

City of Glenns Ferry City Council Meeting January 23, 2024

The regular City Council meeting of the City of Glenns Ferry for 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, by Mayor Billy Galloska.

Members Present: Linda Pattison, Vicki Fike, Harvey Senecal, Kurtis Workman, Darrald Bean, Cheryl Rose, Terrie Trail

Staff Present: Teresa Parsons, Jackie Shenk, Jon Ficken

Online: Christy Accord

From your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/389191373>
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Item 1. OPEN MEETING/ROLL CALL:

 X Susan Case X Steve Alderman X David Payne X Jordan Thomas
 X Mayor Billy Galloska

*** Councilman David Payne online via GoToMeeting and Mayor Billy Galloska call via phone***

Item 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Item 3. MOTION TO: [ACTION ITEM] Any Changes to the Agenda/Adopt the Agenda:

Thomas: So moved.

Alderman: Second.

Councilwoman Case: All in favor, all – ayes.

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Please Sign in to Speak: For information purposes only on items not placed on the agenda. No action or decision can be made on public comments. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

Cheryl Rose: Four of us are here representing the United Methodist Church to which Bruce and Kathy Tipton belong and we are just here to show support for them. We're not sure if anything can be done but if it can so be it. If anything can be done to help them because these people have invested every cent they have. Just a support group.

Item 5. MOTION TO: [ACTION ITEM] Consent Agenda.

A. City Council Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024.

B. Accounts Payables for January 2024.

C. Library Board Meeting Minutes December 2024. (should read December 2023).

Alderman: I make a motion.

Thomas: Second.

Councilwoman Case: All in favor, all – ayes.

Item 6. ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Item 7. DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM] Darrald Bean, RHU, REBC. The 2024 Health Benefits Renewal.

Darrald Bean: I'm your insurance agent and we're going to discuss your Blue Health Plan for the city that renews March 1st. The Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010 and in effect in 2014. All groups not grandfathered or self-insured have to comply with the Affordable Care guidelines or move to a new compliant plan. If you have not made any changes to your plan since that time you can become a grandfathered plan which you were. And if you have a grandfathered health plan you can keep your plan

