

City of Roberts, Idaho

Office of the Mayor

Robert (B.J.) Berlin

April 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Roberts, Idaho has begun the long process of upgrading our wastewater collection system. Our existing infrastructure is at the end of its life expectancy and is need of upgrades and replacement.

The City recognizes the importance of upkeep and our stewardship to keep harmful contaminants contained and treated. We have been working with Keller Associates and have devised a plan for the much needed updates. The current estimated cost is \$2.5 million, however we anticipate increased cost due to current world supply and labor issues. At this time we have completed a project study with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

We have been pursuing funds for this project thru many different avenues and are requesting to be included in your STAG grant program. The potential funds from the STAG program could go a long way in ensuring that our patrons get the best possible services and as a City, we can avoid any emergency repairs that may occur if the funding cannot be secured before the upgrades and replacement of the aging system can be made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Berlin", written over a faint circular stamp.

Mayor Robert (B.J.) Berlin  
647 N 2872 E  
P.O. Box 242  
Roberts, ID 83444  
(208) 228-3220

Roberts Fire District

Chief Tom Kaiser

April 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Roberts is seeking funding to fix the deteriorating sewer lines. The Roberts Fire and EMS support this upgrade.

In the past, there have been multiple instances when the sewer has backed up into individual homes due to a failure in the City's main sewer line. This poses multiple health concerns for the community. The raw sewage can spread illness including E. Coli, Salmonella, Hepatitis, and Coronavirus.

The project includes replacing the sewer lines where the known problems are that cause the backups. We at the Roberts Fire District, fully support the city in eliminating these known health hazards from the community.

Thanks for you consideration,



Thomas Kaiser

CITY of ROBERTS  
September 8, 2020  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Robert (BJ) Berlin.....Mayor  
Connie Surerus.....Council  
Ben Poston.....Council  
Edidt Sanchez.....Council (conference call)  
Shauna Lounsbury.....Council (Absent)  
Gale Scrivner.....Clerk  
Rick Lamb.....Maintenance

Also present: Karol Poston, Karen Maritt, Ursula Benkenstein, Trent Sabo, Jaden Jackson and Marvin Fielding with Keller Associates, George Swanson and Jared Stowell with Fiber Com and Officer Tyler Mason with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Connie gave the opening prayer and Mayor Berlin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Berlin said that he received a call from Councilmen Lounsbury earlier today and her family is sick with the cold and thought it would be better for her to stay home. Mayor Berlin said that he came into the office and was informed Edidt would not be able to make the meeting. She has been exposed to Covid, unfortunately it is her little boy. Both are doing good and thoughts and prayers are with them. Edidt will join us via telephone. This fulfills our requirements for a quorum.

**Approve Council Minutes:** Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for Roberts City Council meeting for August 11, 2020. Mayor Berlin asked if there were any changes or corrections.

With no corrections, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Connie made the motion to approve the minutes for Roberts City Council on August 11, 2020 seconded by Ben, all ayes.

**Approve minutes for Public Hearing:** Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for Roberts Public Hearing meeting for August 11, 2020. Mayor Berlin asked if there were any changes or corrections.

With no corrections, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Ben made the motion to approve the minutes for Roberts Public Hearing on August 11, 2020 seconded by Connie, all ayes.

Fiber com would like to put together proposal for the City to look over with the options that they do have. They would like to bring in a proposal to next council meeting.

**Keller Associates- Waste water Study:** Jaden Jackson with Keller & Associates gave the council a copy of the report they put together in the findings from the study they recently did. The study shows the problem points and gives an over view of what condition the lines are in. They also showed a graph of the growth of the City.

Mayor Berlin said that the growth rate that Keller has given is too conservative over the next five to twenty years. With the growth that we are experiencing right now with the new homes, I feel this is higher than 1.03%. Maybe we could look at 2% to 5%, I think that this would be more accurate.

Marvin Fielding said that sometimes when you are looking for grants the reason that you want to be conservative on the growth so you will be eligible for grants. Whoever is giving the grants will not pay for you to add to your growth with a grant.

Jaden said that if the council would look at the last page, this is the estimated cost they have put together for improvements.

Jaden asked council to look over the study and make any changes they would like to see to give the engineers an idea of what needs to be changed. Jaden went through the rest of the study and explained more of the issues with what they did find. The City does have a few problem places and the City should try and reserve some money for the problem areas. They will be back in a month to go over changes that the council has put together and look at the next step for the project and what can be done.

**Set Work Meeting with Robin Dunn –Annexation:** Mayor Berlin said that the council needs to set up a time for a work meeting with the city's Attorney Robin Dunn for a work meeting to get a better direction on what the city needs to do if they decide to do some annexations for the City. It was decided to plan on a work meeting for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**Approve Appropriation Ordinance # 556- Budget for Fiscal year 2020-2021:** Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to dispense the reading on three different days and read it once in full.

Ben made the motion to dispense the reading of Ordinance # 556 on three different days and read it once in its entirety, seconded by Connie, all eyes.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 556

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,342,197.00 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSE AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF ROBERTS FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SAID APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE.

CITY of ROBERTS  
October 13, 2020  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Robert (BJ) Berlin.....Mayor  
Connie Surerus.....Council  
Ben Poston.....Council  
Edidt Sanchez.....Council  
Shauna Lounsbury.....Council  
Gale Scrivner.....Clerk  
Rick Lamb.....Maintenance

Also present: Karol Poston, and Jaden Jackson with Keller Associates, Jeff Ammons, Ron Grant, and George Swanson with Fiber com, Mason Surerus and Sheriff Anderson and Officer Andrew Cleverley with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Edidt gave the opening prayer and Mayor Berlin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approve Council Minutes:** Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes for Roberts City Council meeting for September 8, 2020. Mayor Berlin asked if there were any changes or corrections.

With no corrections, Mayor Berlin entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Ben made the motion to approve the minutes for Roberts City Council on September 8, 2020 seconded by Connie, all ayes.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Berlin reported that the City has purchased a street roller and an animal control truck body. We will mount that on the truck that Rick currently drives. It also will be used as a maintenance truck, we intend to be more forceful with dogs this year. We have talked about purchasing another truck in the near future.

Roberts PTO and the City of Roberts will be sponsoring a carnival on October 16 at the Mustang Park, from 4PM to 7PM. They will have food vendors, craft vendors, games and raffle items.

Insanatarium will be open Fridays and Saturdays, also the week of Halloween.

Roberts Christmas Market will be held on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by AGRA (Alliance for the Greater Roberts Area) we will have food, crafts and a chili cook-off.

Edidt made the motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement with Fiber com. Seconded by Shauna, all ayes.

**Keller & Associates presentation on Waste Water Study:** Jaden Jackson for Keller Associates gave a presentation concerning the study that has been completed. They addressed the problem areas and the best solutions for the city. There was some difference of opinions of the amount of growth in the City but, with the new housing project they did come to an agreement of 2 % as a good projection. The new permits will show the new houses. This will be a better explanation to DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) for the City to expand.

Improvements they are suggesting are to the Trunk Line Replacement, \$381,000, Wastewater Improvement of Problem Areas, \$322,000, Variable Frequency Drives, \$62,000, and SCADA System, which is used to monitor and control the system by computer or handheld device, \$63,000. These are all a summary of improvements and cost for the project.

Jaden also gave the City a list of different funding options. Keller will help the City apply for grants and chase the monies for the project.

Mayor Berlin said we are never excited in raising rates but, looking at four years down the road there is a possibility we might need to look at another raise in the sewer rates. Maybe we could do it slowly but it is inevitable that we will need to do this.

Ben said that maybe we should just do the whole project, while the interest rates are low and it will make it for everyone involved. Mayor Berlin said that he would like everyone to think about what needs to be done. Some of this project needs to be done now. Talk to people and see what they think concerning the project and the problems we have right now. Most of the City's around us are higher than Roberts and will be increasing more in the future.

**Consultant Agreement for Water & Sewer operations:** Mayor Berlin said that he e-mailed the council members with the consultant agreement for water and sewer operation between the city of Roberts and Rick and ask if there were questions concerning this.

Mayor Berlin entertained a motion giving the Mayor the authority to enter into this agreement when the time comes which will probably be in November.

Ben made the motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a consulting agreement with Rick Lamb as the time allows, seconded by Connie, all ayes.

Roll call vote was taken, Shauna aye, Edidt aye, Ben aye, and Connie aye.

**Maintenance Report:** Mayor Berlin ask Rick to give a report on what has been accomplished. Rick has tried to finish of the playground equipment and has been working on the roof at the well house.

# Roberts to update wastewater and water systems

By MADISON JIMENEZ  
The Jefferson Star

Roberts City Council discussed the upcoming needed updates to the wastewater and water systems in Roberts.

Mayor B.J. Berlin stated the scope of the



wastewater project is to fix some cracked and deteriorated parts of the wastewater system. The total cost of the project is \$2,059,000.

According to Berlin, the cost of fixing the deteriorated parts is around \$1.5 million, and update their Scata would be around \$63,000, pump motors will cost \$62,000, and a main trunk line replacement will cost around \$381,000.

Keller Associates has been doing the study for the past two years. Berlin stated it should have taken less than two years, but Covid disrupted things.

Now that the study is done, Berlin stated the city will now be looking to grant money and funding for the project.

The timeline is projected to be about two years, according to Berlin.

## Roberts/ from 1

The updates are for the wastewater system the city already has, Berlin said. Roberts has had some growth, which was taken into account during the study.

Jaden Jackson, who is a Project Engineer with Keller Associates, stated he has been working with Roberts on this project for just over two years.

Once the council has decided on the scope of the project they want to complete, that's when Jackson will move forward with replacing the main trunk line of the sewer system and some of the branches that run near the homes.

"Many of the lines are deteriorat-

ing and need to be replaced before there is a major breakdown," Jackson said.

As part of the big plan, Jackson said they plan to put in a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) in at the lift station, which helps to extend the life of the motor pumps and makes them run more efficiently so as to use less power.

Jackson reaffirmed they plan to put in a Scata system, which will help to communicate with city employees. As of right now, there is an alarm system that the neighbors call in to the city, Jackson said.

Berlin also informed the city council that some of their water system pump motors are going to need

some maintenance and repair. The system has been running fine, Berlin said, but they want to make sure the system has the proper upkeep.

According to Berlin, the reason he brought it up to the council is because it will be a little more expensive than what the city is used to spending.

There are two wells and five pumps that are all on the water system that Berlin said need maintenance.

Berlin is currently waiting on estimates from contractors for the maintenance. Berlin has been reaching out to contractors and plans to update the council once he has more information and bids.