

CITY of ROBERTS
January 14, 2025
City Council Meeting

The Roberts City Council met for a hearing at the regular place of meeting, after having been notified of said meeting of said council.

Robert (BJ) Berlin.....	Mayor	Ron Grant.....	Maintenance
Edidt Sanchez.....	Council	Julie Garcia.....	Library Director (Absent)
Ben Poston.....	Council	Jed Bigelow.....	City Attorney (Absent)
James Zillinger.....	Council	Robert Loftus.....	Certified Water Operator (Absent)
Shauna Lounsbury.....	Council	Gregg Rodrick.....	Certified WW Operator (Absent)
April Galbraith.....	Clerk/Treasurer	Steve Anderson.....	Jefferson County Sheriff (Absent)

Also present: Corporal Stewart with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jaden Jackson with Keller Associates, Rick Miller and Siona Johnson with Altura, Karol Poston, Ursula Benkenstein, Connie Surereus, Gale Scrivner, Vernon Ulrich and Milton Ollerton with Jefferson County Planning and Zoning.

Mayor Berlin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Shauna gave the opening prayer.

Mayor Berlin led the Pledge of Allegiance

Vote to Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2024 & Special Meeting minutes for December 16, 2024:

Mayor Berlin asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes for the City Council Meeting on December 10, 2024 and Special Meeting on December 16, 2024, in the council's packets.

With no questions, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the City Council Meeting on December 10, 2024 and Special Meeting minutes for December 16, 2024.

Edidt made the motion approve the council meeting and hearing minutes for the December 10, 2024 and Special Meeting minutes for December 16, 2024, seconded by Shauna, all ayes.

Sheriff's Report: Corporal Stewart gave two reports. For 11/09/2024 thru 12/06/24, 82 hrs, 13 complaints, 2 arrest, 1 DUI, 3 citation, and 9 traffic contacts. For 12/07/24 to 01/03/2025 78 hrs, 18 complaints, 1 arrest, 0 DUI, 1 citation, and 0 traffic contacts.

Mayor Berlin and Council thanked the Sheriff's and his staff for their continued service.

State of the City Address: Mayor Berlin gave the State of The City 2025:

"Roberts has had a very busy year. Many challenges and accomplishments have taken place, with Roberts continuing to move ahead. We continue to pursue grants and funding opportunities in all areas of need and march ahead when we receive those funds. The continuing complexities of regulation, reporting, and other state and federal requirements are an increasing burden.

The City was awarded several grants over the last year or two, and after much administrative red tape, we expect these projects to progress this year. One project that has begun and should be completed by early summer is the

bathrooms at Mustang Park. The building is in place, paving and lighting are complete. We are still working out plumbing issues in the building. The sports court will be paved and set and landscaping will be completed by spring. If we can get the plumbing issues resolved, the bathrooms could be open at any time.

Ron and Rick have done a great job keeping our parks and streets in good shape. Rick and I climbed the water tower to repaint the Roberts sign. We had a scuba diving team come to begin removing residual sand from the water storage tank. Work continues to maintain and improve the city's water and sewer infrastructure.

Our contract with Mountain West Environmental increased in cost, significantly, making rate increases necessary. Mountain West continues to work with Ron to keep our systems effective.

Significant projects will begin this year. Our wastewater collection system project will occur mostly through the winter. This project includes replacing the old lift station, main sewer trunk line and some other lines as well as upgrading some pumps and technology. The cost of this project is over two (2) million dollars. Due to the work of myself, staff, and consultants, most of this will be paid for by grants.

This spring or summer, we should begin phase two (2) of our child pedestrian path project. This will be the continuation of sidewalk to the south of 2858 East. This is paid for by a LHTAC (Local Highway Technical Assistance Council) grant.

A significant project to eliminate iron, manganese, and sand from our water system should also begin this year. This project cost is over four (4) million dollars and will be covered by mostly by grants.

The city was gifted the Roberts Community Center on January 1st. I feel keeping this facility available to our community will be a great asset for all.

Roberts Elementary School got their new gym completed and it too will be a great asset for our community.

Our great little library continues to be a bright and valuable space for our community. Julie continues to innovate and locate grants to make improvements.

We continue to look ahead to address seen and unseen needs. Growth in our community is inevitable. We must plan and prepare for it. Our goal is to keep our small-town vibe, while managing growth. It is important to recognize growth outside of our city limits has consequences inside our boundaries as well. We must be vigilant to affect this process in order to keep the desired qualities of our community. Sometimes hard decisions have to be made, often ones that seem counter intuitive or even unpleasant.

When I first ran for the office of Mayor, over 13 years ago, I had a very simple platform. First, everyone in our community would be treated equally, regardless of race, creed, or economic position. Second, Roberts would take care of Roberts, and decisions would be made to benefit those who live in and pay for Roberts. I vowed to keep outsiders from influencing our decisions.

Over these past thirteen years, the realization of how much outside influence and regulation there is, and my efforts to shield us from them continue to grow. Attempts to add regulations, requirements, and fees from outside agencies are relentless, and when I can, I push them away. I will continue, to the best of my ability, to keep Roberts, Roberts!

We will continue to improve what we have, and look to mitigate growing pains as best we can. We look forward to a busy and challenging year. Thank you to our great staff, the city council, and all of our patrons. God Bless our great little town of Roberts, Idaho!"