if you like it, but you can never change it. Our plan has been enforced that long with no changes. Because grandfathered plans do not have to comply with the provisions and requirements of the Affordable Care Act. These plans were expected to be more cost effective than the ACA, which is certainly proven to be true, the city plan is a grandfathered health plan. Grandfathered health plans did have to make some changes to keep in compliance so, example, there are no more preexisting conditions, waiting periods can't be more than 60 days, and a number of other provisions that are exactly the same as the ACA, but we don't comply with all of their requirements, but we do have to meet essential benefits definitions. The ACA plans by designed shift a larger portions of the costs every year to the employee by automatically ranking up deductibles, out of pocket limits, and drug plans. The only way we've ever found to reduce premiums in a grandfathered plan because you can't make any changes to the funding, or the design would be to move to other plans. Every year we do look at other plans to compare those costs and benefits. First quarter 2024, my renewal group increases. I've seen a range from 11.6% to 14.1%. The city renewal is at 11.6 right at the low end of any of the renewable I've seen. Last year 2023 trend was 12.7%, the city had a renewal last year was at 6.1%, unheard of and they said it was because we had an extremely low unexpected loss ratio/claims ratio. Lower than expected, This year our rates went up for exactly the same reason, but our rates went down cause our claims experience went up again. Although we're still at the lower end of the range I've seen. It's a 11.6% rate increase which is pretty good but it's still 11.6%. That's when we look at the costs and decide whether we want to remain grandfathered or we need to look at other plans. I have quotes for other options. Next page shows the premium and benefit plan is currently which is something you kind of got to forget because effective March 1st is going to be the renewal rates. The plans by law are exactly the same as they were last year. Our benefits don't change but again that's still a 11.6 rate increase. Gold 900 Choice so we compare that to the plan you have now that's a bit lower deductible, but the big difference in that plan is it goes to a \$9450 out of pocket limit. Almost and \$8000 increase. It has a drug plan that has a separate deductible and there is some premium savings there, we just about cover the rate increase for this year. To my way of thinking that's just a wash, there'd be no reason to do that. That's not really saving any money, you'd be paying the same rate you are now but would be some savings. Next option is a 2000 plan that's a \$2000 deductible with a \$7500 out of pocket, our current out of pocket is \$1500. All the plans that are quoted have a drug deductible which we don't have under the grandfathered health plan. As well as all of the new drug plans include the deductible and the change is we're on the old-style plan where our prescription drugs have set copays. The new plans all have similar copays but if you take a tier 3, 4, or 5 drug then you have to meet the deductible then it goes in to a \$60 copay and 30% or 50% coinsurance if you take some of the real spendy drug. The only way to keep the benefit there would be to stay on the grandfathered health plan. There is some savings but the out of pocket is going to go up \$6000 from where it is, and I have 3 different 2000 plan. The first one is a PPO plan. An increase of \$1000 deductible and \$6000 on the out-of-pocket limit. It's practically the same plan but it's a point plan. Point of Service Plan is what would be a CCO, a coordinated care of management plan. We're on a PPO right now which means you could pretty much go to any doctor you want, any hospital you want. Referrals are not required; you're not required to have a PCP. Which is important when you're a little more rural. This plan is the same \$2000 deductible, \$7500 out of pocket, same drug plan and it saves \$106 over the previous plan with all those restrictions. The next one is the St. Al's Health Alliance. It's the same plan, it does save \$789, but you have to go to St. Al's providers, hospitals, you have to have a network PCP, and referrals are all network. You're making some benefit changes in order to try to save some premium. Independent Doctors of Idaho, the same plan, but it has a little larger hospital network, you get out of Boise, Twin Falls, you have a hard time getting an IDID participating doctor, so it comes back to the PPO giving you the choice of what hospital and doctors you want to see. I always quote more plans I think you'd be interested in. The next one is basically the same type plan but it's with a \$3000 deductible and it still has a \$4700 additional out of pocket of \$6200. Saves a little bit more. HSA, health savings account is a \$3700

deductible the plan basically pays nothing until you pay your deductible. There's no doctor copays, once you hit the \$3700 that is your worst case for the year. You can start getting drugs, the only drugs that are covered are some preventive drugs until you hit your \$3700 and that one saves the most money in premium. Grandfathered health plans you can keep it as long as you want it, you just can't make any changes to it. Looking at the rates and those comparisons in the substantial reduction in benefits of employees my recommendation subject to budget which I don't have access to, would be to renew as is. If you feel a change needs to be made, then option 2 does save money, but it is a change to the Affordable Care Act and the PPO plan includes nearly all hospitals and providers which is very important versus any of the managed care or coordinated plans I quoted. We don't need a decision tonight or you can certainly make one if you're in a position to do that.

Just to throw out discussion, I'm HR so I'm familiar with all these renewal plans and I firmly believe we need to stick with the plan we already have for numerous reasons. One is the city is only covering the employee where a lot of employers are covering families. These out-of-pocket expenses that's what you normally see for a family not for one person. Those are exorbitant, I don't know how an employee could even do that. To retain employees, you need a good plan. This one if somebody wants to go to Misty instead of somebody else this affords them option to what they are comfortable. They get to pick their doctor. That's a very personal decision, who you're comfortable with. In my opinion it's best to stick with the plan we're on now.

Alderman: You said there's an \$8000 increase and a max out of pocket per individual this renewal?

Bean: Per individual, yeah. That's the way the Affordable Care Act was designed. Every year it changes on a ration of percentage and that's why the Affordable Care Act keeps changing every year. I was involved in an exercise this year where we actually had to figure it out to come up with a plan for the new year. I mean really who can afford \$9700 out of pocket. A hip replacement is \$41000 it's so easy to hit that out-of-pocket limit with a major claim.

Alderman: We have the Gold 900 Choice?

Bean: No, you don't. There's the current rates and the new plan. The new rates are exactly the same benefits so, right now that's the \$1500 out of pocket instead of the \$9700 out of pocket.

Alderman: I agree with you then Susan.

Thomas: I make a motion to keep with our current plan as presented.

Alderman: I'll second it.

Councilwoman Case: All in favor, all – ayes.

- Item 8. DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM] Executive Session Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 1(a). To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general (ROLL CALL VOTE)**

Case: I motion to go into executive session (read from above).

Alderman: I'll second.

Councilwoman Case: Roll Call Vote.

Parsons: Councilwoman Case – aye, Councilman Thomas – aye,
Councilman Alderman – aye, Councilman Payne – aye.

- Item 9. Executive Session: Time Start: 7:23pm Time End: 8:05pm**

- Item 10. DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM] Authorize Mayor and City Attorney to take legal action discussed in executive session. (ROLL CALL VOTE)**

N/A

- Item 11. DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM] Executive Session Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 1(f). To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal**

options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Case: I motion to go into executive session (read from above).

Alderman: I'll second.

Councilwoman Case: Roll Call Vote.

Parsons: Councilwoman Case – aye, Councilman Thomas – aye,
Councilman Alderman – aye, Councilman Payne – aye.

Item 12. **Executive Session: Time Start: 7:23pm Time End: 8:05pm**

Item 13. **DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM] Authorize Mayor and City Attorney to take legal action discussed in executive session. (ROLL CALL VOTE)**

N/A

Item 14. **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT: DISCUSSION/MOTION: [ACTION ITEM]**

- A. Sheriff Office: Sheriff Hollinshead: Absent.
- B. Fire Chief: Derik Janousek: Absent.
- C. City Engineer: Keller Associates, Inc: Donn Carnahan, PE: Absent.
- D. Public Works Director: Jon Ficken:

Ficken: I just wanted to give you all an update because we had a crazy last two weeks. The day that we spoke councilwoman, we were able to get with the mayor and we did an emergency run, we found a plow a truck and a plow and we brought it back that day and started using it that night. Yes, I made the comment last meeting that because it's not a high usage you know there wasn't a lot of priority put on all the equipment that we had I'm trying to change that, and you guys will be hearing from me on a lot of that stuff. I got called a lot of foul names by a lot of citizens over the last week mostly about out sand truck and things to that nature. Are sand truck is a 1969 truck that is obsolete, it doesn't even run. When it was running it had half of the steering wheel missing, it had half of the gas pedal missing, one of the doors doesn't stay shut. There's always a comment of, why is there two people driving it because the pto is on one side and the steering wheel is on the other side and somebody has to hold the door shut so it doesn't fly open when they're driving it. That piece of equipment needs to be permanently disposed of. We were able to get the plow truck over that long weekend, which was Martin Luther King, those days every employee of mine put in over 40 hours between that Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We were out there every single day with every piece of equipment we had. Whether it was the backhoe, our little John Dear, the truck we were able to purchase. The truck with the plow on it was about the price of the plow. I told the mayor I stand firm on this. We bought a \$1200 plow and a \$600 truck. In the future I will be bending your guys' ear pretty hard, so we don't get caught like that again. I know the concern is back on to when the snow is going to melt. We did bring in a lot of sandbags and 2 truckloads of sand along Bannock.

Case: As Public Works Direct are you kind of what I would call a safety officer? Does the city have a safety person that looks out for workman comp issues?

Ficken: Safety within the roles of my department, yes. Outside plant, not necessarily in the office. When it comes to public works, the water....

Case: Like holding the door shut while you drive kind of thing?

Ficken: Yeah.

Case: That strikes up a safety issue.

Ficken: I'm not condoning it, but I know it was a necessity at the time and I'm not going to work that way going forward. I'm not trying to spend money we don't have. My saying is I can't expect my guys to do the proper job if I don't supply them with the proper equipment.

E. Clerk/Treasurer: Teresa Parsons: N/A

F. Economic Development: Christy Acord:

Acord: I had a meeting today with the Elmore County Health Coalition and we reviewed and prioritized things with our rough draft with Elmore County Health Coalition. Get help with the Idaho Open Space and

Trails Action Plan. We were able to prioritize projects within Elmore County that identified trails, trail heads, boat docks and ramps, etc. that need to be updated and for 13 projects Glenns Ferry's Heritage Pathway is #3 on the list. Then there's some other things within and around Glenns Ferry that we are addressing. There was a conversation earlier about connecting trails and those kind of things within the county and that is a part of the Open Space and Trails Action Plan.

Thomas: *On the Heritage Trails is that going to make their deadlines for their grants?*

Acord: *Yes. The mayor can speak to that because he's the one who has been working on it. I put together some letters of support and there's some other things. But the mayor is working on that project and getting that grant put in by the end of this week.*

Mayor Galloska: *We believe we'll have that completed and that grant turned in 2 days prior to the deadline. Yes we will hit the deadline.*

Acord: *I am in need of help from the city council and anyone else who is sitting in the room who owns businesses or any kinds of services that are affected with travel in and around the City of Glenns Ferry. I'm looking for letters of support for our project moving forward for a multi-jurisdictional transportation plan for Glenns Ferry and the area surrounding Glenns Ferry. Anyone who has any kind of business or agricultural livestock production you name it, anyone that has trouble traveling around Glenns Ferry I would appreciate a letter of support.*

Case: *What about the bus superintendent, buses drive all over the place would that be good?*

Acord: *Yes.*

Thomas: *Would this be putting together like routes for farm equipment to get from the south to west of town.*

Acord: *Yes the plan is going to identify areas that we have big problems with that we need to address as we travel in and around Glenns Ferry with freight, livestock, agricultural equipment, RV's and try to find some solutions to our problems.*

Case: *Just within city limits?*

Acord: *No. There's a larger target area than just the City of Glenns Ferry.*

G. Librarian: Nicole Askew: Absent.

H. Animal Control/Code Enforcement: Jackie Shenk:

Shenk: *I've had 9 dogs in the shelter, 1 was adopted out, 6 made it back home, 2 dogs at large, 4 missing dogs, and 3 welfare checks.*

Alderman: *When you say welfare checks is that on animals?*

Shenk: *Yes. Any of them tied up outside and the weather stuff like that.*

I. Building Inspector: Kent Knab: Absent.

J. Cemetery Committee: Kurtis Workman: N/A

K. Airport Site Manager: Brian Reid: Absent.

L. Historical Museum: Donna Carnahan: Absent.

M. Planning & Zoning: Jennifer Baker: Absent.

Item 15. MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Payne: *N/A*

Alderman: *I've been approached by the King Hill Water Irrigation Manager that they are redoing their complete King Hill water system from King Hill through Hammet which I guess is going to put King Hill Irrigation in a pipe and pressurize Glenns Ferry's irrigation system which is going to blow up Glenns Ferry's irrigation system. So, we need to discuss our infrastructure or either get it going or King Hill is going to bypass us.*

Case: *They can't adjust it at the head gate then.*

Alderman: He said that with the pressure they're going to get it will just destroy everything in town. I don't know if he's willing to help us work on the stuff with the grants, but he did approach me and filled me in on that. I told him to come speak and fill us in on this, but he didn't show up, so I'll have him come in again.

Case: Is this by the spring when they turn the water back on?

