

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ----- AUGUST 12, 2020

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Karst, Heitman, and Ozark. Council member Young was in attendance via conference call. Council Members Nistler and Carr were absent. Those also present were City Clerk-Treasurer Amundson via Google Meets, Utility Billing Clerk Frueh, and City Attorney Sullivan. Those also in attendance include: Janice Swanson, Madelyn House, Andy Fahlgren, Shirley Siefert, Danelle Murch, Penny Murch, Candy Lagerquist, Karen Grewe, Suzanne Billingsley, and Nick Dirkes. The media was represented by AJ Etherington of the Glasgow Courier.

Mayor Erickson explained the reasoning for the meeting today. It's to address the wording to be put on the ballot regarding chickens within the city limits. On July 20th, Resolution No. 3039 was voted on to put the referendum on the ballot. City Attorney Sullivan was contacted by the Clerk and Recorder for the wording that needed to be placed on the ballot and since the next council meeting on August 17th was too far out is the reason for this special meeting. She also explained to those in attendance where the agendas are posted and that there are three (3) ways for the public to attend any meeting. The Mayor and city council abide by the Montana open meeting laws. Mayor Erickson said that she would like to give the opportunity for those in attendance to voice their opinion, but asked that it remain three (3) minutes or less and to state their name first and to give respect to those who are speaking without interruptions.

Suzanne Billingsley wanted to know if they were here today to voice their opinion for or against or just for the wording that will go on the ballot. Mayor Erickson explained that it would be if you were for or against the resolution wording to be placed on the ballot.

Shirley Siefert inquired if this ballot would only be going to Glasgow residents or county wide. Mayor Erickson said that it would only be available to the residents to vote on.

Madelyn House stated that the resolution was already passed to put the issue of the chickens on the ballot. City Attorney Sullivan said yes that resolution had been passed, but since it didn't include the actual language that needed to be put on the ballot is the reason for this meeting and the actual wording in Resolution No. 3041 will need to be approved.

Candy Lagerquist talked about how her daughters decided they had chickens this year for 4-H and it wasn't the greatest. We have people in the community who can't even care for their cats or dogs, and from her experience with the chickens she could also see people not taking care of them either. Our law enforcement has enough to deal with and shouldn't have to mess with chickens on top of it all. She is highly against having chickens within the city limits and encourages people to purchase farm fresh eggs from people who already have chickens outside of the city limits.

Shirley Siefert said that she isn't against the chicken issue going on the ballot, she is upset by the way it was handled. She thought that after last August's meeting, this was a done deal. She looks at the city website for the minutes of each meeting and thinks they should be published in the paper. Mayor Erickson said that when the Courier needed to start charging for each set of minutes, the council voted that down because they would rather use that money elsewhere. Both the Courier and KTLZ were notified of this meeting and agendas were posted in the four (4) places they need to be posted. AJ from the Courier even went and took pictures of the posted agendas to show the city is in compliance with open meeting laws.

Council member Ozark mentioned that this story has been covered by both KLTZ and the Courier since June. He apologized if anyone felt that this issue wasn't covered enough.

Madelyn House voiced her concerns and why she would like the ability to have chickens if she wants them within the city limits. She also stated that the ordinance that has been written has very clear rules on what can and can't be done.

There were concerns on how this ordinance would be enforced, since most of the current city ordinances don't seem to be.

Andy Fahlgren spoke to those present about how he has lived in several communities that have had chickens and there never seemed to be an issue, there are no health concerns, and thinks residents should give it a chance. He also talked about the letter Madelyn had received from the Mayor of Miles City on how he was against it in the beginning and after it passed, he gave it a chance and is now for having them in their community.

Nick Dirkes made a statement in support of allowing the chicken issue to be placed on the ballot. He personally doesn't want chickens, but believes the community should have the choice whether they want them or not.

Council member Young believes as a city council member we need to give the public the right to vote. He said if this passes everyone who would have them would have to do their due diligence and follow the code.

Council member Karst asked the Mayor to read the language in the resolution that would be on the ballot. Mayor Erickson read the language, "Do you support allowing property owners to maintain six (6) domestic chickens (hens), within the incorporated Glasgow City limits, subject to the regulation by the Official Code of the City of Glasgow? Yes or No."

Mayor Erickson introduced and offered for adoption **Resolution No. 3041** – A Resolution by the City Council of the City of Glasgow, Montana, to Submit the Question of Whether Six Female Chickens (Hens) Should be Allowed Within the Incorporated City Limits of Glasgow on the November03, 2020 General Election Ballot. Council member Young moved for the adoption of **Resolution No. 3041**. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark; whereby **Resolution No. 3041** was unanimously adopted.

Public Comment: AJ Etherington from the Glasgow Courier mentioned that there are many ways to find out what is happening within the community and the information provided is public knowledge. Residents need to also do their research and ask questions.

Council member Heitman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark the meeting adjourned at 12:39p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor

Rebecca Erickson