

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 21, 2023
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 Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:31 PM, Monday, August 21, 2023. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, Kacie Fey, and John Reynolds. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Building Inspector Yeagley, Police Chief Schultz, and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Tom Shock, Vernon Thomas, Charleen Alexander

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through August 7, 2023, for \$254,007.76, including warrants 61429-61458. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Fey moved to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2023, meeting, payroll from August 17, 2023, for \$95,760.71. Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with Councilperson Curtiss abstaining from the vote due to his absence at the last meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief

Councilperson Reynolds moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Fey seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The Chief reported that self-initiated calls are up, and it is a good sign that they officers are out patrolling and keeping things in order.

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

Councilperson Fey moved to accept the report. Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the 2023-2024 City Attorney's Contract. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. Questions regarding the possible hiring of a full time Deputy Attorney were asked and answered. The City is currently reviewing applications for this position. The wages and benefits will come out of the legal accounts of the general fund. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Councilperson Curtiss moved to have the preliminary budget moved to the work session so that it can be discussed line by line. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Vermulm and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Winchell reviewed a letter from Michelle Beebe regarding her request to assist her in paying for a mural on her Central Avenue property. Beautification fund has funding available so \$400 will be paid to assist with the beautification project.

WORK SESSION: Budget was discussed line by line by the Council. Amendments to the Mayor wages were suggested, taking the increase down from \$9500 to \$5500. After a detailed discussion on the entire budget, Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the amended preliminary budget for 2023-2024. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Curtiss reported that the July meeting of the Tri-City Interlocal had been cancelled.

Police Chief Schultz reported that he attended the Board of Health meeting. There have been three confirmed severe cases of west Nile virus in Glacier County.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Winchell reported that she spoke with Great West Engineer Jerry Grebenc about how long the process of updating the growth policy would take. He expects that once the Advisory Board is appointed it should be able to be completed by the end of the year. Councilperson Reynolds volunteered to be on the advisory committee. Mayor Winchell will appoint the other members soon so they can get started.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kimberly Winchell, Mayor

