

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Koski, Heitman, and Nistler. Council member Austin arrived at 5:16 p.m. Council members Ozark and Carr were absent. Also present were DPW Skubinna, Street Foreman Runningen, and Grant Writer Ryan. Candy Lagerquist, Travis Young, Tess Fahlgren, Randon Stormer, Matt Austin, Drew Markle, Dave and Krissy Peterson from St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group, and Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson, City Grant Writer Beyers, and City Attorney Pekovitch attended via Google Meets. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Karst made a statement to clear up the misconceptions regarding the discussions taking place between FMDH and the City of Glasgow that has been being discussed on Facebook. He doesn't use Facebook for this reason. He stated the City of Glasgow and its employees will not reply to these posts on social media. He said the swimming pool project is nearing the construction phase and the committee has raised over 3 million dollars without adding to property taxes. The committee needs to be recognized for their efforts.

When the swim pool committee went into the start of the project, they were led to believe that the cost of a new pool would be around 2.5 million and with the increase of costs it's now up to 3.7 million. The initial bid that came in was 4.7 million dollars, this is when the committee decided to regroup and look at other options for the pool house. The pool part of the project will run around 2.8 million dollars, the money is on hand for this, so a contract was signed for construction. The bathhouse project became something new for them to figure out a way to be completed. After an inspection of the 50-year-old building revealed failing plumbing underneath and structural damage including deteriorating bricks, a need for a new roof, and walls that had separated from the main building. The committee decided that the building should be demolished. By spending a little more money, we will get a new building. A cost estimate is not available yet, but they hope the architects and engineers will have a number soon. In the meantime, the hospital stepped forward with a proposal that they thought would benefit them and the pool project. The proposal was to purchase a portion of the park to put in a parking lot that would be used by the hospital and the pool. The original 4.7-million-dollar pool plan included a drop off loop and parking lot at a cost of around 200 thousand dollars and would have pushed the whole pool and bathhouse back towards the levee, taking up the entire middle of the park. That idea was scrapped due to the cost and a new parking and drop off loop was proposed at a cost of less than 20 thousand dollars, this would leave the pool and bathhouse in its current location also leaving the back of the park intact.

That is when the hospital proposal was shared with the city council. The hospital administration hoped that this would help the committee reach their funding goal and get the project completed. The hospital had two proposed plans and a contribution to the pool project of \$450,000. A committee was established that met with the hospital personnel once. At that public meeting, a few alterations of one of the proposals were recommended and that the other proposal should not be considered due to the public utilities under the street. It was also asked if the dollar amount was negotiable. We have not heard back from the hospital, so there is nothing new to report, and that is why it wasn't on tonight's agenda.

He was also asked if there would be a public hearing on this, to which he said yes there would be. The city council does not act on things like with without public comment. It had also been stated in the comments on Facebook that the park land was donated to the city by the Hoyt family and there are restrictions on how it can be used. This is not true. The Park came into existence under Mayor Hoyt's term in office, thus the name. Our City Attorney, City Clerk, and the hospital's attorney have been researching any restrictions on the usage of this city property. So far, they have come up with none. If it is found that there are restrictions, then the proposal will be denied.

It was also stated that the voters need to put this sale on the ballot. This is also not true. The city recently sold a used jetter, we did this without it being a ballot issue. The city buys and sells items all the time, all without being a ballot issue. We are elected to make decision on behalf of the taxpayers, we do not put everything on the ballot. The cost and time involved would deter the council's ability to get any business done tremendously.

He then reminded the public that all of the meetings are open and minutes are available upon request. The members of the council that are elected to represent you are available to discuss issues with. Our meetings have a public comment period twice during the meeting. The first is to discuss an issue on the agenda and the second is to discuss any issues not on the agenda. You are reminded that public comment is limited to three minutes per person, and that discussion can be limited if it becomes redundant. The city is transparent in the business being conducted and we welcome your input.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: There was no Public Comment.

Dave Peterson from St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group was in attendance to give a presentation to the city council on projects that have been completed on the St. Mary Diversion Project. Some of the projects he talked about were the Fresno Dam, the spillway inspection, and the St. Mary's Canal.

Council member Koski made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for November 20, 2023 in the amount of \$77,798.52, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$2,502.85, the minutes of the November 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, **Resolution No. 3148** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the Victim Assistant Program for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Received from the Montana Board of Crime Control, **Resolution No. 3149** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the City County Library Fund for the Receipt and Expenditure of Additional Money Received for the State Aid Per Capita, and **Resolution No. 3151** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the General Fund for the Glasgow Police Department for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Received from AgWest Farm Credit. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst introduced and offered for adoption **Resolution No. 3150** – A Resolution Determining the Salaries and Compensation of Elected and Appointed City Officers and All City Employees Excluding Union Employees; for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024; Revoking Resolutions in Conflict Herewith; and Establishing an Effective Date for Salaries and Compensation. Council member Koski moved for the adoption of **Resolution No. 3150**. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin; whereby **Resolution No. 3150** was unanimously adopted.

Council member Koski made a motion approving August and September 2023 financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman and carried unanimously.

Council member Heitman made a motion appointing Levi Doll to the Levee committee. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion awarding the sewer jetter bid to the Town of Nashua in the amount of \$5,500.00. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna stated the monthly meeting was held last week and the committee is reviewing information received from DNRC.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for personnel, water or cemetery. City Grant Writer Beyers said that she had talked with the Gianforte Foundation about a grant for the swim pool, but it does not fall within their requirements. She will follow up with the Tracy Foundation to see if she can apply for funding through there. She also talked with LWCF and requested a budget alteration that will allow the city to request reimbursement for material costs that have already been paid for. She will continue to research additional funding for the pool. City Attorney Pekovitch said she is reviewing the marijuana ordinance from the City of Havre to modify it to fit the City of Glasgow's needs. When that is completed an ordinance committee meeting will be set.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Skubinna told the council the transmission main project will go out for bid this week.

Street Foreman Runnigen said street sweeping is done for the year and the sweeper has been winterized.

City Clerk Amundson mentioned the city office's will be closed Thursday and Friday this week. Also, a council work session will be held on December 11th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the listing of projects for the HB 355 funding.

City Attorney Pekovitch said Chief Weber wanted her to mention the police department will be holding a hiring process on November 29th at 1:30 p.m.

Mayor Karst said that Council member Koski and himself attended the open house that was held at the Vandalia rest stop. He had also talked with the Montana Department of Transportation to see if it was possible to change the entryway into the new Albertson's location. They suggested speaking with the project manager and then bring the plans back to MDT for review and approval.

Public Comment: Tess Fahlgren voiced her concern on the publication that was done on the proposed Skate Park location public input meeting.

Council member Koski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk - Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor