

HOMEDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Homedale City Hall
31 W. Wyoming Street

August 22, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting Minutes

Presiding: Council President Dave Downum (Mayor Fink; absent)

Council Present: Dave Downum, Tim Downing, Aaron Tines, Steve Atkins

Guests: See attached

Staff Attending: Alice E. Pegram, Larry Bauer

INTERVIEWING OF POSSIBLE CITY ENGINEERS:

Riedesel Engineering: The Council interviewed Riedesel first. Marty Gergen, Don Acheson, Andrew Kimmel and Marvin Kerbs were present to represent Riedesel. Marty spoke of the experiences of each member of their team. Councilman Downing asked what cities Riedesel represented as city engineers: Marty said Castleford and Challis, but they do a lot of work with and for cities and counties. He said they have added Andrew so as to bolster their water and wastewater side. Marv spoke about their construction/ roadway experience. Councilman Downing asked about their billing system and how with the previous city engineer we had a rocky relationship. He said communication seemed to be a big part of the problem. He felt the engineering firm should talk with the Mayor and Council; not just the department head. Andrew said while he was at the previous engineering firm he had done some pro-bono work for Larry on a possible street project.

Councilman Downing said his major concern was the city Council should have been brought into the picture. Andrew said he had discussed this with Paul Fink and had been given the go ahead.

Marty said Riedesel does not do business like PEC; he said they feel communication with the staff, Mayor and Council is imperative. Marv said their references would testify to the fact they do not bill out what is not authorized prior to the job and change orders would be pre-approved.

Harold Wilson asked to speak: He stated he was the former mayor and Andrew's former boss had accused him of shredding bills. He said it was in big print and that the clerk kinda went along with it. Then later it was a small deal and he reneges and saying he did not shred bills. He added why would he shred bills? Councilman Downum stated they need to stick to the meeting; they are interviewing for City Engineer.

Harold told Councilman Downum they were talking about bills and this went along with it; then he added Dave should have opened the meeting when he came back in.

Councilman Downum told him this was a different meeting and that he did open the meeting.

Councilman Atkins said he liked their letters of recommendation and they are well diversified.

Marty said they use accounting software for engineers and project management. He added they do a number of Federal Aid projects and they are audited yearly. Councilman asked who enters the engineer's time and how is it billed out. Marty said first they get together with the Council and decide scope of work and come up with a fee; they then enter that into the system and when anyone works on that project they enter their time. He said they then bill out monthly. The project can be billed out time and material or lump sum. He said if it was time and material we would receive a printout of who, what and how much time was done. Marv said he likes to sit down with a Councilman and review the bill. He added they would need approval from the Council prior to making additions or changes to a project. Councilman Tines said it was imperative that be done. Councilman Atkins said they were just a bit gun shy. Marty added for the Council to check their references and get other cities opinions on how they communicate and bill out projects. Andrew said a big difference he has seen with Riedesel vs. other firms is Riedesel takes pride in what they do for cities and they feel it is a personal investment.

Pharmer Engineering: Jeremy Aulbach (wastewater needs) and Russell Brooks (civil transportation) talked to the Council for Pharmer Engineering Firm. Jeremy said they were glad to be in the community. He said they have worked for several small cities and the municipal side is their bread and butter. He added they have also done a lot of work for con agra and simplots. (see attached pamphlet) He said they have experience in applying for grants, transportation, water, storm water, development review and they know the federal and state regulators well.

Jeremy asked the Council if they had any questions and he said he would like to know about short term goals the city has.

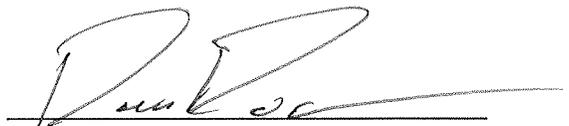
Councilman Downum said a 3rd street project and the access coming into town. (Kings Property)

Larry said possibly some sewer help.

Councilman Downing started by saying he had checked their references and they were excellent.

Councilman Tines asked them about their billing systems; Russell said first a price is arrived at; time and materials; he said he then keeps track of his time and sends a personal letter when the bills go out. Councilman Tines said he and the Council felt it was important to have an accurate accounting. Russell said their bills are itemized; but sometimes it appears generic and that is why he includes a personal letter with the bill. Jeremy said if they have given us a price and there is a not to exceed price on the project; they will not go over that without coming back to the city to request more money. Russell said they also don't charge for phone calls; they do charge for copies, mileage and time and materials. Jeremy said they are both from Idaho; local guys. The Council thanked them for coming out.

Councilman Downum adjourned the meeting.


Dave Downum, Council President

Attest: 
Alice E. Pegram, City Clerk