Alderman: There's no way they're going to get it, it's 2 years. That's something we need to move forward with as a city and the council to try to get that figured out. Thank you Jackie for showing up, Kurtis and Jon. I would like to see these other people show up at least once a month and give us an update of what's going on. The rest of the people that the city pays. The fire chief, the sheriff that gets 3%.... I think it should be mandatory that they show up and tell us what's going on cause they're doing stuff and I want to know what's going on. Also, I've been attacked by a few citizens in town. Once of them was Bobbie Crone and that's open meeting laws I have to mention their name.

Schroeder: You don't have to if you don't want to.

Alderman: And then another one about their water bills and they're concerned that the city charges them for what they possibly could use and not what they actually do use. It all stems down from how big the line is coming to their property, if it's a 1", 2", $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The city bills them for the line that comes into their place instead of actual water that they use. It'd be like us going to the gas station and saying you have a 30-gallon gas tank and they're going to charge you for 30 gallons, even though you're only putting 10 in. It just doesn't seem fair to these people and that's their concern is that maybe we look at it and just charge them for what they're actually using. That's something I'd like to discuss in the future.

Case: Is that something you can put on the agenda mayor?

Mayor Galloska: That is actually something Donn and Geoff have been looking into. There's some problems that Geoff can speak to that.

Schroeder: The city needs to direct the engineer to and I thought he had done this already a water rate study and change that rate chart.

Case: Cause we talked about this it seems about 6-8 months ago.

Mayor Galloska: We have a water rate study being done to be given to Donn, but I don't believe the last time I checked, probably about a month ago, they had not completed it yet but were looking forward to completing it. I know that they had called and asked some questions and were getting some final details to get that rate study done and once that's done we can look at what is being done, what should be being done and make the corrections as we are supposed to.

Schroeder: As a result to that the rate study should have some recommendations and councilman Alderman if you could get with the mayor there's a white board in there that goes through how the rates need to be structured and then the flaws in that in that size versus minimum chart is the goal of that water rate study.

Ficken: I've been in water for a very long time. You know everything is based on a tiered system so it's not only a matter of what they use and what they don't use because you have to keep that structure, you have to quantify it. It's usually in a tiered step like 0 to this, 1000-2000, 3000-4000. In the place where I used to live we had the same scenario. We had what your base rate was to just have you hook up to your house which there was like \$32.50 a month and then you got charged like \$7 for like 1-1000 gallons and then like \$14 and stepped it up that way. I think that helped my customers understand what that tiered system was. Because again we had folks who only used 100 gallons a month and they were getting charged the same if I used 1000. But it was because it was the same tier.

Alderman: One of the people that got ahold of me has 3 bathrooms in one of their houses and they get charged \$200 and something a flat fee a month. I have 5 bathrooms in one of my houses and I get charged \$62 a month. It's because of the size of the pipe that goes to that meter.

Schroeder: To get a little bit into that there's a base rate that you have to pay just for the connection and that's where that size differential comes in, so they owe because they have the ability to have more connections. Cause it's not fresh in my mind, the white board in there the mayor can show you.

Case: Mayor will you give us a status update by next meeting on the water rate study.

Mayor Galloska: Absolutely.

Thomas: I've been approached by people since the snowstorm, some have been appreciative that you guys were able to do what you were able to do. I did travel to Boise the same time we had this storm, and I would like to say our streets didn't look any different than the streets in Boise. I think you did great with what you had to deal with. I've also been approached about Garfield, the 2 cuts that had been made across the road and concerned citizens saying that those are turning into potholes. If not now very shortly with the freeze thaw and the moisture that been dumped in them, and they'd like to see something happen or a plan to make those come up to snuff. Knowing that it's not going to be a perfect fix but an improvement on what's happened with the settling with those cuts.

Case: N/A

Mayor Galloska: N/A

Item 16. ADJOURN: 8:26pm

Minutes submitted by: Kristian McFarland

Date: 01/25/2024

Approved by the City Council:

Date: 02/13/2024

William L. Galloska - Mayor

Attest: _____
Teresa Parsons - Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED