

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting # 1596 on Monday, January 3, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mayor Peggy Williams.

The pledge of Allegiance was completed, Prayer led by Eric Shertel, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Peggy Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Zachariah McNew, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, City Administrator Sam Sikes and Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present.

Approve City Council Minutes #1595 dated Monday, December 20, 2021.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Announcements:

Mayor Williams announced the City has been awarded 2 grants:

1. \$15,000 Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) planning grant for Preliminary Engineering Report for water system
2. \$600,000 CDBG for upgrading Wastewater Computer Controls and sewer mains. Mayor Williams expressed appreciation to Tina Oliphant and Mike Fraser for the effort they put in to get the grant.

Committee Reports:

City Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported the Streets Department have been plowing when necessary and will continue to plow as required. Sikes mentioned plowing has not been done in approximately 2 years due to mild winter and asks the Libby citizens to be patient while breaking in two new snow plow drivers and while the Streets Crew is getting used to winter conditions.

Mr. Sikes announced frozen water meters are a concern during freezing conditions. The City's policy is 1 free meter per residence for replacement, a second frozen meter requires the customer to pay for the meter before installation and requires heat tape or insulation to prevent future issues. The City currently has a small stock of meters and is placing an order that should be delivered by September.

Mr. Sikes reported several applications have been received for the open Supervisor and City Service Worker positions. The interview committee will start the evaluation and interview process this week. A couple of applications have been received for the Planning Technician position but none for the Planning Board opening.

Mr. Sikes will meet with members of the Water/Sewer committee to discuss the Preliminary Engineering Report and the two offers submitted.

Mr. Sikes met with Teri Rayome with Flathead Electric to discuss the electric car charging unit in Fireman's Park. The site is prepared, the charging unit is expected to be ready by mid-February. A question for the Mayor and Council: if they would like to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony since this is the first of its kind in Libby. Sikes announced the DEQ and MCEP are completing final review of the Bar Screen plans and awaiting approval. Sikes mentioned Cedar Meadows sewer extension paralleling the school sewer won't work due to right of way issues. A new sewer line will be installed and the school will be connected to the line. Sikes reported Libby Trailer Park is working with Neighborhood Revitalization to get onto the sewer/water connection to the Mormon Church, which will help improve water flow throughout that area. The project would be at their cost.

Police: Chief Kessel reported for the month of December 2021 there were 239 calls for service, 18 arrests, 30 citations, 25 City ordinance violations, and 18 vehicles were towed for snow removal. Kessel announced warnings are being issued for sidewalk snow removal including reminding businesses along Highway 2. Councilor Zimmerman asked if a call to Kip (Nixon) was needed as a reminder to the State snow plows can't plow out to the sidewalks. Calls have been made in the past as a reminder. Mayor Williams suggested getting together with Mr. Sikes so he can take care of the issue.

Ordinances: Councilor Smith reported there will be an Ordinance Committee meeting on Monday, January 10th at 6:15PM to draft documents about adult use marijuana.

Zoning: Councilor Smith announce the next Zoning Committee meeting is scheduled for January 24th.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mayor Williams announced Gail Burger was on Zoom awaiting approval of support letter for the Historic Hotel Libby Rehabilitation Project. A letter was given to the Council and rewritten to bring up to date. Councilor Smith asked Ms. Burger of any immediate grants being perused. Burger responded applications are being submitted for the HP12 grant which is a Historic Preservation grant that needs to be in by February 14th, the History Foundation grant, and several others that are related to the hotels historical status. Councilor Smith is in favor of the letter and for the Libby Hotel to be resorted and mentioned people are curious as to why money is still being asked for and what's happening with the restoration. Council Smith asked Burger to provide a list of grants that have been received and restorations that has been done to the hotel to give a little more understanding with issuing the letter. Burger responded that a list will be provided and press release will be coming out with funding to date. Mayor Williams proposed tabling the approval until a list is provided. Councilor Smith suggest that letter be written more specific or tailored to the specific grant and requested information on the grant that is being perused along with the list of all of the successful funding and restorations that have been done.

Mayor Williams announced election for Council President.
Councilor McNew nominated Councilor Zimmerman as Council President.

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Taylor, and Smith voted **FOR**.

NOMINATION PASSED.

Public Comments:

D.C. Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave, asked Councilor Zimmerman to be transparent with his actions as Council President.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve a business license for BKB General Construction and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve December payroll and claims:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve payroll and claims. Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Mayor Williams to sign Planning Grant Agreement with RRGL for \$15000:

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve Mayor Williams to sign PGA with RRGL. Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations: Mayor Williams announced there were no updates on IP negotiations. Councilor Taylor asked if an email could be sent to Allen Payne to get an update for the next Council meeting.

Public Comments:

D.C. Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., presented an article about Payne and asked the Council to review it to bring up the topic next meeting

Noble Investments request for easement: Mayor Williams indicated no update on Nobel Investment, they have been working on an Exhibit A to be provided with the easement.

Public Comments: None

General Comments from the Council: Mayor Williams announced approval of engineering firm for water system Preliminary Engineering Report will be on the next meeting agenda.

For local government personnel who are interested, an online 6 week class on Fundamentals of Montana Municipal Government will begin on January 24th.

The Council welcomed Councilor Berke to her first City Council meeting.

Adjournment:

Councilor Smith **MADE A Motion** to adjourn and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Taylor, Smith, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**
MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold

