

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- JUNE 2, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Nistler, Carr, Ozark, Heitman, and Austin. Council member Koski was absent. DPW Skubinna and City Attorney Pekovitch were in attendance. Rene Clampitt, Madelyn House, Kristie Brabeck, Pat Knierim, Matt Poole, and Sheri Steckler from the Urban and Community Service Forester department of DNRC were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson attended via Google Meets. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst 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 June 2, 2025 in the amount of \$1,404,572.00, Valley Court claims in the amount of \$260.88, the minutes of the May 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, **Resolution No. 3195** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the General Fund for the Glasgow Police Department for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Received from the Mason Moore Foundation, and **Resolution No. 3197** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the Capital Projects Fund for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Received from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin and carried unanimously.

There were no bids received for the City of Glasgow's gas and diesel for fiscal year 2025-2026. City Clerk Amundson will reopen it and have the bids due by June 16, 2025.

Council member Austin made a motion to table the hiring of Cory Sager for the open police officer position. Council member Ozark stated that the mayor is looking for a motion contingent on the police commission meeting. Council member Nistler made a motion to hire Cory Sager contingent on the approval of the Police Commission. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst will perform the Oath of Office for Cory Sager after he is approved by the Police Commission.

Mayor Karst introduced and offered for adoption **Resolution No. 3196** – A Resolution Revising the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget for the Fire Relief Fund. City Clerk Amundson explained that the Fire Relief Association had asked her to make a retirement payment to a firefighter for both 2023 and 2024 after the budget was adopted. There is money in the fire relief fund that covered this payment, but the resolution will increase the budget by \$3,600.00 so there is not an audit finding for over expending a fund. Council member Carr moved for the adoption of **Resolution No. 3196**. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman; whereby **Resolution No. 3196** was unanimously adopted.

Council member Austin made a motion reappointing Marc Kloker to the Library Board for another five (5) year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark made a motion appointing Herb Sand to the Levee Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst stated the police hiring incentive has been working well. There was no request for an increase. Council member Ozark asked Mayor Karst what he means by its working well. He said it's been a helpful draw to filling those positions. There have been three (3) new hires that have benefited from the hiring incentive for the police department. Council member Ozark stated that Council member Koski had emailed out the information on salaries and he believes the city's GPD salaries are pretty competitive. He also asked why is it only the GPD that gets the hiring incentive and not other positions that are difficult to hire for. Council member Nistler agreed with Council member Ozark on looking at giving hiring incentives to other departments and not just the GPD. Mayor Karst mentioned we have done it before, not an actual bonus, but have paid for moving expenses. Council member Ozark said he would like to look at this issue to offer it to other departments, maybe not the same amounts, but some type of formula depending on their beginning salaries. Mayor Karst asked City Clerk Amundson what the current hiring incentive is. She explained that for a new officer it's a total of \$4,000.00. The initial \$2,000.00 is paid when they hire on and the other \$2,000.00 is paid after completion of the one-year probationary period. Then a person who has been in law enforcement for awhile receives \$6,000.00. \$3,000.00 is paid at hiring and the other \$3,000.00 after the one-year probationary period. Council member Ozark wants to know if this incentive is what is bringing officers to the GPD. He would ask Chief Weber, but he is not in attendance. Council member Ozark made a motion to approve the hiring incentive for another year effective June 18, 2025 to June 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler. City Clerk Amundson explained that the June 18th date is the initial council meeting date that the incentive was first approved. Since the hiring incentive will not affect Cory's hiring, Council member Ozark stated he would like to drop his motion. Council member Heitman made a motion to table the hiring incentive. Council member Ozark seconded the motion and would like to have Chief Weber at the next council meeting to discuss this further.

