

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 21, 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 Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, March 21, 2022. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Kacie Fey, Tim Curtiss, 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: Vernon Thomas, Tom Shock, Bob Olson, Matt Connors, Ted and Bernice Koelbl, and Cesar Morales

ABSENT: None

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through March 17, 2022, for \$76,842.45, including warrants 59496-59541. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Fey moved to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2022, meeting, payroll from March 17, 2022, for \$76,380.19, and February financials for \$8,431,035.92. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. City Attorney Smith asked how many candidates would be interviewed and when Chief Schultz would like to do the interviews. Chief Schultz said that we have had several candidates who have struggled with the testing, and he would like to meet with the Mayor and discuss re-evaluating the standard of scoring the test. After this discussion, he will set up the interviews. He had 3 candidates test this time around. A vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the report. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. Building Inspector Yeagley explained that the freight lift mentioned in his report is a freight elevator that is being installed at the liquor store. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported on the results of the annual audit which was performed last week. Motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve Draw #5 on the TCEP grant for water system improvements, for \$748.00. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion that passed 3-0.

Councilperson Vermulm moved to approve Draw #2 on the Delivering Local Assistance grant for the southwest lift station, in the amount of \$291,842.60. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Councilperson Curtiss motioned to approve the MT Board of Crime Control Grant application for the records management system, in the amount of \$9,500.00. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Fey. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the contract with Dave Jeseritz. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

District Judge Olson told the Council that the district courtroom, in the Courthouse, is not suitable for holding court. The roof leaks, there is mold in the courtroom, the area smells like sewage and there is no heat currently. There is no timeline yet for when the repairs will be complete. He asked if he could hold court in the City Courtroom while the district court is out of commission. Justice of the Peace Berkram also requested use of the courtroom for justice court hearings during the same time period. Judge Olson will need the courtroom every other Wednesday, beginning on April 13, 2022. It was requested that any defendants not be allowed to go into the police station and the Judges agreed.

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the use of the courtroom by the Justice of the Peace and the District Judge, with them reporting back in a month to let Council know how it is going. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Curtiss moved to appoint Cesar Morales as City Councilperson to fill the vacancy created by Mike Wineman. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Winchell swore in Cesar Morales and Councilperson Morales took his seat at the table.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION: Council reviewed the scope of work for the growth policy. No changes were suggested. It will be added to the City's Facebook page so residents can see the scope of work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Fey reported that the Farmer's Market met and decided on dates for the upcoming season.

Superintendent Suta met with the Airport Authority. They received grants funds from the FFA and the State. They will be sealing the runway and the Authority will only have to pay \$200 of the \$500,000 cost of improvements.

Superintendent Suta also met with the Northern MT Joint Refuse Disposal Interlocal, and they have room for garbage at the dumpsite for the next 135 years. This figure does not include any additional entities such as the City of Shelby. They have land that was purchased for the landfill but is not being used for such at this time.

City Attorney Smith reported that the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority will meet tomorrow in Great Falls. Due to City Court, he will be unable to attend.

Councilperson Fey reported that the Chamber of Commerce is busy preparing for the Masquerade Ball to be held April 9, 2022. The City will be buying tickets for several of their employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vernon Thomas asked when the next COPSS meeting will be held. Mayor Winchell stated that an email would be sent out in plenty of time to inform members of the next meeting. It will likely be the 30th of March.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kimberly Winchell, Mayor