

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 19, 2020
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL & ZOOM

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM & AT CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Raemaeker called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:00 PM, Monday, April 19, 2020. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Raemaeker, Councilpersons Mike Wineman, Kim Winchell, Tim Curtiss and Doug Vermulm. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Building Inspector Yeagley, City Judge Berkram and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. Mayor Raemaeker, and Councilpersons Curtiss, Wineman, Vermulm and Winchell attended City Hall to allow the public to join the meeting in person. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Valerie Wadman, Lisa Edmisson, Brenda Schilling

ABSENT: None

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Police Chief Michael Schultz entered the meeting at this point.

CLAIMS: Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the claims through April 15, 2021 for \$71,715.58. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting, payroll from April 15, 2021 for \$73,758.58, January financials for \$7,357,219.10 and the February financials for \$7,325,748.38. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Lisa Edmisson addressed the Council with concerns about animal cruelty in Cut Bank. She wants to know why the City is not harder on people who abuse their pets. Police Chief answered her questions by telling her that the animal control officer and police officers can only write tickets based on what they personally see, or signed statements made by others. Unfortunately, most people who see these instances of cruelty do not make formal complaints or call the Police Department so an officer can go and see the problem firsthand. Montana law requires that pet owners provide adequate shelter and that is a rather undefined term. He suggested that anyone who sees animal cruelty call immediately so something can be done.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Superintendent Suta presented his report. **Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the Superintendent's report and Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

City Attorney presented his report. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the report. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Police Chief Schultz presented his report. A new officer has been hired. He is already a police officer, so academy won't be necessary. The other position has been filled with a young man who played football for Purdue. He will start after graduating from college. **Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Building Inspector Yeagley reported to the Council he has one new permit application, and it includes a pole barn. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the Building Inspector's report. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council that she has now returned to work after a long absence due to medical problems. The audit has been postponed allowing more time to prepare. Budget season is coming and Clerk-Treasurer Burley is working on getting all the department heads their budget sheets. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the awarding of Phase IV Water Project as amended, moving the water tank installation to the next phase. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION: Valerie Wadman spoke to the Council regarding her water service. She lives across the Cut Bank Creek from the water plant. Since she purchased the property, she has received free water from the City of Cut Bank. She recently received a letter informing her that she would have to install a water meter and start paying for water. She told the Council that she has received her water for no charge for all this time and she believed that she would always get free water. City Attorney Smith explained to her that it is illegal to give away water for free and that the original contract with the property owners only guaranteed free water to the Corrigeaux family and any heirs. Ms. Wadman is not an heir. After much discussion, it was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Winchell reported that the Friends of the Cut Bank Bark Park applied for an AARP grant. Donations are coming in for matching funds and other improvements for the park.

The first quarterly meeting of the Tri-City Interlocal was held in Shelby. It was a good meeting. They have declared some equipment as surplus and are seeking other new equipment.

Councilperson Winchell also reported on the Farmer's Market. There will be a stricter process for registering to participate. Fees will likely be increased and a building is being sought so that the market can still be held in bad weather.

Superintendent Suta reported that the Airport Authority is now receiving funds from the County, so it is sitting in better shape.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Dan Raemaeker, Mayor