

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1641 on Monday, November 20, 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 by Mark Smith, roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk-Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisholm. Councilor Zach McNew was not in attendance.

Mayor Williams welcomed all those present.

Approve City Council minutes for meeting #1639 dated October 16, 2023:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve City Council minutes for meeting #1639 dated October 16, 2023, Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Councilor Zimmerman made a correction to the Fire Report, after review of the October report the total calls for September should be 84 total calls, not 90 as recorded in the minutes.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve City Council minutes for meeting #1640 dated November 6, 2023:

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to City Council minutes for meeting #1640 dated November 6, 2023, Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Announcements:

Mayor Williams wanted to remind everyone the snow removal parking ordinance restrictions are in place so make sure vehicles are parked off the street or on the correct street for the time of the day. It is Thanksgiving week, City offices and Streets Department will be closed Thursday and Friday.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes announced the water moratorium placed April 4, 2022, on new water service hookups in Cabinet Heights area has been lifted for the current vacant lots, the new addition to the back-nine will still have to be looked at because pumps may have to be increased. The new water main to increase the 6" line to a 12" line, paid for with ARPA funding and Capital Improvement funding, has been completed with required fire flows.

Building report for October: two permits were sold, one new build and one carport totaling \$3584. This fiscal year, seven new roofs, two new buildings, one carport, one deck, one remodel, and one commercial remodel for \$7441 in permits sold, slightly down from last year's total at this time of \$12,730.

Councilor Smith inquired if all activities were being identified that require permits. Mr. Sikes responded, yes.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported for the month of October, 8 calls were received, 3 City, 4 Rural Fire District, and 1 outside of City or RFD. The calls were 2 vehicle, 1 structure, 1 chimney, 2 mutual aid with LVA, and 2 false alarms for a total of 92 calls in 2023.

Ordinances: Councilor Smith announced a meeting will be called to address the RVs that were put into committee a couple of meetings ago.

Zoning: Councilor Smith announced the next Zoning Commission will meet Monday, November 27th at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Cemetery/Parks: Mayor Williams announced the weather has put the Pocket Park project on hold, after talking with Tabitha from LOR Foundation the grant deadline has been extended to next summer.

Finance: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold announced the information from the auditor's office had been received and the Annual Financial Report has been submitted to the State, waiting to hear if it has been accepted.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., commented on the IP water situation and had concerns about not hearing any updates.

John Bebee, 704 E 9th St., commented on the police budget and requested considering it be increased with the new marijuana tax levy that will be received.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Approve Street Committee recommendation for school zone at Kootenai Valley Christian School:

Councilor Beach announced the Streets Committee met, discussed options, and had a site visit with Streets Supervisor Justin Williams and Police Chief Cody Ercanbrack. Councilor Beach explained the changes and additions to the proposed school zone map presented, with an estimated cost of parts and labor from Street Supervisor Justin Williams of about \$5500. Work would be conducted as soon as possible excluding the painting of the crosswalk that would be completed in the spring of 2024 when weather permits.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Street Committee recommendation for school zone at Kootenai Valley Christian School, Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Name Mineral Avenue Pocket Park:

Mayor Williams announced the names that had been discussed at the previous meeting, Rotary Peace Park, Peace Officer Park, and Peace Park. A tribute to Chief Bachman, who died in line of service, will be on a separate type of memorial. After speaking with Commissioner Brent Teske, that memorial is already being created and the City would just have to approve the acceptance and Todd Berget would be acknowledged on the wings.

Councilor Zimmerman announced a new name that was received, Blue Line Park.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to name the Pocket Park "Peace Officer Park", Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Gary Huntsberger, 384 E. Commerce Way, a member of the Libby Rotary Club, gave examples of community participation the club has been involved with and suggested including the Rotary name when naming the park.

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., suggested PO PO Park.

Councilor Smith recollected there was a discussion about recognizing Rotary in the park, Councilor Berke agreed.

Council discussed the recognitions that would be added to the park.

Council discussed how they should vote on the park.

Councilor Smith **WITHDREW THE MOTION**.

A show of hands was decided by Council to vote on the name of the park. Rotary Peace Park – 2 hands, Peace Officer Park – 4 hands, and Peace Park – 3 hands. Peace Officer Park won a show of hands.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to name the Pocket Park “Peace Officer Park”, Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams inquired what had happened to the wings. Councilor Zimmerman responded they were removed in relation to the projects. Later recalling, Bruce Weatherby and Zach McNew have the wings.

Approve all Beer, Wine, or Liquor Licenses received to date:

Crosscut Casino, Dorio’s, Gold Pan Casino, Harold’s Casino, Lucky Lil’s of Libby, Lucky Logger Casino of Libby, Maggie’s 2, Red, White & Brews, Switchback Bar & Grill, Town Pump of Libby #2, and V.F.W Post 1548.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all Beer, Wine, or Liquor Licenses received to date, Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

Mayor Williams reminded the public if they are interested in reviewing the claims they are always available during the day on Monday’s prior to the Council meeting and sometimes on the Friday prior. Anyone is welcome to talk to Leann or the front office and they can be reviewed, if any questions about any of them someone can help and explain.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licensed received to date:

Triple J Inc. dba Express Employment Professionals

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date, Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Councilor Smith expressed her enthusiasm for a job temp agency opening in town, showing it is a good sign.

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

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from the Council:

Mayor Williams commented there has been activity removing and trimming some trees, no notice was given due to not knowing when it would happen, several trees still need addressed and appreciate people that have witnessed it asking just to make sure.

Mayor Williams presented a request from a volunteer who assists in the identification of unclaimed ashes, has approached the City wanting to have a no cost/low cost burial of 29 year old ashes that has been recently identified as the widow of a Veteran who is buried in the Libby cemetery. Inquiring if Council would like to consider it and taking a poll to put it on the agenda or not. Mayor Williams explained in greater detail. Council agreed to add it to the agenda.

Councilor Zimmerman commented he has received inquiries about the star above the Water Treatment Plant and requested it be turned on soon and if the lights work or can be repaired. Mayor Williams stated it is usually turned on after Thanksgiving and will check into the working order of the lights.

Councilor Beach commented he has received multiple comments over the last several months about the angle parking downtown, some have asked to get rid of it, some asking if it can be changed. Agreeing there is a benefit to the angle parking, most complaints have been about the west side of the street with the first parking spot. Recognizing those first spots are hard to see around if a big truck is parked the spots could be marked "Compact Only" parking without reducing the amount of parking spaces but making it easier to see up the street. Mayor Williams asked if he would like to take it into the Streets Committee, Councilor Beach agreed.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Adjournment:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold