The Meeting of the Hailey City Council was called to order at 4:31 P.M. by Mayor Martha Burke. Present were Council members Heidi Husbands, Kaz Thea, Sam Linnet, and Juan Martinez. Staff present included City Attorney Christopher P. Simms, City Administrator Heather Dawson, and City Clerk Mary Cone.

Roll call, Husbands, Linnet, Martinez, Thea

4:31:44 PM Call to order by Mayor Burke

4:32:21 PM Dawson explains the amended agenda.

Open Session for public concerns.

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

PH 282 Consideration of Order or Resolution of the City of Hailey, in conjunction with the Cities of Bellevue, Ketchum, Sun Valley and Blaine County, requiring or expecting the use of face coverings in public spaces, except outdoors when six-foot physical distances can be maintained, or in situations where masks are not possible. ACTION ITEM

4:34:43 PM Simms opens with this item, time for us to consider a regulatory scheme for people to wear masks. Options are, 1, adopt Resolution as expectation, guidance like CDC guidelines. Also, public health emergency order, it is regulatory, remains a narrow mandate, if people are inside, with public, requires people to wear masks.

Public comments:

4:38:09 PM Ester McLaughlin 417 N. 1st ave, this is a clear violation of her constitutional rights
4:41:30 PM Walt Denekas Hailey, masks do reduce the spread of the virus as represented by hair salon workers wearing masks while sick with Covid and not infecting any of the customers, 140 of this, Denekas is in favor of wearing masks. $300 is steep fine.

4:44:08 PM Heather Dawson reads letter, from Kathryn Graves asking council to mandate wearing masks, 16 states have adopted mask ordinances. Please pass a mask ordinance.

Council Deliberation:
4:45:41 PM Thea believes it is a simple act, don’t have to wear it all the time. Wants to mandate through an Ordinance.

4:48:02 PM Linnet is in favor of an Ordinance also. Seems like a straightforward measure. Suggests change in ordinance, section 1, “indoor and outdoor public place” add outdoor to this sentence.

4:50:24 PM Simms responds, if remove word “indoor” would include those events. Linnet Simms suggests makes changes and bring back to council.

4:52:51 PM Thea not interested in the $300 fine, more want people to do the right thing by wearing the mask.

4:53:25 PM Linnet, $100 fine is okay.

4:53:40 PM Martinez, what are other cities doing? Thea, county has adopted a Resolution. They may revisit depending on what Hailey does.

4:54:22 PM Burke, Bellevue will do what Hailey decides. We’ve been leaders in the past, why not continue.

4:55:06 PM Martinez, suggests sign campaign about wearing a mask. Need to consider enforceability. Echo $100 fine.

4:55:54 PM Husbands, this past week, biggest week. Is torn with this topic. Wishes that people would just do this, and businesses should require a mask. Cases are rising, don’t want to be back where we were in March. If we take precautions, may be able to keep businesses open. How are you going to enforce this?

4:58:25 PM Horowitz, staff wanted clarification on a portion of the order.

Public comments.

4:59:47 PM Jane Drussel public comments, is for the mask requirement.

5:00:52 PM Burke picks up lunch from senior Connection sometimes, seniors also would like to see all wear masks. Don Keirn sent an email, asking all to wear masks. Burke is on board, not overbearing, don’t want to punish people. Make posters, make people want to be a part of.

5:03:01 PM Thea agrees with Husbands, wants school to start, take a few steps, smart things to do, proven to reduce community spread.

Public comments
5:04:14 PM Ester comments again, describes why babies put things in their mouths. Burke asks Ester to listen to council discussion.

5:05:37 PM Pamela Ridgway, in favor of masks because of people coming into our community. As a new member of Bellevue community, in favor of wearing masks.

5:06:54 PM unknown caller, __ Ridgway, supports wearing masks.

Staff comments, 5:08:06 PM Horowitz, public place definition, want to do the right thing and emulate what council wants. Our offices are spread out. If public not present, okay to not wear mask. Another situation plexiglass shield at clerk’s office, okay for employees not to wear mask with this shield in place5:12:30 PM

Discussion about businesses, don’t want to differentiate businesses, want it to be a broad solution.

5:13:16 PM Martinez, some people want their children to walk around without a mask. Consider the minority situation.

5:13:56 PM Linnet, this requires community action, understand that people might not want to wear a mask, and constitutional rights discussions. The cost to wearing a mask, does not hurt anyone, and not expensive. Would talk constitutional law with anyone.

5:15:15 PM Thea, equates this to smoking on airplanes, most assured thing is to wear a mask. Everyone must participate in a unified front. When not able to social distance, indoors or outdoors.

5:16:50 PM Burke, next steps of Simms.

Public comments:

5:17:21 PM Kathy Bestie, expand on what Thea states, equate to car seats and seat belts. Masks protect other people besides the child.

