

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting # 1592 on Monday, November 1, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Peggy Williams.

The pledge of Allegiance was completed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Peggy Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Kristin Smith, Brian Zimmerman, Zachariah McNew, Hugh Taylor, Rob Dufficy, City Administrator Sam Sikes and Deputy Clerk Charlotte Luedecke.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present and prayer was offered by Lloyd Miller.

Approve City Council Minutes #1584 dated 7 September 2021. Councilor Beach **MADE A MOTION** to approve, and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve City Council Minutes #1589 dated 18 October 2021. Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve, and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Special Council Minutes #1590 dated 25 October 2021. Councilor Beach **MADE A MOTION** to approve, and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Special Council Minutes #1591 dated 25 October 2021. Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve as amended, Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Announcements:

Mayor Williams reminded everyone about elections being held 2 November 2021 at the County Annex from 7:00am -8:00pm.

Committee Reports:

City Administrator: Sam Sikes reported that the Water Treatment Plant, due to the recent rains the filtration screens at the lower reservoir, experienced clogging on Friday, the 12th of October. The Streets crew cleaned the filters Friday morning and again from 10pm until about 1:30 am due to dramatically reduced water flow into the system. Treatment plant operators were on site all night to keep the turbidity within legal limits. Rural development completed an unscheduled inspection of the Water Treatment System to ensure compliance with all terms and conditions of the outstanding loans on the system. The plant, lower reservoir, and dam passed. Rural Development also completed an unscheduled inspection of the Wastewater Plant which the plant passed without exception. Engineers have been on site to finalize plans for the Bar Screen upgrade. The city picked up four dump truck loads of leaves during the last week. It has been noticed that there are many leaves remaining so the city crews will go around on Wednesday, November 3rd to pick up stragglers. Crews will be out and about the next few days making sure the storm water drains remain clear and complete some street sweeping.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported that there were 7 calls in the month of October 2021, consisting of 1 in the City, 5 in Rural Fire District, and 1 outside of City or Rural Fire District.

Police: Chief Kessel reported there were 244 calls, 8 arrests, and 12 citations in the month of October. There was a threat on the school, which was quickly identified as a hoax, that was part of a national hoax originating out of Missouri and those people who concocted the hoax have been charged. There were a lot of resources wasted nationwide for law enforcement and school administrations to deal with this hoax. As a reminder the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect now, a reminder will be posted on the Libby Police Department Facebook page, and it would be helpful if the media would post the ordinance as well to make Libby citizens aware before it snows. There is also the issue of recreational marijuana whether it will be admitted into the City Limits. If it is going to be sold now is the time to deal with this, not January. There have been reports of Grizzly bears in the Parmenter Hill area, at least 5 have been sighted and one male was trapped by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This is approximately ½ to ¼ of a mile straight downhill from the elementary school. If the grizzly bears become an issue in city limits law enforcement will make every attempt to haze them off, and if there is a threat to public safety the bear will be euthanized.

City County Board of Health: Amy Fantozzi reported that at the October 12, 2021, meeting, candidates for the open board position were interviewed. The three candidates were Dr. Greg Rice, Dave Harmon, and Dr. Diana Carvey. The vote was split 3-3 between Dr. Rice and Dr. Carvey, so the decision was sent to the County Commissioners who chose Dr. Diana Carvey of Eureka. The board is now 3 members from Eureka, 1 from Troy, 1 from Libby, and Commissioner Josh Letcher also of Eureka. The Health Department reported that they have hired a Planner/Sanitarian who will start this month. The board held a working meeting on October 19, 2021 to continue to establish ground rules, mission, and go over the bylaws. There were no decisions made at this meeting, just rough drafts which will be voted on at the November 9, 2021, meeting.

Councilor Dufficy asked if Dr. Brad Black's position had been filled as he retired.

Amy answered that Dr. Black is still the Public Health director and Dr. Carvey is replacing Dr. Sarah Mertes on the board.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Scott Traphagen, 517 E. 6th Street, is asking for a Conditional Use Permit to use the shop on his property for his auto detail business. Scott says his equipment in the shop is very quiet and does not disturb the neighbors and he submitted signed statements to corroborate this statement. At this point the business model is to do one ceramic coating and 3-5 detail jobs per week so there will not be an issue with traffic. Most of the vehicles are picked up at Timberline Auto so there will not be many dropped off vehicles. If a shop were to become available to run this business out of, Scott said he would be happy to move and do business out of that shop. There are just no available locations right now.

Kurt Nelson, 608 Minnesota Ave, stated he is not at all bothered by Scott Traphagen's business being run out of his shop. He is a direct neighbor and hears nothing coming from the shop and has no problem with business being conducted at 517 E. 6th Street.

Martin Dunbar, Taylor Loop, states that grizzly bears have been hanging around Parmenter Creek for about three weeks and showed Council photos of the bears. Fish, Wildlife and Parks brought traps up to property and had a male bear trapped within 6 hours. Martin requested that the City notify the public of the presence of the bears.

New Business:

Adopt Ordinance 1995 – Zoning previously annexed property as Highway Commercial. (First Reading)

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve, and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve claims and payroll for October 2021.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve, and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve KM Construction and Handyman, and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations.

Mayor Williams reported that there had been no movement, but will attempt to check in with Allan Payne to get an update.

Noble Investments request for easement by Sewage Treatment Plant. (In committee)

Councilor Zimmerman reported that the committee is waiting for a letter from Noble Investments so they can move forward with the easement from BNSF. A few items have come up while Noble and his people were writing the letter and they are doing more research. Once that is done, there will hopefully be something to present to Council at the November 15, 2021, meeting.

Councilor Smith asked if this would be an official letter.

Councilor Zimmerman said yes it would be an official letter,

General Comments from the Council:

Councilor Smith said she will be scheduling an Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss recreational Marijuana soon.

Councilor Dufficy wished everyone luck in the election and mentioned that the Halloween Party in the downtown district and what a success it was he then asked if Gail Burger could say a few words regarding the party.

Gail Burger, 302 California Ave, Gail reported that Mineral Ave., was closed from Timberline Auto to The Keep and the turn out was phenomenal. There were about 20 business that participated, Harlow's put a bus in the middle and Libby Transportation came out. There were more kids than ever, typically we expect around 400 and there were 700 plus this year. Many parents participated as well. Gail thanked Council for allowing the road closure.

Mayor Williams thanked Gail Burger for organizing the Halloween festivities and for all of the work she puts into it.

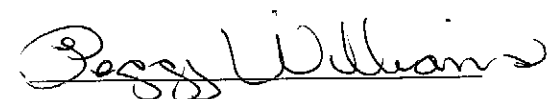
Adjournment:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn, and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Smith, Zimmerman, McNew, Taylor and Dufficy voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.



Mayor, Peggy Williams



Deputy Clerk, Charlotte Luedecke