

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Ozark, Sorensen, Karst, Schoenfelder, and Carr. Council Member Durell was absent. Those also present were City Clerk Amundson, DPW Kompel, Street Foreman Krause, Police Chief Barstad, Fire Chief Brunelle, and City Attorney Helland. Dillon Koski, Sarah Partridge, Yvonne Johnson, Robert Brunelle, Mike Boyer, Norm Girard, Sara Johnson, Glen Monson, Austin Svingen, Chris Knodel, Bob and Avis Needham, David and Debra Irving, Steve and Janice Lawrence, Kent Murr, Butch Heitman, Rene Clampitt, Commissioner Paul Tweeten, Smiley Johnson, Judy and Udell Miller, Dick Cotton, Tyler Malnaa, Janice Swanson, Dan Carney, Ken Borseth, Robert Hansen, Nancy Hamilton, Maurice Graham, Bob Teskey, and Barry Sain were also in attendance. There was no media representation.

Mayor Erickson led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment on any agenda item: NONE

Council member Sorensen made a motion approving the consent agenda including; claims for September 8, 2015 in the amount of \$105,876.32, and the minutes of the August 17, 2015 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Schoenfelder and carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson stated the bid opening for the 2002 Ford Mustang will now be conducted. Council member Karst opened the following four (4) bids: Glen Monson for \$3,111.95, Leland Monson for \$2,500.00 (this bid did not meet the minimum requested), Cheryl and Betty Uphaus for \$3,653.00 and Maxine Monson for \$3,500.00. Council member Schoenfelder made a motion to award the 2002 Ford Mustang to Cheryl and Betty Uphaus in the amount of \$3,653.00 and if they were no longer interested to award the bid to the next highest received. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr and carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson closed the regular council meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m. Mayor Erickson explained that the only way to include the sixty (60) non-profits to help pay for a fire truck was to create a district to include the entire city limits of Glasgow. A certain group could not be singled out. Letters were sent to all property owners within the proposed district to give them an opportunity to protest. The Mayor stated that all members present this evening will have a chance to voice their opinions and would like to keep each comment to three (3) minutes. Chris Knodel was the first to speak. He said that he is a tax payer of the city and a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and is in favor of a new truck. He says that he wants his family and property to be safe and a ladder truck could be used to fight any fire and help him perform his job more effectively.

Robert Needham said he was present to see how the council will respond to the votes, but he also suggested a fire suppression control district and members could voluntarily purchase fire protection. He stated that the non-profits the city is trying to include would only pass their charges down to the users of their services. He does not feel that charging vacant lots the same as a lot with a \$100,000.00 home on it is a fair way to proceed.

Fire Chief Brunelle informed the members present that he has asked the utility companies if the city could use one of their bucket trucks if needed in case of a fire for rescue. The employees of the utility companies are responsible for personally operating their own equipment. This has been a 4-5 year process. The fire department has had fundraisers, they have applied for grants and have not been successful and decided this would be the smart decision financially. He also answered questions on mutual aid.

Dan Carney wanted to know how much protest was actually received. The answer was 26% protest, so the council could move forward in creating the district if they so choose. 51% protest needed to be received for the district to legally not be created.

Dick Cotton wanted to know how BNSF would be assessed since he leases property from them and pays their taxes. He currently leases 71,000 square feet. City Clerk Amundson stated that BNSF is assessed on their total square footage and to be able to give Mr. Cotton a correct response, she would have to do more research and contact

him with an answer. Currently, the BNSF leased properties are only billed garbage on their taxes.

Dave Irving said that legally the city could move forward in creating the district since they only received 26% protest and if the Fire Chief says we need a ladder truck, then we need one. He is questioning if the council picked the correct way to assess the properties. A few different options would be to have all lots pay the same or only assess those properties with structures on it.

Debra Irving wanted clarification that it's the actual square footage of the lot being assessed and not the building. She felt that those not participating are in favor of the creation of the district is an unfair way to go about this. She would like to see the protest period redone.

City Clerk Amundson explained how the numbers of protests were counted.

Rene Clampitt stated that most people she had talked to did not want to protest because they did not want to put their name on it.

Kent Murr said that he's been on the Volunteer Fire Department since 1987 and knows that the ladder truck is the way to go. It is more stable and a bucket truck wouldn't be useful for the department. He is a firm believer the city needs a ladder truck.

Sarah Partridge thanked the Mayor for taking the time to explain the process and what her assessments would be for her houses and Farm Equipment Sales. She wanted to know why her renter received the letter and not her. City Clerk Amundson explained that depending on what information was in the Special Assessment Program determined who received one and who did not. She receives all of her information from the Department of Revenue, so maybe information had gotten changed somewhere along the lines, but could definitely look into it for her.

Avis Needham believes that this was not done fairly. She's not against a new ladder truck, but against the way it would be assessed.

Mayor Erickson understands that the timing was wrong with the new taxable values that came out in the mail and the school levy, but the city was at the stage to keep moving forward with the process and allow the citizens of Glasgow the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Steve Lawrence says the process and voting had flaws. He is not against the truck, but thinks there is a different funding method. He gave the Valley Event Center as an example. Lately, everything has been dumped on the tax payers of the community.

Bob Teskey agreed with Dave Irving. He is not against a truck, but is against assessing vacant lots. He believes in the safety of the fire department.

Smiley Johnson stated he is an ex-fire chief and is against the ladder truck. He wanted to know if the city could borrow a bucket from the county if there was a fire that rescue would be required.

Yvonne Johnson wanted to know where the fire truck is that was loaned to Terry, MT and why we can't fix it. Fire Chief Brunelle explained that Terry had lost all of their fire trucks when their building caught fire. He also said that the pumper on it functions, but the hydraulic system failed. It is only a 55' ladder and in good working condition it's worth approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.00 and would cost \$60,000.00 to repair it.

Janice Lawrence wanted to know how the fire department would get an 80 year old person down a ladder. Brandon said that's when the flight or fight reaction comes into play. They would be guided down the ladder and would be given assistance.

Nancy Hamilton is the Safety Coordinator for Valley County and asked "What is the fire department doing now when there is a fire on a two story building?" Brandon said that they have ground ladders they can use, but can only be used on 1 or 2 story buildings. There are approximately 14 structures that are taller or have a large span that these ground ladders would not work on. Nancy thinks that there should be another voting opportunity.

Ken Borseth said that he used to be on the Volunteer Fire Department. He thinks the protesting set up was incorrect in the way it was done.

Norm Girard wanted to know what the Fire Department would need if there was ever a fire at the Irlle School. Brandon said a ladder truck would work best since it's a tall building.

Jan Swanson thinks the letters should be resent. She also wanted to know if the county pays the city to help fight a fire in St. Marie.

Judy Miller also wanted to know how the Mutual Aid works and does the county pay the city when they help fight a fire out of the city limits.

Brandon explained that it's almost a wash for how many times each department has helped each other out. So, there is no cost involved for either party. If a fire were to last more than an 8-10 hour time frame, then costs could be discussed.

Commissioner Tweeten wanted the actual numbers on the insurance increases and he would like to see the voting simpler.

Fire Chief Brunelle addressed how the ISO rating is calculated and gave the example on how State Farm figures a profit/loss ratio.

Norm Girard wanted to know how long this assessment would be in place. It would be a 15 year assessment, since that's the life of the loan.

Steve Lawrence wanted to know if the city were to repair the 55' ladder truck would it meet the needs of the city or could it be retrofitted to meet those needs.

Barry Sain stated would the process start over again after the 15 years and would the equipment become obsolete.

Ken Borseth wanted to know if there was a facility big enough to house a ladder truck. Brandon said the fire hall we have now, would be sufficient.

Since there were no more comments, Mayor Erickson asked each Council Member their position on the ladder truck.

Council member Ozark stated that he is against creating the district. The city needs to prioritize starting with the paving of the city streets. He explained that the city had to use extra mills this year with an overall 10% budget cut from each department. This issue will come up again in the near future, it will not go away.

Council member Karst gave kudos to the fire department in raising approximately \$150,000.00 in fundraisers. He agrees with Council member Ozark and believes that our trucks do need to be replaced every 10 years. He wanted to give the community a say, since they were able to be heard on a new pool when that issue came up. So for now; he is against the creation of the district.

Council member Carr thanks those in attendance for their comments. He thinks that the city needs to go back to the "drawing board" and see if there are other financing options or reassess the way the lots were going to be taxed. He is against the creation of the district.

Council member Schoenfelder said that personally she is for a new ladder truck, but maybe the city needs to see if there are other grants we may be eligible for. She understands the language was confusing, but as a representative of Ward 1, she is against the creation of the district.

Council member Sorensen told Brandon that he is doing a great job with the fire department and wants to support them in this endeavor, but the city needs to look into a different funding mechanism.

Mayor Erickson thanked those present for their comments and concerns and closed the public hearing and reopened the regular council meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Erickson introduced and offered for adoption **Resolution No. 1986** – A Resolution Creating Special Improvement District No. 1 for the Purchase of an Appliance for Fire Protection. Council member Ozark made a motion to table **Resolution No. 1986** indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Council member Karst; whereby **Resolution No. 1986** was not adopted.

