

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1622 on Monday, February 6, 2023, 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 Cornelius Girod, roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Zach McNew, Kristin Smith, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) Councilor Hugh Taylor and City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Mayor Williams welcomed all present.

Approve Council Minutes #1621 dated January 17, 2023:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Council Minutes #1621 dated **January 17, 2023**, and Councilor McNew **SECONDED**.

Councilor Smith asked for a correction stating she did not vote on the amendment for the LCSO claim.

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., commented his statement under public comment was not written as previously stated and requested the minutes reflect that.

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Smith, and Zimmerman voted **FOR** with the correction. Councilor Taylor unable to vote due to technical problems.

MOTION PASSED.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported for the Sewer Department the current Bar Screen blew out it's bearings and the city mechanic was able to get a new bearing installed but the chain mechanism is quickly wearing out without the ability to get new parts. The Auxiliary Bar Screen structure has been completed and once the electric control modules are completed the Auxiliary Bar Screen will be delivered and the 60-day clock will begin for project completion.

In the Water Department discrepancies with engineering for the Cabinet View water main replacement are currently being reviewed and corrected, initial figure of 1.1 million to replace the line has been increasing almost daily, the city is currently working with the USDA RD for use of monies from the asset replacement funds on current loans.

In other areas Libby has been working with Larry Grondahl, Zero to Five and LOR on Fireman's Park Playground equipment. Zero-Five wanted a small playground set but even with the \$15,000 city grant it was not affordable but with LOR purchasing the Universal Brava swing they will be stepping up to help Zero-Five get the funding needed to get the small playground equipment they originally wanted without going over budget and once the design proposal is complete, will be working with Zero-Five and LOR to schedule construction.

Requests made to MT DOT for the engineering of City Service Rd are being researched and all requests must now be made online. Mr. Sikes will be giving an update once the City's request is considered.

Streets Supervisor: Streets Supervisor Williams reported that with the warmer temps during the day the street crew has been patching potholes, opening up storm drains for runoffs and jetting sewer mains. Two water mains have been repaired on Hammans Ave. and Reese Crt. along with exploratory digging on Utah Ave. due to abnormal settling in the roadway and found no signs of leaks. There have been numerous calls for water leaks due to burst pipes, old/aging material, and 5 caused by frozen water meters. One water meter was tampered with resulting in damage and repairs were made. City Street Crew has been inspecting all work areas for any safety hazards and safety equipment. Parts have been hard to come by for some of the older equipment but 2 end dumps have been repaired and still waiting on parts for the snow blower and jet truck. The Christmas wreaths will be taken down February 8th and put up for the season.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported LVFD responded to 3 calls in January 2023, 1 call in City and 2 calls in Rural. 2 of the calls were mutual aid with ambulance and 1 miscellaneous.

Police: Sergeant Buckner reported there were over 200 calls for service for the month of January 2023. The County is helping out now with the shortage of officers and many theft cases, disturbances, and several drug seizures.

Finance: Clerk-Treasurer Monigold reported the Cabinet View Golf Club has submitted their final invoice for reimbursement of the \$541,000 Clubhouse grant contract. Montana Sky has been working at all City locations to update phone and internet, everything should be up and running in a week or so.

Zoning/Planning: Councilor Smith announced a Zoning Commission meeting was held January 23rd and started looking at Residential B district that will not take as long as Residential A. As mentioned before the Commission wants to present them all as a package to Council for consideration. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 28th.

City/County Board of Health: Amy Fantozzi announced the last meeting was January 10th with the election of officers. Amy Fantozzi – Main Board Chair, Jan Ivers – Vice Chair, and Lannie Fehlberg – Secretary. January 26th was a work meeting to discuss changing some things in the pandemic influenza plan with no consensus on the different changes so a meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13th to bring the plan up for vote and everyone has been working on updating response plans.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Bri Hilyer, 73 Wades Rd., expressed concerns over a Facebook page she manages, with recent issues going on in the City many unsettling remarks are being generated because nobody knows what is actually going on. She said her page has a large following and would like to work with the City to get the word out.

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave, expressed concerns about Chief Kessel still being on sick leave and no information is being addressed except what is being said on Social Media and it does not look good for the City Council.

John Bebee, 704 E. 9th St., read the Libby Police Department Mission Statement and requested the police department follow the Mission Statement and treat everyone fair and equal. Mr. Bebee stated, by policy, a police commission should be in place and submitted his application to Mayor Williams to be considered for the commission.

New Business:

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor McNew **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Public Comment:

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave, expressed concerns about the \$5200-\$5300 invoice from the LCSO, saying, "I consider that nothing less than a bribe of the Sheriff." and expressing concern about the almost \$10,000 lawyer fees associated with the Sheriff's Office coverage.

Danielle Hebert, 1302 Areth Ave, (via Zoom) commented, as a new admin on the Facebook page, to work with the City about adding content to the page with comments turned off, to give people a chance to be aware City business.

Sue Riley, 19 Parmenter Dr., inquired why business license applications were listed on the agenda and not a list of the claims.

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Smith, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilor Taylor unable to vote due to technical problems.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses applications received to date:

D&S General Contracting and Flooring, Jameson Drywall, Sasquatch Boutique, and Studio 1988 LLC.

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

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Smith, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilor Taylor unable to vote due to technical problems.

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP Settlement:

General Comments from the Council:

Councilor Smith suggested, given that the Parks contract is up for renewal soon, exploring what the next step may be to consider the role that person plays and perhaps be more aggressive in pursuing funding sources for projects.

Adjournment:

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

Councilors Beach, Berke, McNew, Smith, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilor Taylor unable to vote due to technical problems.

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold