I. Call to Order

PRESENT: Gravatt, Hilton, Thorne, Reading, Nink, Crowley, Quick
ABSENT:

II. Minutes Approval

1. Public Works Commission Minutes - Regular Meeting - Aug 5, 2020 4:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Judy Thorne, Commissioner
SECONDER: Renee Quick, Commissioner
AYES: Gravatt, Hilton, Thorne, Reading, Nink, Crowley, Quick

III. PWC Agenda Requests

1. Lander Street Water Renewal Facility (LSWRF) Phase 1 Project Update

   Steve Burgos, Public Works Director, introduced Josh Baker, Engineer, Lander Street Phase 1 Project Manager who gave the Commission an update on the Lander Street Phase 1 project.

   - Commissioner Crowley asked how many cubic yards of concrete have been poured so far. Mr. Baker estimated more than 2,000 yards and that’s approximately one third of what will be used.

   - Mr. Burgos complimented Mr. Baker and team on the progress and success of the project so far.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Building Facility Planning Update

   Mr. Burgos introduced Rob Bousfield, Municipal Facility Program Sr. Mgr. who presented the advances made in the building facility planning effort. Mr.
Bousfield asked the Commissioners for input on teleworking and virtual meetings based on their experiences.

- Commissioner Quick commented that person-to-person interaction is important for meetings and other interactions. Mr. Burgos added that Human Resources is working on a telework policy that balances remote work and the value of interaction between co-workers.

- Commissioner Thorne explained one of the obstacles she’s experienced with virtual learning is the lack of hands-on experiences which makes it difficult to evaluate how well a student understands or an instructor teaches. Mr. Burgos asked Commissioner Thorne if Idaho State University is developing a remote work policy. Commissioner Thorne answered a policy is being developed and existing policies are being modified as needs develop.

- Commissioner Gravatt advised individual preferences need to be considered when developing a telework policy. Some individuals, teams and processes are not well suited for remote work.

- Commissioner Hilton’s experience has shown her the importance of working in a setting that allows the team to interact and collaborate.

- Councilmember Sánchez would encourage the city to look at why some employees might be resistant to returning to work after working remotely. In her experience, a reluctance to return to the office can indicate problems with the work environment.

- Commissioner Gravatt asked if we anticipate a long-term need for increased investment in internal services and space needs as Boise grows. Mr. Bousfield answered an effort was made to identify services that might have a need for more space and factor that into the projections. Commission Gravatt asked if we can identify what areas of the city citizens are from that come to City Hall. Mr. Bousfield answered we don’t have a way to track that data. He added some discussion has taken place around providing services in alternate locations to better serve citizens.

- Commissioner Quick commented with the growth in the valley we should be providing services where the people are at a reasonable cost.

- Commissioner Crowley asked for the presentation to be distributed to the Commission and he would also like a breakdown of the anticipated staff requirements for the next 10 to 20 years by function or activity. He asked if daycare services for employees has been discussed. Mr. Bousfield answered the Mayor has asked for a study to evaluate the possibility of a daycare facility for employees.

- Commissioner Thorne thinks there will be opportunities for alternative space solutions as we get past the current situation with COVID-19.
3. Director’s Comments

Mr. Burgos told the Commission the recommended final approach for the Water Renewal Utility Plan was presented to Council and he thanked Chairperson Crowley for attending the City Council meeting and briefing the Council on discussions the Commission had about the plan. He advised the Commission that starting in October we will start presenting the Cost of Service Study for the Commissions consideration. Also, in October he will present a presentation on the newly created Climate Action Division.

- Commissioner Quick asked for an update on the orange bags. Mr. Burgos explained we were asked by Hefty if the bags could be used as fuel by a concrete manufacturing plant while Renewlogy was down for upgrades to their equipment. We asked for an environmental assessment whether it is better to landfill the bags or allow them to be used as fuel. The assessment came back that it’s a benefit to use them as fuel instead of the carbon-based fuel that would be used otherwise. Participation in the program is still high and an update will be provided to the Commission in October. Commissioner Quick asked what the difference is between Renewlogy burning the bags for fuel and being burned as fuel by the concrete manufacturer. Mr. Burgos answered Renewlogy has a cleaner process and there is a product at the end of the process. Haley Falconer, Environmental Division Sr. Manager added we have asked for a cost assessment for both options and we’re waiting for the final report. She clarified Renewlogy does not burn the bags, they use a process to convert the plastics to diesel fuel.

- Commissioner Gravatt asked if there is an update on the recruitment of a new commissioner. Mr. Burgos answered he will have information for the October meeting. Commissioner Gravatt has received requests for information about the Farmers Union Canal. Mr. Burgos gave a brief background on the issue of the city discharging effluent to the canal. The project has been put on hold due to citizen’s concerns. There is a misconception that the Water Renewal Utility Plan that will be before council on September 13th will give the city authorization to discharge to the canal. Mr. Burgos stated it will not and any further consideration of the Farmers Union Canal concept will require Council approval and a significant community engagement process.

IV. Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn the Public Works Commission meeting.

Commissioner Quick made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Gravatt seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.
RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT