

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL  
February 20, 2024  
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, February 20, 2024. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Maynard Nygaard, Doug Vermulm, Kacie Fey, and John Reynolds. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Deputy City Attorney Whitney Bugni, Building Inspector Yeagley, Police Chief Schultz, and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Nikki Penner, Vern Thomas, and Pamela Peterson via zoom.

ABSENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pamela Peterson, 214 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW, asked a question about the sewer rates. Vern Thomas, 20 4<sup>th</sup> ST SW stated that the minutes and payroll should be approved by the council separately. Ms. Peterson also stated that she would like a correction to the last meetings minutes.

**CLAIMS: Councilperson Fey moved to approve the claims through February 20, 2024, for \$88,123.12, including warrants 61918-61955. Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.**

## CONSENT AGENDA:

**Councilperson Fey moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, meeting, and the payroll from February 15, 2024, for \$97,857.45. Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

**Police Chief**

Chief Schultz reported that the police department hired a new animal control officer, Kenna Jones. She is proving to be a good fit already. The animal shelter has adopted a lot of dogs. Chief Schultz also reported that their department came together very well managing some major incidents. The officers also attended training for courtroom testimony and crisis intervention. Resident Pamela Peterson suggested that our laws be added to the "welcome bags" given to new residents. Ms. Peterson was told that the bags are supplied by the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce and suggestions should be appropriately made to them.

**Councilperson Reynolds moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

**Building Inspector Yeagley**

Building Inspector Yeagley reported that he was able to deliver the certificate of building certificate to the Messy Apron.

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

**Clerk-Treasurer Burley**

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council about the audit that been conducted the previous week. She told them about possible findings that the auditor found and explained them to the city council. She also told the council that some of these possible findings may be void provided

The right documentation. The audit was a federal audit and will take longer to complete. The auditor is done with his on-site audit but has other work to do before the audit is complete. Clerk- Treasurer Burley also stated that she plans to retire in April and recommended that the Council appoint Donni Schultz the next Clerk-Treasurer.

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

During the work session the council talked about the low number of dogs that are licensed in the city. The Council discussed ways to improve this, along with increasing the numbers of dogs vaccinated. Chief Schultz also suggested looking at raising our animal control and animal ordinance fees. The fees have not changed for decades. Chief Schultz agreed to look at current rates in other cities in Montana and bring that information back for the next council meeting.

Training through the MSU Local Government Center was next discussed. Dan Clark had chosen April 9, 2024, as a tentative date for the training. Councilpersons will try to come up with a better date. Mayor Winchell will get with Dan and try to arrange a training for a Monday in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pamela Peterson asked for a clarification on the definition of nuisance dogs. She wanted to know if dogs that were chasing other animals would be considered nuisance dogs if they were in their yards, on the inside of the fence. Chief Schultz referred her to the Cut Bank Code website.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

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Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

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Kimberly Winchell, Mayor

