

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- MARCH 2, 2020

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Carr, Heitman, Karst, Nistler, Ozark and Young. Those also present were DPW Kompel, City Clerk Fuhrman, City Attorney Sullivan, Captain Edwards, Officers Ames and Nolan, Casey Edwards, Tasha Morehouse-Mix and Matt Nolan. The media was represented by AJ Etherington of the Glasgow Courier.

Mayor Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any agenda item: NONE

Council member Carr made a motion approving the consent agenda including, the payment of claims for March 2, 2020 in the amount of \$66,866.89, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$2,074.98, the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, and approval of **Resolution 3023** – a resolution establishing budgetary authority in the swim pool trust fund for the receipt and expenditure of monies received from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation. The motion was seconded by Council member Young. Council member Karst abstained; the motion passed.

Council member Nistler motioned for approval of the January 2020 Financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman and carried unanimously.

Council member Nistler motioned for approval of City Court Judge Gilbert's excess vacation extension request to June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Council member Young and carried unanimously. A couple suggested comments were to review existing vacation accrual policy and look at buy out or accrual caps.

DPW Kompel summarized the January 3, 2020 Assistant Director of Public Works interview process that included applicant ranking and the hiring committee's recommendation. Council member Karst made a motion to hire Scott Cook for the ADPW position beginning March 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Council member Young motioned to approve the recommendation from the Wage Compensation Committee allowing exiting City Clerk Amundson to work remotely as an independent contractor. The work will consist of assisting with the annual budget, annual financial report, and annual documentation at \$27/hour billed in half hour increments and paid monthly by the City. Amundson will have a City owned laptop for remote work usage. The purpose, terms, compensation, and scope of the work have been drafted by City Attorney Sullivan in a Professional Services Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst motioned for approval to destroy city records according to the Records Destruction Document RM88. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Council member Heitman motioned for approval to write off \$153.03 in unpaid water bills from 2019. The motion was seconded by Council member Karst and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst motioned for the appointment of City Clerk Fuhrman as the City representative to the Library Board. No council member at this time will be required to attend. The motion was seconded by Council member Young and carried unanimously.

Council member Young motioned for approval to close the City Office at 4:00 p.m. March 25 through March 27, 2020 to accommodate for City Clerk Fuhrman and Utility Billing Clerk Frueh's absence to attend Montana Rural Water training. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- Levee Safety Committee Report – Mayor Erickson noted she is doing research on establishing a levee district and will present her findings to the council at a later date.
- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – NONE

Mayor Erickson reported that there will be a County Commissioner's meeting next Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. The Mayor, Council members Heitman and Young, and law enforcement attended the TC Energy meeting held February 25, 2020 for an update on Keystone XL. The Mayor requested the Armory Committee meet and discuss the feasibility to purchase the armory building that will become available in June 2021. She would like a comparison of rent versus buying costs. Current rentals include the locations for law enforcement, victim witness services, city court, and the city attorney's office. Regarding Valley Court, there is a tenant eviction that includes thousands of dollars of property damage that the Mayor is working with Captain Edwards and City Attorney Sullivan on. Also, they are pursuing locating another tenant for unpaid rent reimbursement.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel, Water, Cemetery, or Grant. Council member Karst noted that the Ordinance Committee had just met and will continue with a meeting next Monday March 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Council member Ozark provided an update from the February 24, 2020 Wage Compensation Committee meeting. Discussion included adopting a wage table to determine raises that would advance employees across grades and steps. It would alleviate budgeting and negotiating issues as the wages would be more predictable. Mayor Erickson added that the supervisor would have the ability to expedite an employee's movement across the scale with Council approval. The Mayor also noted the Wage Compensation Committee is reviewing options within the budget to fund the raises. Council member Ozark said the committee will be reviewing department leads' pay and compensating appropriately for supervisors. Council members Carr and Nistler noted that performance should be considered and the supervisor should be able to reward employees for good performance. Council member Karst inquired if there would be a standard performance evaluation established to which Council member Ozark said that had been discussed by the committee and needs to be implemented. Council member Young added that it would be beneficial to provide a five to ten year wage compensation schedule to help draw more quality applicants. The next Wage Compensation Committee Meeting will be held March 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Department Head Reports:

City Attorney Sullivan has been doing research on services required in light of the Coronavirus outbreak. She provided Montana Code 7-34-4101 on the authority a city or town council has to regulate the control of, to do all other acts which may be necessary for the promotion of health, and to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious diseases within the city or town. She noted there may not be concern in our remote location, but this issue is on the public's minds. In other business, she's handling several criminal cases and an upcoming jury trial. Also, she's worked on the Professional Services Agreement for City Clerk Amundson and the property transfer for Valley Court.

City Clerk Fuhrman reported on the transfer of Valley Court. The motion to sell to Beki Brandborg at the February 18, 2020 meeting is void as there was not an action item to sell. There are items needed prior to the transfer taking place including a capital needs assessment, appraisal and resolution. City Clerk Fuhrman added that clarification is needed from Rural Development prior to moving forward with a sale or transfer.

Public Comment: Council member Karst said Hi-Line Sportsmen awarded the City \$1000 for dock repairs at Home Run Pond. He noted that they are working on quotes for asphalt overlay around the pond and other grants for improvements.

Council member Carr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Rikki Fuhrman
City Clerk – Treasurer

Rebecca Erickson
Mayor