

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
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 6:35 PM, Monday, September 20, 2021. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Raemaeker, Councilpersons Mike Wineman, Kim Winchell and Doug Vermulm. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Building Inspector Yeagley, Police Chief Schultz, City Judge Berkram and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Matt Connors, Vernon Thomas, Helen McConnaughey and Jamie Freed via Zoom

ABSENT: Councilperson Curtiss

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLAIMS: Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the claims through September 16, 2021 for \$156,924.41, including warrants 59654-59690. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021 meeting, payroll from September 16, 2021 for \$81,749.85. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief

Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Discussion was held about the department's need for another officer. Subject was moved to work session. Vote was called and motion passed unanimously.

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the report. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Wineman moved to give notice to proceed to Vernon Thomas on his variance request. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. A vote was called and motion carried 3-0.

Judge Berkram told the Council that Community Service Coordinator Jamie Freed will be on medical leave for several months. She recommended the City hire Nicole Altenburg to fill in for Coordinator Freed. Nicole has done the job previously and would not require any training. **Councilperson Wineman moved to hire Nicole Altenburg for the position and Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

Glacier Motel: City Attorney Smith received permission from Don Burlingame to have an assessment for hazardous materials done on the property. He received the preliminary results and it appears that lead will not need to be remediated. Levels are below the DEQ threshold. There is asbestos on the property that will need to be removed. The next step will be to have Montana DEQ issue a permit for the removal of the asbestos. This permit will state what exactly needs to be done in the process of removal. The owner claims he has no money and will not be able to clean up the property. He has offered to sign the deed over to the City so that we can then clean it up. City Attorney Smith did not want the property signed over at this time. Sarah Converse of Sweetgrass Development told City Attorney Smith that there is Brownfield funding available, but we would have to apply this fall and notice of award would come out in the spring. This may not work with our timetable. There is also Brownfield funding available through the DEQ but it is not over \$100,000. A local company was asked for an estimate to clean up the property and it came in at \$267,000 without any hazardous material remediation. Asbestos can be hauled to the Northern Montana Joint Refuse dump. This discussion will continue next month.

Zoning: Councilperson Winchell drove the area on the north side that Julie Troy asked to have rezoned. There is one section that she feels would make sense to change.

Police Officer: Police Chief Schultz stated that it would cost approximately \$100,000 to hire a new officer and equip him with a vehicle. There has been an increase in crime in the last two years and the types of crimes has also changed. The crimes are more severe and involve firearms. One option for funding another officer would be to put a special mill levy election in front of the voters. The last two levies failed by minimal margins. A committee was set up to meet and get the process started. Volunteering to be on the committee were Matt Connors, Vernon Thomas, Helen McConnaughy, Councilpersons Wineman and Winchell and Clerk-Treasurer Burley.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Wineman reported that the Chamber met and he was told that the public drug building did not have sufficient water lines but the Mercantile makes up for it.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Dan Raemaeker, Mayor

