

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- NOVEMBER 6, 2017

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Sorensen, Karst, Heitman, Carr, Ozark, and Schoenfelder. Those also present were City Clerk-Treasurer Amundson, DPW Kompel, Sergeant Edwards, Police Chief Barstad, Officer Fischer, and City Attorney Helland. Sean Heavy and John Kulzyck were also in attendance. Also present was Tori Matejovsky from Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC). There was no media representation.

Mayor Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any agenda item: NONE

Council member Schoenfelder made a motion approving the consent agenda including, the payment of claims for November 6, 2017 in the amount of \$149,043.32, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$5,737.41, and the minutes of the October 16, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Sean Heavy was in attendance to talk to the council about downtown snow removal. His biggest concern was along the curb area where vehicles park and with the thawing and freezing, the snow becomes hard packed and icy, where he has witnessed many people fall. He was wondering if the snow could be removed from the curb before the traffic begins in the morning. He also talked about the back alley. Since MDU was working back there, the grade of the alley has changed. Officer Fisher mentioned an idea of alternating parking between the streets and avenues on certain days of the week. This could assist in both snow removal and street sweeping. DPW Kompel mentioned if the entire block was cleared of vehicles, it would help with snow removal since the grader is large, it's difficult to remove snow in small areas between vehicles. He also mentioned that the emergency routes are the first to have snow removed, then the school routes and truck routes, then the downtown area. The ordinance committee will address the alternating of parking in another meeting.

Mayor Erickson stated the resistance in employees obtaining their CDL's. The City's insurance company is concerned that employees of the city do not have a CDL and operate vehicles where a CDL is required. This issue has also been discussed with the City Attorney and we can't continue to break state law. The city may need to be looking into different options, such as contracting snow removal with another company. This would have to be put out for bid, if the council decides to move forward with it. A suggestion was to hire seasonal help who already have their CDL that could drive dump truck to assist with snow removal if needed. Hiring of seasonal help will be on the next agenda. The council would like the personnel committee to come up with a plan to address all of these issues and report back at the next meeting.

Tori from GNDC talked to the council about being a sponsor for Affiliated Developers for funding to renovate Nemont Manor. They are looking into purchasing Nemont Manor and completing a \$10 million remodel. They will apply for funding from the Montana Home Program and CDBG for a total amount of \$1.1 million dollars. Affiliated Developers also applied for tax credits through the State of Montana and should have an answer in early next year. Tori did do reference checks on the company and they are highly recommended for projects like this. They just completed one in Helena over the past couple of years. Council member Schoenfelder made a motion approving the City to sponsor Affiliated Developers for funding to renovate Nemont Manor. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Council member Carr made a motion approving the annual JSEC contribution in the amount of \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Council member Sorensen, and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – Mayor Erickson told the council that DPW Kompel and herself had met with Misty Cool and discussed funding for the levee project.

- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – City Clerk Amundson mentioned she spoke with Leslie from CDBG and they are changing the reporting on the grant. She will begin working on the first project submission this week.

Committee Reports: There will be a personnel committee meeting on Thursday November 9 at noon. There was no report for water. The council commented on the letter Dan Miller received complimenting him on a job well done at the Cemetery. The MBCC monies have been released and the city should be receiving reimbursement for the new Victim Witness Advocate Grant by the end of this month. Kathy is working with Brandon on applying for grants for the fire department. The city was awarded \$15,000.00 for a wayfinding grant. Council member Karst said the Ordinance Committee met and will have a recommendation at the next council meeting.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Kompel mentioned Marco will begin the intake station work; the bids came in around \$54,000.00. He is working with Morrison-Maierle at decreasing the water project cost. The 4” water lines that need to be replaced may be able to be bid as a separate project. Jeremy Perlinski is contacting Rural Development to see if the city will be able to do this.

Council member Karst inquired on the status of the work to be completed at the North side Fire Hall. DPW Kompel stated Adam’s Asphalt has it on the top of their list to complete. They just need a break in the weather to be able to accomplish it.

Police Chief Barstad told the council there are some abandoned vehicles that will be towed in the next couple of days. People have been winterizing and putting away their campers before the December 1st deadline.

City Clerk Amundson updated the council on the status of the new street lights. The city’s annual financial report is about ¾ of the way completed and she will begin working on the paperwork for the Non-Competitive Grant.

Public Comment: NONE

Council member Schoenfelder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rebecca Erickson
Mayor