

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting # 1609 on Monday, July 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was completed, prayer was by Tom Cole, and roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Zach McNew, Hugh Taylor, and Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Samuel Sikes, City Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) Councilor Kristin Smith and City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present.

Announcements: None.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported the Building Inspector sold 1 building permit in June for a small deck and roof - \$157. Total for FY22 54 building permits sold - \$47,681 compared to FY21 47 building permits sold - \$41,000 and FY21 54 building permits sold - \$27,500.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Tonya Chilton-Radandt and Austin Wiesher, Wildlife Biologists with Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) presented a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) update with visual slides. CWD is a slow-moving, fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk, moose, and caribou. Symptoms do not appear until the animal is terminal, including emaciation, excessive salivation, lack of muscle control, staggering, droopiness of the head, and lack of fear of humans. The infection can take up to two years to become terminal, 14-16 months on average.

In Libby area, samples had been submitted since 2015. In 2019, positive CWD cases were first detected in the Libby area, making it the first time cases had been detected in an urban area. City Council adopted resolution 1939 to authorize FWP to trap and dispatch deer in town for testing. In 2019, 45 deer were tested with zero cases. 2020–2021 100 deer tested, 7 positive cases, 89 sent to the food bank, 2021–2022 99 deer tested, 5 positive cases, 92 sent to the food bank.

Councilor Taylor inquired why out of state tags were allowed to be purchased if FWP does not want the carcasses out of the area they were taken. Ms. Chilton and Neil Anderson explained it is highly recommended to not transport carcasses, by law, tags must be available to everyone not just residents. In 2021, 2678 over the counter tags were sold, 13.6% went to non residents. 2022, 2142 tags sold, 7.9% to non residents. This hunting season 2000 licenses will be available for drawing.

Councilor Beach inquired how the estimate determined 2000 licenses are available and if all were filled what is the estimated population that would be taken. Mr. Anderson said 2000 licenses are based on surveys taken and if 100% successful it would be approximately ¼ of the deer population. A true average is 30-50% of tags are filled.

Tom Cole asked if a fawn from a diseased doe could have the disease. It was explained that no detection has been found yet, if a fawn has been born with CWD it can be transmitted.

Approve letter of commitment for Flathead Electric's level III charging station at Fireman's Park.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve **letter of commitment for Flathead Electric's level III charging station at Fireman's Park**, and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business license applications received to date:

Brandy's Bakery & Deli, Dawn Goe, and Drake Construction.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve **all business license applications received to date**, and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations: Mayor Williams announced the meeting is still planned for August 15th.

Public Comments: None

General Comments from the Council: Councilor Beach stated several neighbors have complained about a permanent yard sale. 17.04.150 MCA defines a yard. 8-008-010 MCA defines rubble and unsightly condition on a property. So moving forward would like to see what can be done to address those residents concerns.

Adjournment:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold