

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 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, January 3, 2022. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, Mike Wineman. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, Building Inspector Jim Yeagley, City Attorney Smith, Police Chief Schutz, and Clerk Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Kim Stoltz, Vernon Thomas, Matt Connors

ABSENT: None

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kim Stoltz told the Council that she was searching online for the open police officer positions, and she was not able to find them until she refined her search to include the words "Cut Bank." She suggests that Chief Schultz list the jobs on more professional sites, including Indeed. She feels that the current advertising is not reaching a broad enough area. Chief Schultz explained that he has advertised on Indeed and LinkedIn in the past and while he gets many calls of inquiry, he does not get applications. He is using social media because that has been the most effective so far. Ms. Stoltz also feels that we need to have a more positive narrative when speaking about the community. We cannot expect people to move here if we speak negatively about the City. She also asked what the main cause is for our higher crime rate and whether landlords can be

held responsible for any crimes their tenants commit. Chief Schultz replied that the biggest factor of the crime rate is median household income and that is exceptionally low in Cut Bank. He also reported that landlords cannot be held accountable for anyone else's crimes.

CLAIMS: Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the claims through December 29, 2021, for \$73,818.63 warrants 59919-59936. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the December 20, 2021, minutes, the payroll from December 23, 2021, for \$76,408.21, and the October financials for \$7,690,550.44 and November financials for \$8,105,463.42. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Superintendent Suta reported that the water line which leads to the Family Dollar has now been repaired and is working. There was a separation between the pipe and the fittings where the pipe shrunk due to the cold temperatures. The new fittings bite into the pipe to prevent this from happening again. He does not foresee any more problems with the pipe. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Superintendent's report and Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

City Attorney Smith reported that there was no court the last 2 weeks of December and while that would have been a suitable time to get caught up, he was absent with health and vehicle problems for several days, so he is still behind in his work. When asked if there was any funding in his budget for an assistant, he replied that it was not included in his budget once he received his last increase. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Attorney's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: Councilperson Curtiss moved that no variant was necessary at 402 3rd St SE, if the owners bring it into compliance before April 30, 2022. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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 Airport Authority had cancelled their meeting. He did attend the NCMRWA meeting. Jodi Hellegaard will be done at the end of June so discussion was held as to whether they should hire another bookkeeper or a general manager.

Councilperson Wineman reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be meeting this Wednesday.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley stated that the COPSS had met and had assigned articles to be written for the next two editions of the Pioneer Press. There were once again new people at the meeting who showed support for the addition of officers. The group will be meeting every other Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kim Winchell, Mayor