5:18:04 PM Jane Drussel comments again, no different than the old signs, “no shirts, no shoes, no service” The freedom has been taken out of context, this is to protect everyone, people need to be considerate.

5:19:05 PM Simms, can make adjustments as discussed. Have removed word “indoor” from public place. Added “when members of public, listen, addresses city clerk’s concern, 2 layers5:20:50 PM have other procedural options. Section 1 face coverings. Added paragraph G, 5:22:32 PM “as recommended by CDC.” 5:23:06 PM Linnet agrees have indoor and outdoor, easier to explain to folks. Simms will add back to opening item.

5:23:56 PM Dawson, fine changed to $100, Simms has revised this too.

Sunset question from Martinez, Burke replies, mayor or council member can remove.

PH 283 Introduction of City of Hailey FY 2021 General Governmental Funds Budgets, including a discussion of operating expenses, capital expenses and projects, general revenues, property taxes and potential Covid-19 Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) options (Continued from June 22, 2020 meeting)

5:29:03 PM Dawson presents 1st draft of balanced budget. Made every effort to present a sustainable period. Presented water and ww to you in June meeting, flat budget. Overall decrease $1,800,788, 20% decrease.

General operations fund, encompasses all city departments, asked all departments to reduce budgets by 6%. Dawson discusses proposed budget with last year’s actual operating expenses.5:36:00 PM Mountain Rides proposed a 25% decrease because they received a grant. The Chamber will be challenge with operating with $17,000 less than they are getting now. Last anomaly, street department, voters approved franchise fee, $120,000 chip seal maintenance will begin soon. 5:37:45 PM shows LOT slide 35% decrease in city departments, 25% decrease in partners. Decrease in LOT for air.

5:39:37 PM Thea asks about Chamber, very concerned, is there any other opportunity to move funds. Dawson, want to hear what council wants to do. Thea, that is a big decrease for Chamber, hoping we can find money somewhere to boost this for the Chamber. Dawson, asks Thea. What do you want to decrease, Dawson asks Thea. 5:42:08 PM Dawson will walk through bond funds and then take public comments. Bond fund will be fully paid in a month or two. 3% property tax will cost tax payers $6 / per $100,000 per taxable value. General levy is very low, .0026, could be as high as .009.

5:46:04 PM Governor’s property tax reduction measure, Hailey taxpayers would be paying $75 less in property taxes. Don’t have to decide tonight on this decision. City would still get the same amount of money.

5:48:32 PM public comment unknown caller name asks for clarification on this property tax relief, Dawson explains.

5:50:08 PM Husbands, has a concern, appreciates staff, but have friends that have been laid off, or salary freezes. Should we discuss a salary freeze?

5:51:04 PM Burke, philosophical goal to keep employees salaries and staff.

5:52:16 PM Horowitz, Mike McKenna is present.

Burke and then take public comments.
5:52:44 PM Mike McKenna, we are the only organization that supports LOT, this is imperative that we…we are expecting that we will get 100% funding from the State next year.

5:54:02 PM Thea, what kinds of things would you not be able to get done with a decrease. McKenna responds, many events would be a challenge. It would make staffing difficult. The whole future of the Chamber would be questionable if funding cut this drastically.

5:56:18 PM Thea, asked for Governor’s property tax reduction. Dawson, total revenue would not change. Which is better to go with? Is it better to keep it in house or go with state funds. Dawson, not pros and cons for the city, property tax payers would see $78 reduction in annual taxes. $50 difference.

Public hearing comments:

5:59:52 PM Ramona Duke Hailey resident, if don’t take 3% this year are we behind next year? Dawson, great question, and it is a concern. The state has a law, forgone amount in a future year, take the forgone amount within 3 years. Property taxpayers would see a jump in taxes that year we take it.

6:01:35 PM Kathy 1475 woodside blvd, in addition to woodside residents this year. Dawson, every 5 years or so, assessor looks at areas, city taxable value, 3%

6:05:12 PM Jane Drussel, some of budget is based on LOT, predicting LOT will be down 35%, what if we are really off and LOT picks up, what do we do then? Dawson responds, absolutely we can reconsider by opening the budget and appropriate the additional revenue.

Council deliberation:

6:07:38 PM Capital Fund Budget, with discussion with Brian Yeager, which shows the details of projects, what parts are contractual, and which can be moved to other areas. Snow storage site, project is in progress. 6:10:16 PM underway with Fire station grant. We have money capital projects committed. Colorado Gulch pathway, some funds. Dawson reviews all the projects, including mentioning DIF, percent for art on eligible construction projects. Staff 6:14:46 PM will give you their suggestions.

6:15:23 PM Brian Yeager presents to council, capital projects list. Proposed funding amounts from past council and other budget years. Dawson discussed projects that are in process, contemplated or have funding. Items in blue, may consume some funds. Main street rehabilitation project, approx. $20,000. Other commitments, River Street STP project, those projects are self-funding. Speculated on URA funding. Pathways for people project. Have not discuss Croy pathway towards Eastridge, agreement will come through around August. $47,000 match for this grant. Park next to ARCH, commitment for developing that park. Public art maintenance and contributions not committed. 6:22:11 PM Yeager wants feedback from council on 8th street, phase 2, construction a mini roundabout? Anticipated, relocate 8th street, connect path. Kiwanis is interested in helping fund lighting at skatepark. Several projects have fallen into the unfunded list. This spreadsheet has all fees on it, DIF, park in lieu fees, etc.
6:26:57 PM Thea asks, 14 airport lane aviation drive, have heard from a couple of people, find this unsafe to bike to their work or other reasons, does this have any bearing on safety, would be supportive of that. 6:28:24 PM Yeager in order to do a project must be on capital improvement plan, anticipating a URA in the airport way area, may help this concept, have identified a small amount, funded by a possible URA district in the future. If no URA in future, funding would go away and would need to secure funding in another way.

6:31:08 PM Burke asks, line item 40 and 41., are the items that would further us along in sustainability reasons.

6:32:18 PM Husbands asks for more explanation on River Street project. 4.3% match, so far today, completed concept process, $184,000 cost to date. LTHAC has questions towards final design, negotiating fee for Stanley Consultants, at mercy of LTHAC and ITD to run this process. Still targeting construction date of 2024. We intend to apply for Community Development block grant this fall to find more revenue.

6:35:23 PM Husbands, River Street is becoming busier, concerned to see this project. This project is limited to 4 blocks at this time.

6:36:12 PM Martinez, line item 34, skatepark concrete rehabilitation, compatibility issues, the edge has deteriorated over the years. In a low snow year, can we use $10,000 here to help do something here or welcome center? Yeager responds, conditions of concrete, has been looking at this for over a year now. One issue is Alkaline S reaction, substance weeping up through the concrete to the surface, ASR, is something we cannot stop it only hope we can slow it down. Can mix chemicals to help reduce or eliminate the reaction. Spent a lot of time on it last year, have not found a good solution yet. Patched last year with Elephant Armor, hoping to patch again in the bowls. So, that line item 34, not a good solution yet, don’t want to lose sight of this project. Would like to hear from council on skatepark lighting or other improvements.

6:40:58 PM Martinez, skating community would like to skate later at night.

6:41:40 PM Thea, 8th street Bullion and Croy are a priority to her. Use the matching funds. River Street is a priority for reasons Husbands mentioned. Skatepark lighting is a good idea. Thea, snow storage site is also a priority.

6:44:29 PM Yeager gives an update on the snow storage site, trying to get IDWR water right property transfer then will proceed with the deeds in maybe July 2020. Then Street department will make improvements after deeds recorded.

6:45:57 PM Martinez, line item 42, can reconsider at another date.

6:47:02 PM Yeager asks about forest service building relocation. Husbands, costs to move are a lot.
Horowitz have gotten interest, may have alternative to this $500,000 plan. $40,000 is just to relocate building.

Linnet asked, how much did owner give for moving it? Horowitz, $15,000.

Burke would like to see it moved and then restored for a future location TBD. Go back to the first 3 items, want to go ahead. Welcome sign, want to connect electrical to the welcome sign. Like the 8th and Bullion project pursued. And wish we had shade sails at the Rodeo Grounds for the future, not huge priority. Window shade at city hall will be important soon. Let’s go with what we’ve got.

Linnet asks question about Firestation retrofits? Is this throwing good money after bad? Yeager, punt the answer to Dawson. Is it all grant funded? Dawson, 25% grant match, grant will give us $78,000. IOEM waited until other jurisdictions walked away from opportunities, amended our application to give us more money. Dawson described this project as critical to the ongoing use of the building.

Dawson, council needs to think about what was discussed tonight. July 13th will discuss again and will need a decision from council. In the meantime, we will look for ways to fund the Chamber. Other than that budget will likely look very similar as presented tonight.

Jane Drussel comments, airport way road, that traffic is really getting bad. It is hard to get out of the Post office parking lot and Idaho Lumber. Very narrow there, are there any options here for sidewalks or wider road. Can we access some traffic from Broadford road?

Thea, website redesign topic, do we have the money for it? Would like to see this updated.

Dawson responds to Thea’s comment. That project is scheduled for this year. Expect about a $400,000 short fall. In next year’s budget, additional money is not in there. Must do this year, but are also concerned about having expenses exceeding revenue. If want to do the work and risk expenses exceeding revenue, Mayor can direct.

Motion by Thea to approve Ordinance No. 1257, authorize Mayor to sign, conduct 3rd Reading by title only, Linnet seconds. Motion passed with roll call vote. Linnet yes. Martinez, yes. Husbands, yes. Thea, yes.

Burke conducts 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 1257, by title only. Burke thanks Simms to help with keeping us safe.

Motion to adjourn Martinez moves, seconded by Thea, motion passed unanimously.

HAILEY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 30, 2020