Presentation and Discussion regarding Contracting with from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning: Milton Ollerton and Vernon Ulrich from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning presented the council with proposed contracts that would allow the County P&Z to administrate over building permits, collect fees with the city receiving 30% of the fees, completing building inspections, and possibly collecting impact fees for the Roberts Fire District. Discussion, regarding safe construction, current inspection requirements within city limits, and fee differences between the city and county, took place.

Discussion and Vote to Gift Surplus Fire Truck to Roberts Fire District:

Mayor Berlin recommends that the council gift the surplused fire truck to the Roberts Fire District to use for parts. Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to gift the fire truck to the Roberts Fire District.

James made a motion to gift the fire truck to the Roberts Fire District, seconded by Edidt.

Mayor Berlin called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk,

Benjamin Poston	abstained
Shauna Lounsbury	aye
Edidt Sanchez	aye
James Zillinger	aye

Update on Roberts Community Center: Mayor Berlin said that the city had taken possession of the building as of January 1, 2025. Himself, Rick, and Ron have done some initial cleaning out and assessing the building. The council was provided a proposed rental agreement for the center in their packet for their review. Altura is going to be helping the city apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$245,000. The application is due by March 14, 2025. Rick Miller and Soina Johnson spoke for Altura explaining the grant requirements. Discussion regarding the city’s priority list for improvements is as follows: HVAC (heating and air conditioning), energy efficiency (lighting, windows), ADA accessibility, bathrooms, exterior (paint, paving, sidewalks), keyless entry, appliances. Altura will meet with the clerk for a tour of the building. Discussion about the kitchen in the RCC was had concerning safety, cleaning, and fees for kitchen use.

8:00pm: Edidt excused herself.

Update on Child Pedestrian Sidewalk Project Phase II: Jaden Jackson for Keller Associates said that the design was approved by LHTAC (Local Highway Technical Assistance Council). The invitation to bid will be published in the paper next week. Mayor Berlin said that LHTAC has changed the way the funding will be distributed for this grant due to the money being federal.

Update on Water Facility Planning Study/Emerging Contaminates: Jaden Jackson for Keller Associates that the study has been completed and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has sent a letter of technical approved. An environmental documentation will need to be done and a public comment period. The comment period will begin next Wednesday and a hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2025.

Vote on Water Facilities Improvement Project Design Contract for Keller & Associates: Jaden Jackson presented council with a contract for the Water Facilities Improvement Project. This contract includes structural design for buildings, equipment selection, pilot tests for medi-ans that will work best for Roberts’ water profile, equipment procurement (city will prepurchase equipment to allow timing). The contract total is for \$1,800,550.

Mayor Berlin recommends approving the contract and entertained a motion to approve the contract with Keller & Associates for the Water Facilities Improvement Project.

Ben made a motion to sign the contract for Keller Associates professional services, seconded by James.

Mayor Berlin called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk,

Benjamin Poston	aye
Shauna Lounsbury	aye
Edidt Sanchez	Absent
James Zillinger	aye

Update on Wastewater Project: Jaden Jackson said that Edstrum was supposed to begin mobilizing this week but they had a delay due to a piece of the lift station not being completed. They should start staging this week. A slide showing the lines was presented.

Update on Mustang Park Project: Jaden Jackson said there has been some trouble getting the that toilets at the new bathroom to work properly. He met with Mayor Berlin and Ron it was decided to have a plumbing contractor come look at the toilets tomorrow. The contractor, Mountain West Precast, and the city disagree on what they believe is the problem with the bathroom. A third-party plumbing contractor is being brought in to independently determine the issue and fixing the problem. Mayor Berlin said that the contractor has sent people but the problem was never resolved.

Maintenance Report: Ron said that the generators have been serviced. Cold patch has been ordered for early spring road maintenance. Backhoe has been serviced. Upkeep and organizing at the wastewater plant. Rocky Mountain Power has been out to fix street lights. PSI has replaced broken/damaged garbage cans. Snow removal has been light and ice removal around curbs. Rick has been clearing sidewalks. Fire extinguishers have been checked. A broken window at the library has an estimator coming.



Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & (b):

Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to convene in executive session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & (b) to discuss personnel matters.

Ben moved that in pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 convene in executive session to consider personnel matters Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) & (b),Shauna seconded, all ayes.

Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk,

Benjamin Poston	aye
Shauna Lounsbury	aye
Edidt Sanchez	Absent
James Zillinger	aye

Convene at 8:26 pm. Adjourn at: 8:57 pm.

Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to reconvene the regular council meeting.

James made a motion to reconvened the regular council meeting, seconded by Ben, all ayes.

Reconvened at 9:00p.m.

Review and Approve Bills: Mayor Berlin asked Council if they had reviewed the bills and if they had any question, comments, or concerns.

With none, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the bills.

Ben made the motion to approve the bills, seconded by James, all ayes.

Mayor Berlin called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk,

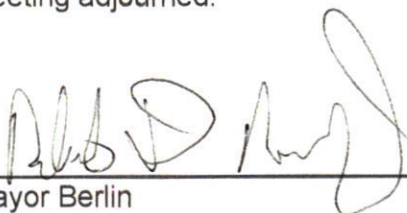
Benjamin Poston	aye
Shauna Lounsbury	aye
Edidt Sanchez	Absent
James Zillinger	aye

Motion Passes.

Adjourn: Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Shauna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ben, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned.



 Mayor Berlin



 City Clerk