**APPROVED**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 28, 2016**

The meeting was called to order @ 6:00 pm by Council Chair Brent Teske. Council Persons in attendance were Mr. Olsen, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Beach and Mrs. Williams. Also in attendance were City Clerk/Treasure Audray McCollum and City Administrator Jim Hammons.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

Council Chair Teske opened the meeting to appoint a new Council Person to the Libby City Council. Three candidates for the position were in attendance. The candidates were Mr. Gary Neff, Mrs. Kristin Smith and Ms. Tammy Brown.

Council Chair Teske asks the candidates to join City Administrator Jim Hammons in the back and they would be summoned one at a time to express their interest in why they would like to be on the Libby City Council.

The first candidate to speak was Gary Neff, 407 10th ST E. Mr. Neff stated he would like to work on remodeling the police station and the city’s infrastructure. As a council member he would like to boost employee moral suggesting a possible bonus incentive.

Members of the Council then were allowed to asked Mr. Neff questions. Mr. Zimmerman asked how many hours Mr. Neff could contribute to the council. Mr. Neff responded that he is retired and intends to make this a full time job. Mr. Zimmerman asked what Mr. Neff’s biggest concern was. He responded boosting employee moral suggesting a possible bonus incentive

Mr. Beach asked what role the city has in attracting new business. Mr. Neff feels the City of Libby needs to get the infrastructure updated first.

Mr. Beach asked which areas of Libby need to be revitalized. Mr. Neff said Dakota South needs to be cleaned up. There are some places on Minnesota and Wisconsin that have a lot of junk in their yards.

Mr. Olsen asked how many council and committee meetings Mr. Neff had attended in the last year. Neff responded he had only missed two council and three committee meetings due to having surgery.

Mr. Olsen asked Mr. Neff if he was informed in what was going on in the city. He stated that he was very informed asking the city administrator and clerk to make sure all his facts were correct.

Mr. Olsen wanted to know what committees Mr. Neff would like to serve on. Mr. Neff stated water/sewer, building and ordinance.

Mrs. Williams asked what the city’s role in economic development was. Mr. Neff responded that the work Kootenai River Development, the port authority and Lincoln County are doing is great. He feels the City should focus on infrastructure to make Libby look better; this in return would attract new business.

Mrs. Williams asked what personal strengths Mr. Neff would bring to the council position. Ignorance; Mr. Neff explained he is only ignorant once, because he will always work on finding the answer. Mr. Neff said he has a good work habit and a wealth of knowledge.

Mr. Teske thanked Mr. Neff for coming out for the position and said he appreciated his agenda and felt that all the items needed to be addressed.

Next to address the council was Ms. Brown, 603 Minnesota. Ms. Brown said she moved to Libby seven years ago. She loves it here and wants what is best for Libby.

Mrs. Williams asked what the city’s role in economic development was. Ms. Brown stated she owns a small business and knows the policies and infrastructure it takes to run a business.

Mrs. Williams asked what personal strengths Ms. Brown would bring to the council. Ms. Brown responded she is a go getter and stand behind what she wants. Ms Brown understands bookkeeping and banking. She feels her best quality is her push to move forward and stand behind what she says.

Mr. Olsen asked how much time had she put forward to prepare herself for the council position. Ms. Brown stated she did a lot of foot work with the recall petition. She has so much more to learn and wants to learn.

Mr. Olsen asked if Ms. Brown would have any issues dedicating time for the council position. Ms. Brown responded that she would not.

Mr. Olsen asked Ms. Brown how many council meetings she attended over the last year. Ms Brown stated she had started attending council meetings in February of this year and missed a total of three.

Mr. Olsen asked what committees Ms Brown would like to serve on. Ms. Brown said the budget committee and maybe one or two more; feels it’s better to focus on a couple, than to stretch yourself too thin.

Mr. Olsen asked if Ms. Brown would serve on the council long term, Brown responded yes.

Mr. Beach asked Ms Brown what her thoughts on the history of Libby were and how to use that to promote Libby. Ms. Brown said the new hiking trails and museum are wonderful assets to promote Libby. She felt Libby has a bad rap from the past clean up, would like to see Libby move forward. Ms. Brown would like to see the store fronts on Mineral cleaned up and make them more appealing to the public.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Ms. Brown how many hours a month she could give up to serve on the council. Ms. Brown replied she would do whatever it takes.

Mr. Zimmerman wanted to know what is most important to move Libby forward. Ms. Brown would like Council to get things done, clean Libby up. Ms. Brown stated there had been more tourists in her restaurant this past year; she heard many comments on how beautiful the county was.

Mr. Teske thanked Ms. Brown for coming out for the council position.

Last to speak was Kristin Smith, 1523 Dakota. Mrs. Smith said she had a interest in working on the council with her history of civic and community and professional engagement. Libby is the longest place she has lived. Mrs. Smith would like to see Libby reach its highest potential. Smith is part owner of Cabinet Mountain Brewery for two years which has provided steady employment for at least five people, attracted a record number of new tourists and created a new interest and investment in downtown. Prior to this Mrs. Smith worked in the public and private sector as community and land use planner. Mrs. Smith feels the City of Libby is at a cross road and Libby has fallen behind. Smith would like to see Libby move forward and move into a time of prosperity. This can be done with a governing body that acts with integrity and respectful participation with the public. Smith stated “only positive attitudes can effect positive changes.” Mrs. Smith would be honored with the opportunity to serve on the council.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Mrs. Smith if should would have enough time to serve on the council. Mrs. Smith said she would.

