

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1612 on Tuesday, September 6, 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 Benjamin Girod, roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Zach McNew, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Samuel Sikes, Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present.

Announcements: Mayor Williams announced a letter was received from Jill Beach, 11th annual Paint it Pink 5K Fun Run on Saturday, September 10th.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported chip sealing has been completed for the year, barriers have been staged for the chainsaw carving contest, there is new curbing by Tungsten's on 8th St, new plow has been purchased by Streets for the backhoe to help cleanup alleys and intersections, deicer was purchased before price went up and the storage areas was built up with materials already on hand, getting ready to cleanup settling pond for back wash sediment for water treatment plant, annual leaf pickup will be coming up, Sewer Department's backup generator has been fixed and running well, above ground fuel tank has been delivered and will be set up to replace underground tank, motor that circulates aeration ditch was repaired for \$500.00, annual reports for Water has been submitted, and all chemicals have been received.

Administrator Sikes showed a PowerPoint presentation, visible on Zoom, to show proposed layouts and setup for the new Fireman's Park playground equipment, the Carol and Chance Hilliard Memorial Mommy & Me expression swing, donated by the family, along with examples of Zero-Five and special needs playground equipment to fit within a \$25,000.00 budget.

Administrator Sikes presented a PowerPoint, visible on Zoom, to show and explain 3 proposals for a Riverfront Park pedestrian path. Mr. Sikes pointed out it must be ADA compliant and need to get easement regulations and City Service Road plans from Department of Transportation (DOT). Mike Fraser is working with DOT to get that information. Once information is together proposed plans will be presented to City Council. Mr. Sikes explained how plans would move forward if Council agreed to a proposal.

Councilor Beach inquired if any grants were possible to help with the cost. Mr. Sikes explained the City crew will help keep costs down and will be speaking with LOR about possible funding as a community project.

Gail Burger, asked since looking into making more walking paths would it be possible to repair and upgrade the sidewalks downtown or would that have to be a separate project? Mr. Sikes explained that would be a separate project but could check City standards and codes and look into repairs and upgrading downtown sidewalks.

Tony Petrusha, asked if a new path would be for pedestrians or bicycles as well? Mr. Sikes said the paths would be wide enough for a bicycle so there would be no restrictions.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported LVF responded to 12 calls in the month of August. 5 calls in city, 3 calls rural, and 4 calls outside city/rural district. 1 vehicle, 2 structure, 1 grass wild land, 3 mutual aid with Libby ambulance, 1 power line, 1 electrical, and 3 miscellaneous for a total of 70 for 2022.

Zoning/Planning: Councilor Smith announced the Planning Board had a work session and got through half of the Growth Policy update draft. Another meeting is scheduled for September 12th to allow for editing before the Public Hearing.

Parks: Tony Petrusha, 559 Florence Rd., reported the pool is still being discussed but no plans to move forward at this time. Libby Outdoor Recreation Association (LORA) is working on developing the Flower Creek Recreation Area Development Plan which goes from the golf course to Leigh Lake trailhead and is a plan to on where to build trails and recreational accesses. Once the plan is together grants and other funding sources can be applied for. The plan draft should be ready in by the end of week then will be presented to the City Council and County Commissioners for further review for input or suggested changes. LORA is working on putting together an outdoor recreation assessment to gain public input on other outdoor recreational ideas.

Mr. Petrusha stated working with the directors of the Libby Recreation District to create a job description for a longer term than his current contract. Funding is provided by the Recreation District, County, and City each contributing \$10,000.00 for a three year contract. Current contract runs through January 2023 and has a current account balance of approximately \$31,000. 00 left.

Flower Creak Road was paved with funds from a RAC grant and county roads, but oil prices rose and the cost increased from \$58.00 per ton to \$76.00 per ton, so the paving fell short of the planned 1.3 miles.

The building the City donated to Kootenai Winter Sport –Turner Mountain, complete with a generator and batteries and other items included, is being prepared to load onto a trailer and moved up to Turner Mountain.

Councilor Zimmerman inquired if the LORA directors' meeting is open to the public. Mr. Petrusha responded not at this time; the focus is on getting the plan draft issued, receiving feedback from City Council and Commissioners to find out what they would like to see then it will be presented it to the public. Following that, regular meetings involving the public will resume.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Approve Libby Area Business Association's Halloween road closure on Mineral Ave. from Sears to the Brewery from 3:30-6pm for Trick or Treat:

Gail Burger Libby Area Business Association (LABA), 302 California Ave, explained the request is on Halloween, with a description of the area and time, and insurance has been submitted to the City and requested to use the City's roadblocks.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve Libby Area Business Association's Halloween road closure on Mineral Ave. from Sears to the Brewery from 3:30-6pm for Trick or Treat, and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Councilor McNew inquired if all of the businesses are on board with the closure. Ms. Burger stated most businesses are part of the LABA but did not ask each business individually because past responses from downtown businesses when the event was held on a weekend would prefer a business day.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Audit Contract with Denny, Downey, & Associates for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Audit Contract with Denny, Downey, & Associates for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2007, Setting Tax Levy for Year 2003:

Councilor Beach **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution #2007, Setting Tax Levy for Year 2003, and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2006, Fixing the Annual Appropriations for the City of Libby for 2022-2023 Budget:

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution #2006, Fixing the Annual Appropriations for the City of Libby for 2022-2023 Budget, and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2008, Setting Salaries and Wages of Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, and City Employees:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution #2008, Setting Salaries and Wages of Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, and City Employees, and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Councilor Taylor inquired if there were any increases in wages. Mayor Williams responded there as a 3% increase across the board as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor Beach **MADE A MOTION** to all claims received to date, and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses applications received to date:

Jade Salon, Lexy's Cleaning, Sherry Rosenlof, Viktoriya A Brown Accounting Services LLC.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

General Comments from the Council: Council discussed city codes, regulations, responsible costs, and construction of sidewalks.

Adjournment:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold