

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- APRIL 4, 2022

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Nistler, Austin, Koski, Heitman, Carr, and Ozark. Also present were Chief Weber, Compliance Officer Dees, Stella Ryan, Water/Wastewater Supervisor Dodd, Street Foreman Runnigen, City Judge Morehouse-Mix, Dan Miller, and City Attorney Sullivan. City Clerk Amundson attended via conference call. Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering, Kyle Gibson with Precision Varmint Control, and Amadeo Lamphier from Northwestern Energy were also in attendance. Those also in attendance were Tan Leckie, LeAnn Fontaine, Rene Clampitt, Jeremy Stringer, Tess Fahlgren, and Madelyn House-Fahlgren. The media was represented by Michelle Bigelbach of the Glasgow Courier.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Koski made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for April 4, 2022 in the amount of \$74,562.39, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$314.63, the minutes of the March 21, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and the minutes of the March 21, 2022 Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Kyle Gibson from Precision Varmint Control was in attendance to talk to the council about how to deal with the pigeons in Glasgow. He said the two (2) main problem areas in Glasgow are under the bridge and the grain bins. The council wanted to know how he disposes of the pigeons. He said he contacts dispatch to let them know where he will be so both the sheriff and police department knows that he is out in case they receive a phone call. He works at night with a precision gun with a red light on it. He also wears reflective clothing so he can be easily seen. He also said that Fish, Wildlife, and Parks does not have an issue with disposing of the pigeons because they are not an endangered species. He also has someone to take the carcasses. The full council was in agreement to move forward on this.

Amadeo Lamphier from Northwestern Energy was in attendance to speak to the council about removing some of the trees in the cemetery that are near the power lines. He said we have a couple of options. They can come in and keep trimming them back every year or they can cut them down to a certain height and then the city could remove the remaining part of the tree. The city could be offered up to \$5,000.00 to replace the trees through Northwestern Energy. Most of the trees are Chinese Elm and could be replaced with another tree that grows better in our climate. A waterline would have to be ran to that area so the new trees or bushes could be watered. Dan Miller mentioned the Canadian Cherry trees that were planted last year are not doing well. The council asked Amadeo to go door to door on Aberdeen and talk with the residents that cutting down these trees would affect and come to the next council meeting with an update, before the council will make decision on this matter.

Council member Ozark made a motion approving the financials for February 2022. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Council member Koski made a motion authorizing the hiring of summer laborers. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin. Street Foreman Runnigen said that he will have two (2) for the levee, two (2) for the parks, and one (1) hired as a floater between the street department and the parks. Then Dan Miller will have two (2) for the cemetery, for a total of seven (7) summer laborers. Motion carried.

Council member Nistler made a motion authorizing City Clerk Amundson to publish the call for bids for the City of Glasgow's repurchase agreement for June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark updated the council on the discussion about insurance premiums paid for city employees from the Wage Compensation Committee meeting. The committee is recommending paying \$850.00 per month towards premiums and for the police department employees that have in-lieu of benefits. Over the past two (2) years the police department's in lieu of benefits have been capped at \$725.00 and all other employees has been capped at \$787.00. This year the MMIA single portion of the premium went down to \$740.00 per month. This will allow employees to add family to their plan if they would like and the city would pay up to \$850.00 and the remaining amount of the premium would be paid out of pocket. Council member Ozark made a motion to pay up to \$850.00 toward health insurance premiums. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Code Compliance Officer Dees reported on the ordinance committee meeting regarding Drew Markle's fence. He said that the fence is wrought iron and you can see through it. Council member Nistler inquired about the bushes that are on the property in front of the fence. Code Compliance Officer Dees said that they would either have to be trimmed down to a height of 3' or they need to be removed. Council member Koski made a motion accepting the recommendation from the ordinance committee meeting to allow Drew Markle to build his fence and either remove or trim the bushes down to a 3' height. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Council member Carr made a motion approving the Amended Plat of Lots 12 and 13, Block 65, Original Glasgow Townsite, Valley County, Montana for Josh and Ronica Sand. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Code Compliance Officer Dees updated the public in attendance on how the abandoned/vacant properties are being dealt with. He explained that an initial letter was sent out to the property owners letting them know that a new ordinance had been passed on this issue and will need to be addressed. He will be working on sending official letters out now that the weather is getting nicer and these properties can be worked on. If the property can be rehabilitated the property owner would have 120 calendar days to do so. If the property needs to be demolished the owner would have 180 calendar days.

Council member Koski updated the council on the Valley Court Committee meeting. The committee would like to transfer the property to another owner. She stated that City Clerk Amundson said there is a lot of paperwork that would have to be completed to do so. She also talked about the Valley Court maintenance contract between the City of Glasgow and Hopstad Construction. The amount would be \$1,000.00 per month and he could commit about 40 hours per month, which would include maintaining the sidewalks, yard, and small repairs on the property. Any large projects would be billed separately at a reduced hourly rate, and the city would pay for the materials. City Clerk Amundson then updated the council on the phone call she had with Beki Brandborg right before the meeting. She said that Beki is going to submit a request for funding to the Montana Board of Housing on April 7, 2022, and by the end of the month she should have an answer from them if she is able to submit a full application for funding that would be due in August 2022. Mayor Karst wanted to know what the city would need to do to transfer the property. City Clerk Amundson recommended advertising for it and see if there is any interest; then if there is, start the paperwork process. It would have to stay under USDA Rural Development until the transfer is complete, then the new owner could go through the process of removing the property from Rural Development. Council member Carr made a motion approving the contract between the City of Glasgow and Hopstad Construction for a six (6) month period. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- Levee Safety Committee Report – There is a meeting tomorrow Tuesday April 5th at 3:30 p.m.

- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – The current project has been completed and the next project will be a small.

Mayor Karst told the council that Brianna Vine and Tori Matejovsky had met with him and wanted to know if the city would like to continue with the non-competitive grant program. He explained that GNDC won't be able to assist the city with this program, but they would be willing to train someone to take on this project. He also said that he has been in contact with T&R Trucking and they will put a dumpster in a central location for the city on April 22nd for community clean up day. Council member Koski mentioned Two Rivers should be able to have someone at the dumpster area, so only authorized items can be put into it. Two Rivers will also take care of advertising for the city cleanup day. He also mentioned we need to come up with rules/regulations on getting people to clean up the shooting range after they are done and cleaning up dog waste in the parks.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel or Ordinance. There will be a water committee meeting tonight following the wage compensation meeting. Mayor Karst mentioned the work on the cemetery gate should start this month and hopefully be completed by Memorial Day. Stella Ryan gave her grant report on the following; she is waiting on a quote for dive suits to submit a grant application to Firehouse Subs, the police department is waiting on signatures for the MOU from the surrounding counties for the Violence Against Women grant and should be able to submit this application on Friday. She has started solicitation for officer mental health and wellness grants, and researching if we can qualify for the sexual assault kit initiative this year, and is looking into Child Advocacy Center funding; there are corporate grants available. The VOCA grant reports are due on the 10th of April and will be reviewing the current Bulletproof Vest grant. She also made contact with the head of narcotics and human trafficking out of Helena and he will provide support and resources for the task force in the future. She also talked about a safety app for Glasgow, this is still in the works.

Department Head Reports:

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Dodd talked about the manhole replacement project she is working on. She will be working with City Clerk Amundson to get the annual drinking water quality report finished and in the paper by June 30, 2022. Council member Nistler inquired if a hydrant could be moved on a property. Chelsea said that she would have to take a look at it and see if it would be possible, it would depend on how it is connected to the water line.

Street Foreman Runningen said his department has been sweeping, cleaning up the parks, they will start working on the city's sprinklers as soon as it warms enough, and the Rip Rap for homerun pond has been ordered and should be able to be installed soon.

Chief Weber mentioned inventory in the police department building is almost complete and the speed feed sign is in and should be up and functional within the next week.

City Judge Morehouse-Mix told the council that 16 additional cases have been added this month and she is also looking into a training that is being held in Reno. She said this training would be beneficial to her position and there are scholarships available.

City Attorney Sullivan mentioned she's been working on case management.

Code Compliance Officer Dees stated he was at the Building Codes Conference last week and he's been working with Interstate Engineering on Building Permits.

Mayor Karst asked Kaden Bedwell of Intestate Engineering if he had anything to report on. He just said that survey work for the levee will be done next week.

Public Comment: Rene Clampitt asked Mayor Karst why the Planning Board isn't active at this time and who is supposed to be on this board, since they haven't had a meeting in a while. City Clerk Amundson said that the openings for all the city boards are being advertised and can be found on the City of Glasgow's website. She will email Mayor Karst the listing of who is/was on the boards and when their terms expired.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey A. Amundson
City Clerk - Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor