

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting # 1597 on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Call to Order:

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

Prayer was led by Tom Cole, the Pledge of Allegiance was completed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Peggy Williams, Councilors, Melissa Berke, Zachariah McNew, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, City Administrator Sam Sikes, and Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold. Councilors Gary Beach and Kristin Smith were not in attendance.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present.

Approve City Council Minutes #1596 dated Monday, January 3, 2022.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Announcements: None

Committee Reports:

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported LVFD responded to four calls: 1 call in the City and 3 calls in the Rural Fire District for December 2021. Two of the calls were for mutual aid with ambulance, and two were for chimney. Zimmerman announced that the new SCBA equipment was now service and thanked everyone who helped make it possible.

Councilor Zimmerman read the 2021 annual report. 127 calls were received by year end, 5:58 minutes average turnout time, 10:57 minutes average response time, 49:37 minutes was the average time spent on scene. Average personnel responding to calls were 15.1 members, 2308 total training hours for all members, total time spent on incidents were 882 hours. Incident + training time was 3,190 hours figured and \$25 pr hr equals out to \$79,750 donated to Libby by LVFD.

Councilor Taylor inquired about the number of calls received by the City, County, and Out-of-District. Councilor Zimmerman responded there were 30 calls in the City, 74 in the County, and 23 Outside-of-District.

Water/Sewer: Councilor Zimmerman announced there was no report but a committee meeting will be held Friday, January 21st at 12:00pm.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Dr. Ben Scott, 252 Woodland Heights, President of the Cross Country Ski Club, thanked the City and Administrator Sikes for granting permission to fix 2 of 4 mislabeled way-finding signs headed up to the ski course that were purchased with a grant. Dr. Scott announced the Forest Service kindly put both signs up after they were fixed. Councilor Zimmerman asked if there was any cost in the repairs and who did the work that needed to be made. Dr. Scott replied the Ski Club and Twisted Turtle did the repairs and the cost was just under \$400 due to the special reflective material on the sign that needed to be carefully removed and put back on.

D.C. Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave, inquired if the City Attorney attended Council meetings in Libby as part of his contract. Mayor Williams informed Mr. Orr that Attorney Chisholm attends meetings via Zoom. Mr. Orr asked if that was acceptable in the Attorney's contract or was he required to be present. Mayor Williams said she would look at the contract.

Mr. Orr addressed public comments he has heard regarding snow removal ordinance for businesses along HWY 2 and inquired about the absence of committee reports.

Tom Cole, 747 Flower Creek Rd., volunteered his time to remove snow around fire hydrants if help was needed.

Dave Kemmerer, 124 Pioneer, volunteered his time and snow blower for snow removal on sidewalks and walkway if help was needed.

Old Business:

Approve Support Letter for Historic Hotel Libby Rehabilitation Project:

Owner Gail Burger is seeking a support letter for the Historic Hotel Libby Rehabilitation Project. Mayor Williams informed the Council a new version of the letter was drafted per Ms. Burger's request striking the last portion of the final sentence. Ms. Burger, via Zoom, thanked Mayor Williams and Council members for the approval and informed council the upcoming grant was for a roof project and there would be no environmental impact.

Councilor McNew **MADE A MOTION** to approve the support letter for the Historic Hotel Libby Rehabilitation Project and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

New Business:

Approve AE2S Engineering for a Preliminary Engineering Report:

Councilor Zimmerman noted two reports were reviewed by Councilor Beach, Administrator Sikes, and himself. After analyzing both reports it was determined that AE2S Engineering was the better report and more cost effective than TD&H Engineering.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve AE2S Engineering and Councilor Berke **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve support letter for Libby Creek Water Improvement:

Mayor Williams described the project's location and how the trailer park community will be connected to the City's water lines to avoid contaminated wells. Mayor Williams stated they are working with WGM out of Missoula to put together grant applications through ARPA funds to get connected. Part of the grant is to have 20 hours of engineering costs covered. Councilor McNew asked to recuse himself from the vote due to the fact he manages the co-op for the trailer park. Mayor Williams informed all that with Councilor McNew's recusal there would not be a quorum vote and the approval would be tabled until the next meeting. Councilor Taylor asked if a copy of the improvement would be available. Mayor Williams stated that a copy is not currently available, but that Mike Fraser is working with WGM to facilitate them.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

Mayor Williams read the businesses to be approved:

Granite Concrete Products, Heather Lee Lee individual housekeeping, and Next Home Premier Realty.

Mayor Williams had a question about zoning in Cabinet Heights for the approval of Next Home Premier Realty to work out of their home. Mayor Williams suggested tabling that business license for approval until further investigation is conducted to see if zoning will permit that business to be run out of the home.

Councilor Taylor **MADE A MOTION** to approve Granite Concrete Products and Heather Lee Lee and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all liquor licenses received to date:

Mayor Williams read the liquor licenses to be approved:

American Legion, Black Board Bistro, Cabinet Mountain Brewing, Cabinet View Country Club, Crosscut Casino, Empire Foods, Gold Pan Casino, Harold's Casino, Libby Quick Stop, Lucky Lil's Casino, Lucky Logger's Casino, Maggie's 2 Casino, Mint Bar, Pastime Bar, Rosaurers, Switchback, Town Pump, and VFW.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all Liquor License received to date and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all Coin Operated Licenses to date:

Mayor Williams read the liquor licenses to be approved:

American Legion, Mint Bar, Pastime Bar, and VFW.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all Coin Operated License received to date and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations: Councilor Taylor noted an email was received from Mr. Payne stating they are going to request an audience with the EPA to discuss our grievances and lack of movement with International Papers and currently waiting to receive the date of the meeting.

Public Comments:

D.C. Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., discussed an article he found about Mr. Payne and requested a full accounting report of IP money disbursement.

General Comments from the Council:

Councilor McNew asked if there were any updates with S&D carwash. Mr. Sikes responded S&D was currently being handled by Chief Kessel and Attorney Chisholm.

Councilor Zimmerman mentioned Mr. Sikes reached out to Kip Nixon with the State as a reminder about plowing snow to the center along Hwy 2 in the City business district. Mr. Sikes stated he did talk to Mr. Nixon and the State is currently understaffed and having a hard time keeping up with demand for snow plowing and, at this time, are unable to provide the courtesy of plowing to the center along Hwy 2. The State did plow to the center along California Ave./Hwy 37. The City and State worked together to remove all of the center snow berms in the downtown area.

Councilor Taylor announced Fish and Game is trapping for CWD within the City limits and is looking for landowners interested in traps being placed on their property. Any landowners interested in helping with the study can contact Tony with Fish and Game. Councilor Zimmerman inquired if anything was going to be done about the wild turkey population in town. Councilor Taylor replied there are no plans to control the population.

Councilor McNew thanked Chief Kessel and his officers for taking the time to remind businesses along Hwy 2 to keep the sidewalks cleared of snow for pedestrians.

Councilor Zimmerman inquired about any updates from Tony Petrusha, if his contract was being met and if he was working on getting the funding.

Adjournment:

Councilor McNew **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn and Councilor Taylor **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold