

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
MAY 2, 2022
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 Kim Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, May 2, 2022. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, Kacie Fey, and Cesar Morales. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, Building Inspector Jim Yeagley, City Attorney Smith, and Payroll Clerk Perry. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Vernon & Patricia Thomas, Bernice Koelbl, and Helen McConnaughey

ABSENT: Clerk-Treasurer Burley

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vernon Thomas reported to the Council that he has investigated the possibility of getting a wind turbine to provide the City with electric power. He spoke with Glacier Electric and the City's average usage is 172,000 kw per month. Glacier Electric does purchase power from entities with wind turbines. Currently they have twenty-two such contracts. A turbine that can generate 200 mw per month would be sufficient to meet our power needs. Mr. Thomas is under the understanding that the City has an area near the water plant that we could place the turbine. He will continue to work on this project. Council thanks Mr. Thomas for his work on this subject.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Councilperson Fey asked Superintendent Suta about the power at the City Park for Farmer's Market. Polka Dot Cow uses power during the markets and should be sharing it with the other

vendors, but paid for it separately. Superintendent Suta said that he had an agreement with this vendor last year but this year she would have to be a part of the Farmer's Market and pay through them for power on the days of the market. She will pay for it herself on other days of the week.

Councilperson Vermulm asked for an update on the Glacier Motel property. Superintendent Suta reported that he met with Joyce Ackerman of the Environmental Protection Agency. She is excited about the project and believes that since it poses an immediate threat to public safety, she will be able to get the funding for the cleanup.

Superintendent Suta told the Council that the fence installed by Robert Thorne had not been changed as per directions from the City County Planning Board. Councilperson Curtiss explained to him that Clerk-Treasurer Burley had been asked to contact Mr. Thorne and since she is absent it is not known what came of it. Mr. Thorne was supposed to fix the fence's location by the end of April.

Councilperson Fey asked stated that since we have an ordinance officer, we should not need to look into hiring another to do tickets. Mayor Winchell has spoken with Chief Schultz about the ordinance officer's job duties. Because of his duties with animal control, the officer does not have the amount of time needed for such activities. Conversations on the topic are ongoing.

CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through April 27, 2022, for \$75,455.53 warrants 60212-60231. Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Vermulm moved to approve the April 18, 2022 minutes, the payroll from April 28, 2022, for \$77,011.83. Motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Superintendent Suta reported that he is happy with the construction being done. We need a new sweeper and the bid he received is for \$244,000. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Superintendent's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

City Attorney Smith gave his monthly report. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Attorney's report and Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve Task Order #1 for the Growth Policy. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION: Council received a copy of the City Charter for their review.

Kim Stoltz asked if there was an update of the Glacier Motel. Police Chief Schultz stated that the owner told him he has something in the works. City Superintendent Suta said that he heard that he will be turning it over to a non-profit to qualify for help and will have it transferred back to him once the work is complete.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

City Superintendent Suta reported that the NCMRWA meeting will be held June 28, 2022.

There will be a re-organizational meeting date for the Beautification Committee announced soon.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kim Winchell, Mayor