Mayor Karst said the wage comp committee wants to recommend tabling the starting wage for water supervisor starting wage of \$31.00 to see if any current employees would be interested, since two of them already have two of the three certifications and the tentative new hire doesn't have any Montana certifications and one of our employees does have some supervisory experience from a previous job. DPW Skubinna inquired on when the wage comp committee meeting was. Mayor Karst stated there was one a 4:30 today before the council meeting. Council member Nistler made a motion to table the starting wage for the water supervisor position. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst stated the wage comp committee's recommendation for the Deputy Clerk starting wage has changed from \$24.00 per hour to \$22.00 per hour and an option for an increase after a 6-month performance review is completed. Mayor Karst explained that there were two applicants that were interviewed. The first one they would like to offer the position to has 4 years' experience in governmental accounting. The second applicant has bookkeeping experience. Council member Austin made a motion to set the deputy clerk starting wage at \$22.00 and then a performance review after 6-months. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously. City Clerk Amundson will send a conditional offer to the first applicant to get the hiring process started. Mayor Karst then asked the council if the first applicant denies the offer, can City Clerk Amundson send a conditional offer letter to the second applicant. Council member Austin made a motion to offer the position to the second applicant at \$21.00 with a 6-month performance review if the first applicant denies the offer. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business – Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna stated that Herb was in attendance during the SWIF review and he will be an asset on the committee. The city is in the running for Direct Congressional Spending for the levee as of last Friday when all of the information was submitted. The funding request is for \$7 million with a required match and it would bring the levee completely into compliance. The representative from the senator's office will assist the city with finding other grants for the match to the project if it's awarded. The next Levee meeting is scheduled for July.

Committee Reports: There were no reports Personnel, Water, Grant, or Cemetery. City Clerk Amundson stated she will figure out when to schedule and ordinance committee meeting and will give adequate notice to the public so they can give their input on the large vehicle ordinance.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Skubinna talked about the work that has been started on the Rundle sidewalk. He had stopped by last Thursday and found out that they began laying paving stones as opposed to laying concrete. He said the city code is very specific on materials that can be used for sidewalks and paving stones is not one of them. DPW Skubinna said he wanted to give the information to the council to gauge their interest on if they will allow the Rundle to continue with the pavers and if this is the direction the council would like to go, the variance approval would come directly from the council. If the council does not want to move forward with this, then DPW Skubinna would write them a citation for not being in compliance with the city code. If the council decides they would allow the pavers, it can be put on the next city council agenda for discussion and a one-time approval for this material. The owner of the Rundle has also been looking for funding since the building is listed as a historical building. Council member Heitman wanted to know how far around the building they wanted to lay the pavers. DPW Skubinna said that it would be from the alley to the intersection, but would leave the corner as concrete with the ADA ramp that is already there then continue down 2nd Avenue South past the BS Buzz. City Attorney Pekovitch stated that she had stopped by there on her way to the council meeting and it does look aesthetically pleasing and there are no tripping hazards. She also mentioned the city's current ordinance is from 1955 and it should be looked at during the next ordinance committee meeting. The ordinance committee could also include a variance section to allow for other materials, if the council so chooses to do so. Council member Nistler suggested including a clause that would address any shifting or tripping hazards, other than that he would be good with the Rundle using the pavers. Discussion continued on the process and the lack of communication from the Rundle what they were going to do with the sidewalks to repair them. Council member Ozark suggested putting this item on the next agenda for discussion and an action item, if the council decides to make a decision on it. Council member Ozark said the intersection by Mark Combs house needs to be fixed. DPW Skubinna mentioned that it's on the list to be patched. He then went on to introduce Sheri from the Urban Forestry Division at DNRC. Sheri talked to the council about the benefits of becoming a Tree City USA.

City Attorney Pekovitch said there will be court every Thursday this month, she's been reviewing a couple of contracts for DPW Skubinna, and a plat.

City Clerk Amundson told City Attorney Pekovitch that there will be another cemetery deed to be notarized when she comes into town on Thursday.

There was no mayor's report.

Public Comment: Madelyn House was in attendance to request that the city's grant writer apply for the Tree City USA. She didn't want to overstep and ask Ashleigh herself. Mayor Karst will ask her to fill out the application for the city. Sheri also offered her assistance to become a Tree City. Rene Clampitt had asked if becoming a Tree City

would help with removing all the dead trees. Madelyn said that it does help to get grant funding to remove the trees. Matt Poole was in attendance to voice his concerns on the inverse crown that was going to be put in when the street is repaired after the water and sewer lines are replaced. DPW Skubinna told Matt that he will get him information on that, because at this time he is unsure of where the inverse crown would be placed.

Council member Nistler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

The council then entered into an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor