



# CITY OF UCON NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2017

Email: [cityofucon@gmail.com](mailto:cityofucon@gmail.com)

### City Council Highlights – January 11, 2017

Attendance: Mayor David Blain, Councilmembers Nadine Ball, Craig Sturman, John Brasier, John Holst and one citizen.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS—VACATION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS -OF-WAY GALAXY ESTATES DIVISION #2—**Mayor Blain opened the public hearing at 7:42 P.M. John Bagley stated that he is in favor of the streets being vacated. He said that he would have two more buildings built if he hadn't run into this issue. He anticipates much more development on the lots in the near future. Mayor Blain closed the public hearing at 7:49 P.M. **PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 176 VACATING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY GALAXY ESTATES DIVISION #2 –** the public hearing was opened at 7:50 P.M. No comments were received for or against the approval of the ordinance. Public hearing closed at 7:51 P.M. **ORDINANCE 176 – VACATING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY GALAXY ESTATES DIVISION #2-** Mayor Blain stated that the council had already approved the revised Galaxy Estates plat on March 9, 2016, but that in order for the plat to be accepted, the public rights-of-way (streets) must be given back to the owner. The council approved the ordinance.

**STATE OF THE CITY –** Mayor Blain stated that he is pleased to announce city is in good financial condition with a six month savings in the general fund, nine months in the water fund and 14 months in the sewer fund. The auditors will tell us we have to factor in other things such as depreciation. We are continuing with the conservative plan of staying out of debt and acquiring new equipment as the budget allows. We have been finding excess equipment on federal websites at little or no cost to the city. The sewer system, although it has the most in savings, would be most expensive to upgrade or repair. It sounds like the funds have a lot of money in them but they also have a lot of responsibility. The sewer agreement with Idaho Falls is critical for us to have a place to send sewer and they agree to process it. We have acquired many pieces of equipment from federal excess over the last few years. The fire department has donated countless hours to make the equipment fit their needs. We must not overlook the fact that although we get the equipment at no cost, we still have a cost to get it here and a cost of getting it up and running. We need to aware of costs as we acquire excess equipment. We experienced two major losses to fire in the city: Eagle Rock Fur and Snake River Potato. City tax revenue will decrease due to decrease in assessed value. The water and sewer funds will also see a decrease of about \$7,000/year each. The company has arranged to work night shifts at

other potato warehouses to keep their employees working. He hopes that they choose to rebuild here. Our fire department is well trained and they do a very good job. He asked them to take a step back and analyze this past year and determine if there are things that could be done better. We can all learn and improve in the process. He is proud of the city and it's accomplishments we have made. Let's make 2017 even better.

**FY16 AUDIT REPORT – SEARLE HART & ASSOCIATES –** Farrell Steiner presented the audit report for fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. He stated that the city is doing very well financially and that there are no issues to report. **FIRE REPORT-**Chief Scott Norman reported that there was a fire at Snake River Potato at 1 AM the day after Christmas. Someone driving down Highway 20 called it in. Ammon and Central Fire sent personnel and equipment. At one point, there were a total of eight trucks, three tenders and 48 firemen. The cold, snowy weather worked against their efforts. Several citizens helped as well. Unfortunately the building was lost. They kept personnel on scene until 9 PM the next night watching for hot spots. He requested and received approval for \$141 reimbursement for breakfast for firefighters, The department responded to a chimney fire in Ucon and assisted Ammon with a shop fire. He stated that the city received \$25,000 from Idaho Department of Lands for Ucon Fire's work on the Henry's Creek fire. He estimates \$10,000 in expenses for fuel and payroll. He will get more information for the eight tires for the tender and present quotes at ne next meeting. He requested and received approval for \$500 for carpet and trim for the training room and \$1,000 for lights, hose piping and pump connections for the HEMTT.

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN UCON FIRE & IDAHO FALLS FIRE –** Chief Norman stated that he has been working with the Idaho Falls Fire for years to get an agreement in place. If we call, they'll come if they have resources available and if they call we'll respond if we have resources available. No payment is expected from either department. Chief Norman stated that Idaho Falls Fire would like to have the agreement signed to present at their meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Blain stated that the agreement had been reviewed by our attorney and he

### City Meeting Schedule

- **City Council:** 2nd Wed, 7:30 PM.
- **Planning & Zoning:** Last Thurs, 7:00 PM.
- **Landscape & Recreation:** 1st Thurs, 5:30 PM.

suggested a few minor changes. He stated that the council may approve the agreement with the attorney's changes incorporated. The council approved the agreement with the attorney's changes incorporated. Chief Walker stated that many fires are due to housekeeping issues and urged the council to consider the appointment of a fire marshal that can enforce codes and put in place codes that require the premises to be kept in a clean and orderly fashion according to fire code. Mayor Blain stated that Bonneville County walks through his building every six months mostly to become familiar with the building layout, but also to make sure there are no code violations. Mayor Blain asked Chief Norman to get some sample ordinances from surrounding cities present them to the council at next month's meeting.

**POLICE REPORT** – Chief Walker reported 360 patrol hours, 9 hours investigation/court, 3 call outs, 15 hours online training, 2 arrests/warrants, 15 traffic stops, 7 traffic citations, 12 complaints responded to, 2 special events attended, 3 special patrols (2 vacation watch), 4 county assists, 14 hours other/maintenance/roads. He stated that the eclipse in the area on August 21<sup>st</sup> is anticipated to bring 75,000 visitors to the area. The state of Idaho has offered additional funds for extra patrol and will hold additional meetings planned to discuss the issue. He urged the council to be aware that more patrol may be necessary. He stated that Emergency Management would like to know if Ucon would store an 18 foot trailer for them. Mayor Blain declined because we don't yet have a fenced compound. He requested and received approval for \$250 for new uniform patches. Chief Walker stated that they are working with Madison County on an agreement for range use. Officer Fullmer participated in Shop With a Cop.

**TRPTA Park & Ride** – Mayor Blain stated that, although he has a meeting with TRPTA coming up, he doesn't anticipate much progress on the funding. This project has been in the works for over five years and very little progress. The council voted to cancel the agreement with TRPTA and finish the project ourselves.

**WATER & SEWER SYSTEM REPORT** – Daniel Morgan reported that there have been a few freeze ups due to the cold. Booster one at Well #1 is running great after repairs. Snow cleaning is going well and he's finishing the plow on the small plow truck. Lights have been installed and cutting edges replaced on the grader. Three flat tires on the blade; two due to operator error and one just went flat. Tightening wires fixed the alarm problems at Hitt Road. He's going to build four 4' x 8' boxes to fill with snow so we might be able to have a snow sculpture contest. John Brasier stated Rocky Mountain Power had increased rates 3.6% and the water/sewer rates will need to be reevaluated during budget preparation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The council conducted an executive session in accordance with Idaho Code 74-206(1) (b) to discuss employee evaluations.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:02 A.M.**

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### **DOG LICENSES:**

Your annual fee for dog license renewal was added to your January bill. Please notify the City Clerk of any changes to the dogs listed on your account.

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### **Fire Department Safety Message**

Please remember to have your chimneys cleaned & inspected this winter.

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### **EASTER EGG HUNT 2017**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED**

If you have some spare time and would like to stuff eggs, call on sponsors or help in any other way, please give us a call. Help make this year a HUGE success for all the kids. If you would like to donate, please send it in and mark it "Easter Donation".

Thank you!

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### **Water System**

Prevent water freeze ups during this cold weather.....if your water has frozen in the past, remember to leave a thin stream of water running when the temperature is below zero for extended periods.

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### **Are you ready for winter driving???**

- Increase following distance
  - Have an emergency kit in vehicle
  - Headlights on to increase visibility
  - Leave plenty of time to get to your destination
  - Clean off windshield & side windows
  - ALWAYS wear your seat belt
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### **SNOW PLOWING**

Plows please move all vehicles, trailers, etc. off street rights-of-way. Please don't plow snow out into the streets as it creates a hazard for other drivers. Remember snow plows have the right of way and the city assumes no responsibility for damage to property when parked next to the street.