



# OUR TOWN

*Where the desert meets the mountains.*

May 2006  
Issue No. 37

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Message from Mayor Susan McBryant

## Council/Manager Form of Government Ballot Question

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the citizens of Hailey will be asked to decide if the current form of city government should be changed to a council/manager form of government. What would this mean?

The city would no longer have a Mayor who is elected by the citizens. As citizens you would elect a five member council; and then they would select one among them to serve as mayor for “ceremonial” events such as ribbon cuttings and chairing meetings.

The city manager would have all the authority previously granted the Mayor. This person would not be elected to the position by the citizens, but would be an appointee, hired by the council to run the city. It would require at least three of the five council members to vote to remove that person from the appointed post.

The Council and I have considered making this change on two different occasions, initially in 2004, when we were setting our course toward the most effective mode of leadership for Hailey, and again in 2006, when we were asked to consider that change by a constituent. In both instances we determined that we would not support the change, for the following reasons:



- There is virtually no difference in the qualifications for a city manager as a city administrator. This year’s budget allows for an administrator to be hired in the second half of the year, and that process is underway. The council wants the citizens to still have control of their leadership by being able to vote for a Mayor who has the traditional leadership authority typically vested in that Office.
- The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) recommended that Hailey make no change. AIC represents over 300 cities in Idaho including the three cities that have a council/manager form of government. AIC said that the Mayor/Council form of government is the *best* form of government for a city, combining the leadership skill of the Mayor with the business savvy of the Administrator.
- To change the form of government is extremely disruptive to a community. If adopted, the positions of all five elected officials would terminate, creating a lame duck government until the newly elected officials would take office. Then the law requires the new council members to hire a manager in 75 days. Very little can happen in the city during that time. Major issues and decisions would be deferred until early October. It would also take considerable time for any newly elected officials and a newly appointed manager to become familiar with city government.

- If the council/manager form of government was adopted but was unsuccessful, the law prohibits a return to the present system for six years and then only after another election.

The city council and I chose to retain the current form of government because we believe it provides the greatest accountability to you, the citizens.

This is a critically important issue, and I hope each of you consider thoughtfully if a change is really warranted.

If you have questions on this issue please feel free to contact the city attorney, city clerk, or any of the elected officials listed below:

- Mayor Susan McBryant .....788-4221 x 30
- Council President Rick Davis.....727-7728
- Council Member Martha Burke.....788-3144
- Council Member Don Keirn.....788-4659
- Council Member Carol Brown....788-4221 x 12

Water Department

**Irrigation Rules Changed To Help Assess Costs on Metered Rates**

Are you an average water user? Have you thought about your irrigation practices?

The table in the next column will help you assess how many gallons it takes to irrigate your lawn as recommended by area landscapers. To determine your square footage of lawn measure the area you irrigate. As information on the rates becomes available you will be able to calculate your future water bill.

Odd/even irrigation restrictions have been removed this year to allow more experimentation toward greater conservation this summer. A suggestion is to try watering every third day rather than every other day. There is still absolutely NO watering allowed any day between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Community Involvement

**Clean Sweep is May 20**

Mark your calendars! May 20 is Clean Sweep day— an opportunity to beautify your town. To volunteer or for more information, contact the Environmental Resource Center at 726-4333. Hailey’s Park & Ride lot will be a collection site for yard waste – call Clear Creek Disposal for all the rules at 726-9600.

Calendar

**Important Dates**

- City Council Meetings .....5/08/06
- .....5/22/06
- Historic Commission .....5/30/06
- Parks & Lands Board Meeting.....5/02/06
- P&Z Meetings .....5/01/06
- .....5/15/06
- Old Hailey Townsite Public Workshop .....5/11/06
- ..... & 5/23/06
- Memorial Day\* .....5/29/06

\* City offices closed.

**APPROPRIATE WATER USAGE**

Lawn Water inches per week	SQ FT of Lawn	Irrigation Monthly Use Gals	Irrigation Use plus 10,000 Gals Domestic Use
1"	4,000	10,721	20,721
1"	6,000	16,082	26,082
1"	8,000	21,443	31,443
1"	10,000	26,803	36,803
1"	12,000	32,164	42,164
1"	14,000	37,525	47,525
1"	16,000	42,885	52,885
1"	18,000	48,246	58,246
1.5"	4,000	16,082	26,082
1.5"	6,000	24,123	34,123
1.5"	8,000	32,164	42,164
1.5"	10,000	40,205	50,205
1.5"	12,000	48,246	58,246
1.5"	14,000	56,287	66,287
1.5"	16,000	64,328	74,328
1.5"	18,000	72,369	82,369