Mr. Zimmerman wanted to know the most important thing to move Libby forward. Smith responded projecting a positive image of itself. Stating government does good work. The city needs to have better working relations with local business, county and the economic development agencies; this would create a strong network.

Mr. Beach asked what the city’s role in attracting new businesses was. Smith replied the city needs to be more involved with the economic development agencies. Smith would like to see the city create a Face Book page, get out on social media. City of Libby needs to be more engaged with the citizens.

Mr. Beach asked how Libby’s history and assets could be harnessed to move the city forward. Smith said the outdoors, natural resources, small town feel you can walk or ride your bike everywhere. We need to use this to attract retirees and younger generations.

Mr. Olsen asked Mrs. Smith what committees she would like to serve on. Smith said streets, buildings and ordinance committees.

Mr. Olsen asked how many meeting Mrs. Smith had attended over the last year. Smith stated none but she had attended several in the past.

Mr. Olsen asked if there would be a conflict of interest since Mrs. Smiths’ husband worked for the city. Mrs. Smith did not feel there would be but if anything did arise she would recues herself from that vote.

Mr. Olsen asked about a grant Mrs. Smith had received for her business, Mrs. Smith replied the grant was though the State of Montana and had nothing to do with the City of Libby.

Mrs. Williams asked what the city’s role in economic development was. Smith stated the city has an important role and needs to take an active role with the economic development agencies. Council needs to be involved and stay informed to better inform the public.

Mrs. Williams asked what personal strengths Mrs. Smith would bring to the council position. Smith feels she is a fair person who likes to stay informed.

Mr. Teske thanked Mrs. Smith for coming out this evening and for her interest in the position.

Council chair Teske opened the meeting up to comments.

D C Orr, 1117 Nevada, stated all three candidates were super for Libby. Mr. Orr said he had history with all three candidates, and felt Gary Neff would be the best choice for Libby. The council needs someone who knows how government works and Gary Neff does. He asked council to give reasons why they picked a certain council member. Mr. Orr stated he was on the council when the city hired Kristin Smith to put together a planning document. Orr expressed concerns that Mrs. Smith did not know the different planning committees for the city council. Mr. Orr said there might be a conflict of interest with the business that Mrs. Smith owns.

Ron Carter, 614 W. 4th, said Libby was fortunate to have three good candidates. Mr. Carter thanked Mrs. Williams for all her hard work. He was sorry to hear that Chief Terry Watson was leaving. Carter thanked the city crews and Jim Hammons for the work on the city streets. Wished the council luck with making there discussion.

Council Chair Teske then opened the floor for nominations for the council seat. Mrs. Williams made a nomination for Kristin Smith. Mr. Olsen made a nomination for Gary Neff. Nominations were closed with Kristen Smith and Gary Neff. Council discussion followed.

Mr. Olsen stated this is a chance to move Libby forward, these are three great candidates. He wants council to make the right choice so Libby does not go back in time. Mr. Olsen feels Mr. Neff is by far the best candidate.

Mr. Beach stated in his opinion Kristin Smith was the best candidate. She had the best resume and background. Beach wants the council to look at people’s strong points, education and history.

Mr. Olsen agreed but thinks Mr. Neff would have more time; he has already dedicated a lot of personal time in finding out answers on different issues. Mr. Olsen stated the council needs to move Libby forward and choose the right candidate.

Mr. Zimmerman told Mr. Olsen he didn’t agree with his statement and they would be moving Libby forward with the candidate that was chosen.

Mr. Olsen replied that Kristin has used her inside information to better herself and thinks there could be a conflict of interest. Olsen said Kirstin Smith is a good lady with a lot of knowledge; she could benefit the city greatly. Olsen is worried that down the line there could be a conflict of interest. He feels Mr. Neff is the best candidate with his past dedication and no hidden agenda.

Mrs. Williams stated she had worked with Mrs. Smith on the planning board and she has a wealth of knowledge behind her. Her ability to work with the public makes her a great candidate.

Mr. Zimmerman likes that Mrs. Smith is a business owner, feels this would be good for the council.

Mr. Olsen disagreed stating there had been several business owners on the council.

Council Chair Teske asked for the vote. First, asking for votes for Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Williams, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Beach voted yes. Opposed was Mr. Olsen. Then he asked for votes for Mr. Neff. Mr. Olsen voted for Mr. Neff. His was the only vote.

Mr. Teske stated there will be another vacant council seat open and encouraged Ms. Brown and Mr. Neff to resubmit, the closing date will be October 14 and appointment October 17.

Mrs. Smith was brought out and was sworn in by Council President Teske.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Zimmerman second.

Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

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Brent Teske, Council President Audray J. McCollum, City Clerk/Treasurer