

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- MARCH 16, 2020

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Heitman, Karst, Nistler, Ozark and Young. Council member Carr was absent. Those also present were DPW Kompel, City Clerk Fuhrman, Captain Edwards, Lieutenant Gamas, Tasha Morehouse-Mix of the Glasgow Police Department, Jory Casterline of the Recreation Department, Neal Levang of Morrison-Maierle, Brian Austin, and Joe Rennick.

Mayor Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian Austin, representing Joe Rennick, was in attendance to address the Council about a boat that was parked by Rennick at the Valley Court Apartments. The City had removed the boat from the property and disposed of it at the landfill where it was crushed. Austin explained that a police report was filed on December 6, 2019, reporting the boat as stolen. Austin provided handouts that included the Valley County Sheriff's Report, the title, a Stolen Vehicle Report, photos of the boat at its parked location at the apartment complex, NADA \$2,775 value, Valley Court Apartment tenant surveys, a marine battery receipt, statements from Angela France and Jennifer Braziel regarding parking arrangements and ownership, and a Boat Bill of Sale. Austin stated there was no notification, phone call, stickers, or police engagement prior to the City towing the boat to the landfill. Austin inquired what the City could do about this. Mayor Erickson read a statement explaining on March 4, 2020, the City had submitted a claim to MMIA Insurance to investigate the loss of property claim by Joe Rennick. The statement included that City of Glasgow employees should refrain from commenting on the matter and all further communications be directed to City Attorney Sullivan. Mayor Erickson added that the City has completed its information gathering, studies, and reports; including what was done to identify and contact the owner of the boat. She stated that the boat removal was not an immediate decision; there was an investigation on the City's part to locate the boat's owner.

Public Comment on any agenda item: NONE

Council member Young made a motion approving the consent agenda including, the payment of claims for March 16, 2020 in the amount of \$230,499.00, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$1,046.12, the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, and approval of **Resolution No. 3024** – a resolution establishing budgetary authority in the general fund for the receipt and expenditure of monies received from Hi-Line Sportsmen in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Homerun Pond Dock improvements. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst motioned for approval of Sletten Construction Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$30,422.06. Neal Levang of Morrison-Maierle provided descriptions and action/comments related to the proposed amount changes. These included additional wall coating in the filter area, addition of a retaining wall, a new motor starter, 4<sup>th</sup> Street water main revisions, a credit for removing the 7<sup>th</sup> Street ladder from the scope of work, re-route of a roof drain, epoxy wall coating, pad demolition and replacement, access hatch revisions, and garage area roof drain modifications. DPW Kompel stated that he had reviewed with Levang and Jeff Ashley and deemed that all revisions were necessary. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman and carried unanimously.

Council member Heitman motioned for approval of **Resolution No. 3025** – a resolution appointing a firefighter of the Glasgow Fire Department following completion of probation – Jeremy Aaberge. Council member Heitman added that Aaberge has been a good firefighter attending trainings and responding to all calls. The motion was seconded by Council member Young and carried unanimously.

Council member Heitman motioned for approval of **Resolution No. 3026** – a resolution calling for bids for the sale of Glasgow Fire Department's 1942 Dodge fire truck. City Clerk Fuhrman stated the Fire Department's minimum bid recommendation was \$500.00. Council member Young explained that it may be more beneficial to remove the minimum bid to prevent the bid submissions from being limited to the \$500.00 threshold. He added that the City has the right to refuse any and all bids if they are too low. The motion was seconded by Council member Young and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst motioned for approval of **Resolution No. 3027** – a resolution calling for bids for the sale of multiple vehicles for the Glasgow Police Department. Captain Edwards explained the history of the Police Department's minimum bid recommendations and would like at least \$500.00 per vehicle to go toward the purchase of a new police car; the Council accepted the recommendation. Council member Karst inquired about where the money goes for vehicle sales—if it goes to the General Fund or those departments selling the equipment. Edwards stated that previously, the money has gone to the department selling the asset. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Council member Young motioned for approval of **Resolution No. 3028** – a resolution calling for bids for the sale of multiple pieces of equipment for the Glasgow Public Works Department. DPW Kompel advised the

Council to accept the minimum bid recommendations so the equipment does not sell well below value. He included the fair market value research conducted by Street Foreman Runningen in a memo. The memo further explained that liquidating the units would free up space, sell the equipment while it still has value, reduce maintenance costs, and place money back into the Street Department's equipment fund. There was discussion about interest shown in some of the equipment listed. The motion was seconded by Council member Hietman and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst motioned for approval of the Personnel Policy updates according to MMIA for employment practices coverage. City Clerk Fuhrman explained how to review the revisions and the updates were made to meet MMIA's policy requirements. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously.

