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY:



ANNE NICHOLS, CHIEF OF STAFF