Council member Sorensen made a motion approving the 2015-2016 fiscal year mills in the amount of 251.23 plus 50 carry over mills for a total of 301.23 mills. The allocation is as follows: 290.23 to the General Fund and 11.00 to the Fire Relief Fund. The motion was seconded by Council member Schoenfelder, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson introduced and offered for adoption **Resolution No. 1988** – A Resolution Calling for Bids for the Sale of the Glasgow Police Department 2003 Chevrolet Impala for a minimum bid of \$500.00. Council member Karst made a motion adopting **Resolution No. 1988**. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr; whereby **Resolution No. 1988** was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Erickson introduced and offered for adoption 2nd reading of **Ordinance No. 951** – An Ordinance of the City Council of Glasgow, Montana, Amending Section 18-62 of the City Code to Revise the Maximum Parking Time & Prohibiting Parking of Camper, RV, and Watercraft from December 1st through March 31st. Council member Ozark made a

motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 951** for second reading. The motion was seconded by Council member Schoenfelder; whereby **Ordinance No. 951** was unanimously adopted for second reading. **Ordinance No. 951** will go into effect October 9, 2015.

Council member Schoenfelder reported on the City Attorney committee meeting. She stated that they had received two (2) requests for qualifications based on a monthly fee structure; one from Helland Law Firm PLLC and one from Kimberly Deschene. They both were viable candidates, but based on the annual savings to the city; the committee would like to recommend Kimberly Deschene for the City Attorney position. Council member Sorensen mentioned that this was a unanimous decision among the committee. Council member Schoenfelder made a motion to enter into a contract with Kimberly Deschene for attorney services for one (1) year. The motion was seconded by Council member Sorensen. Council member Karst wanted to know if the committee had spoken with the City Judge to see how many hours a week she meets with the attorney and is her travel cost going to be extra. Council member Ozark inquired on how often Kimberly would be in Glasgow. Council member Carr commented that he is against an out of town attorney. Council member Schoenfelder said that her travel is included in her monthly fee, she would be here the entire third week of every month and attend that council meeting and meet with the judge. Mayor Erickson called for a vote. Council members Schoenfelder, Sorensen, and Ozark voted for; Council members Carr and Karst voted against. Motion passed.

Mayor Erickson explained the proposed Mutual Consent Agreement from the county. The county suggested that the city and county share an attorney, with the city paying the county \$24,000.00 annually. The committee decided that this would not be financially feasible for the city to enter into this agreement. Council member Ozark made a motion to not enter into a mutual consent agreement with the county. The motion was seconded by Council member Karst, and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – Mayor Erickson said the fourth version of the SWIF plan has been submitted. DPW Kompel mentioned he is waiting for the RFP's to be submitted from some engineering firms, so a risk analysis for the levee can be completed. The Levee Committee is looking into a Resiliency Grant that could assist with some of the cost associated with this.

- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – City Clerk Amundson is working on an advertisement for interested parties that may want to sit on the Housing Board. Council member Schoenfelder stated she would.

-Renovations on the T-33 Airplane – Mayor Erickson had emailed the people again.

Department Head Reports:

Fire Chief Brunelle thanked the council for the work that has been put into trying to create the district.

Street Foreman Krause said his department is working on refilling some of the pot holes. The painting of the cross walks have been completed and they will be crack sealing in the next few days. The fence is being installed at Candy Cane Park and after that is done; they will start to assemble the equipment.

DPW Kompel mentioned there was a meeting for the RFP for the levee, there were 11 packets that went out and he is just waiting for responses. He updated the council on the TSEP conference call that was held the other day. He is also waiting to hear back from the Department of Labor on the hot mix plant.

Police Chief Barstad said that his department assisted with the traffic flow at the Irlle School the other day. After the paving is completed there the parking issue will change.

City Clerk Amundson said there will be a budget meeting on Wednesday September 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for personnel, water, grant, and ordinance. The cemetery committee would like to see the mowers winterized and have JR evaluate the equipment and get rid of what is not needed.

Public Comment: Sarah Partridge inquired to see if paving could be done in front of her house before winter and if the gravel could be cleaned up from the city or if she could have some of her equipment and employees come do it. DPW Kompel stated this can be taken care of by the city. She also stated that she is disappointed in the action the council took tonight with hiring an attorney from out of town. Buying local matters and the city needs to be investing locally.

Council member Karst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Sorensen; meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson
City Clerk -Treasurer

Rebecca Erickson
Mayor