Captain Edwards detailed the status of hiring two police officers pending background checks and Police Commission approval. One applicant had failed to meet the criteria. Edwards would like to consider a part-time officer and asked for Council approval to pursue hiring a part-time person in case the department becomes more short-staffed. He explained that he has a few officers in mind, including a previously employed person that already has the uniform and training required to do the job. Mayor Erickson requested that Captain Edwards check with City Attorney Sullivan on re-hiring the interested person. There was further discussion about hiring retired officers and Edwards is looking into options for backup. Captain Edwards said they are still pursuing one full-time applicant, Jonas Tonneson, contingent on passing the background check. Council member Heitman made a motion to approve hiring Tonneson. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler and carried unanimously. There was continued discussion about hiring a part-time officer. Mayor Erickson stated the Police Department can do so, if they are within their budget. Council member Ozark said the Council will need to approve a hiring recommendation and noted it can be added to the next Council agenda.

Council member Karst provided a summary on the results of the swimming pool Request for Proposal. There were four firms that met the requirements and were scored based on Montana Department of Commerce's selection criteria. The Pool Committee is recommending Interstate Engineering to do the work on the proposed pool. Council member Karst made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark and carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson discussed the police wage negotiation. She referenced the Police Department offer letter agreeing to the \$.92 raise and request for a \$.10 night shift differential increase. The total cost of the extra \$.10 night differential rate would be \$417.30, retroactive to July 2019. Council member Young made a motion to approve the offer. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman and carried unanimously.

#### Unfinished Business:

- Levee Safety Committee Report – Mayor Erickson noted she has been in contact with John Lamb about holding a Levee Committee meeting to address forming a levee district and the amount and years required. Board meetings have been postponed, but this is high on the priority list.
- Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – NONE

Mayor Erickson reported that there was a TC Energy meeting on February 25, 2020, regarding Keystone XL pipeline. Topics included timeline, impact, and security. There was a meeting today on Coronavirus prevention that included the County Commissioners, City, law enforcement, the Health Department, churches, KLTZ, and various other people. There is a conference call daily at 9:00 a.m. to discuss changes. Todd Young, PIO, will provide informational updates on KLTZ at 11:00 a.m. everyday. All board meetings are cancelled for the next month, except Council meetings. The County has a phone number set up to prevent 911 overload. Valley County Transit is looking at limiting services. The schools are providing meals to school-aged children with specific drop-off points throughout the community. They are looking for childcare for first responders and are checking with churches. The County will provide Senior Citizen support and meal delivery. The Clerk and Recorder may consider mail ballots only for the November election. The Food Bank has been cancelled for the remainder of the month; Mental Health is organizing food delivery to homes. Mayor Erickson provided minutes from this morning's response meeting, comments from Governor Bullock's office, and the essential plan for the City of Glasgow. The City of Glasgow's safety measures will be in place until at least March 27, 2020, and will be reviewed at that time. The city offices will be working and will answer phone calls but will limit exposure to the public. The Street and Water Departments will continue services as usual. The City will continue to provide service for funerals. The Library operations will remain the same.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel, Water, Cemetery or Fire. Captain Edwards discussed that the Police Department is working with Kathy Granger on grants involving technology and where they need to focus their efforts. They are working on mental health tele-med service options for jailed people. Council member Karst noted that the Ordinance Committee met but did not take any action. Mayor Erickson stated that the Wage Compensation Committee met and will provide a report in the next meeting.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Kompel said he has distributed information sheets to employees on Coronavirus that include workplace tips on dealing with the virus. He also discussed that backup plans are in place if an employee gets sick. He provided the Council with handouts on prevention of the water transmission of COVID-19.

City Clerk Fuhrman reported that MMIA is fully covering testing for COVID-19. Rural Water has been rescheduled to July 14-16 and April's Executive Forum has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. Regarding the Valley Court Apartment transfer, the City is waiting for the Rural Development contacts to confirm meeting availability to discuss what is allowed with two interested purchasing parties.

Captain Edwards expressed concern about employees getting paid and the status of vacation and sick time amid the virus response. Mayor Erickson has contacted the League of Cities and Towns for guidance. She recommended each department keep a spreadsheet to record the hours of employees that have to take off work. The City wants to be supportive and will make it fair for others in the departments that are essential. Captain Edwards further discussed the concern for the public and the rise in criminal activity during this time. Victim Services are working from home and are providing a detailed log of work activity.

Public Comment: NONE

Council member Nistler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Young, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Rikki Fuhrman  
City Clerk – Treasurer

Rebecca Erickson  
Mayor