

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1643 on Monday, December 18, 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 Tom Cole, roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Zach McNew, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisholm. Councilor Kristin Smith was not in attendance.

Mayor Williams welcomed all those in attendance.

Approve City Council minutes for meeting #1642 dated December 4, 2023:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve City Council minutes for meeting #1642 dated December 4, 2023, Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Councilor Taylor abstained.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Chief Ercanbrack introduced new Libby Police Officer Seth Power.

Announcements:

Mayor Williams announced City Offices will be closed Friday, December 22nd through Christmas Day, December 25th, and January 1st for New Years.

Swearing in for newly elected council members will be December 27th at noon to give time to for the documentation to be registered at the Clerk and Records office prior to the 1st council meeting in January so they are eligible to vote.

January meetings will be on the 2nd and the 16th due to holidays falling on Monday.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported submitting a bubble map for the future Land Use map of Libby and will go along with the Growth Plan. WWC Engineering did a great job creating the map and is ready to go to the Committee for alterations.

Building report for November and December: November, two permits sold, one for a new deck and one for a new roof for a total of \$413. December, three permits sold, two for new roofs and one for a carport. Thirteen permits sold so far this year for a total of \$7700 compared to this time in 2022 was 27 permits sold for \$16,000 and in 2021 was 17 permits sold for over \$16,000. Unsure why permit sales are down but the city has not been getting

new house permits like in the past. Hoping for a recovery because the fund that was created for Building Code Enforcement must be self-sustaining to continue in the program.

SLIPA funds, (State and Local Infrastructure Partnership Act). Before December 31st ideas had to be solicited, after speaking with the leads and department heads, the Mayor and Mr. Sikes came up with a list of four items to look at. First, use the funds for the lift station at 1st and Montana Ave., second, to rebuild Spruce Street by the tennis courts, third, to do 10th Street on the block behind McDonald's and Kaiju, and fourth, putting a commercial heated roof on City Hall since it is an emergency dispatch. To use SLIPA funds the City will have to pay a portion of the project, the lift station would not be able to be engineered completed in time, so the funds could not be used for it. Presented were maps showing the Spruce Street project, \$231,304 is dedicated as long as the City has the \$57,000 matching funds, that can come out of our Gas Tax. Spruce Street has already been looked at to be rebuild with City funds, so the best plan would be to use SLIPA funds to rebuild Spruce St. and at the same time the Streets Crew could work on 10th St. to knock out both in one year taking care of a lot more roads. Curbs and sidewalks will have to be redone also, so during bidding, the bids will have to show how many lineal feet they could do to include the curbs and sidewalks with rebuilding of the street and must be looked at as a collector road that requires a larger base to withstand heavier traffic. Along with this project the tennis court parking lot paved, mapped and designed properly, and potentially a parking lot by Department of Revenue hopefully increased at the same time.

Police: Chief Ercanbrack reported the department has been busy, three vehicles have been reported stolen and recovered. Warrants are being issued for all the suspects. Officer Luthey is done with field training and doing great work on his own.

Water/Sewer: Councilor Zimmerman announced they are still waiting for some numbers to look at the Commercial Rates so a meeting can be scheduled, a meeting will also be scheduled, or an item added to an agenda to look at the wording in our Water Regulations.

Finance: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported the Annual Financial Report was accepted by the State last week, the annual report for the Department of Commerce was submitted last week, and currently preparing the annual USDA-RD and DNRC reports to be submitted.

Park District Manager of Projects: Tony Petrusa reported, vitalization of the Park District board of directors, trying to get them under MCA and how special districts are governed and duties, biggest part of that is the MOU with the County, Port Authority, and Park District. Property transition with the Port Authority will be about 180 acres left that will not be commercially viable and will be designated as recreation. The Parks District will be responsible for funding. The city will be added to the MOU as soon as everything is settled with the current MOU.

Port Authority Swim Pond, the final design has been completed with a grant from LOR. New Water Rights with DNRC is in the process, should hear something by April if there are no findings. Lincoln County Credit Union donated \$47,000 for the purchase of pond liner and other materials. County road crew are giving in-kind services as weather permits for the needed digging, they were able to dig to test for ground water and those levels came up pretty high so will be testing if the ground water is coming from the fishpond.

Long range agreement for a foundation is to support funding for recreation facilities in the district, when the revenues generated through real estate sales in the Port, part of the TEDD district requirements is that money gets reinvested in Port. Plans are to take some of that money to make a foundation for an escrow account to utilize the dividends.

A grant request was submitted for the 1200 feet of sidewalk along Balsam Street from the bridge to the middle school, have not received a response.

Working with commissioners to include a pedal track in Pioneer Park. The County Attorney has reviewed it, a transmittal letter was received from Pioneer Society to leave Pioneer Park in a natural state. County Attorney determined a pedal track would not disrupt the natural state and is on the County Commissioners' agenda for January 18th at 11am. Then will proceed to the preliminary engineering design.

A few grants out there, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant has a funding of \$1.5 billion for 2024. The minimum RAISE grant award is \$5 million, except for projects located in rural areas then minimum is \$1 million. He would be willing to submit the application if a project was identified and would qualify. Applications are due at the end of January.

Councilor Beach inquired what type of projects they would have to be. Mr. Petrusa explained they would have to be infrastructure projects, but the definition is broad.

Wildlife: Councilor Taylor reported the local biologist is waiting on legal opinion for the Turkey draft and Committee is waiting on a response for the CWD information.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

John Bebee, 704 E 9th St., suggested repairing the ditch along Education Way as an infrastructure project.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Approve all Beer, Wine, or Liquor License applications received to date:

American Legion Club, 319 California Ave., Black Board Bistro, 803 Mineral Ave., and Cabinet Mountain Brewing Company, 206 Mineral Ave, Cabinet View Country

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all Beer, Wine, or Liquor License applications received to date, Councilor Berke **SECONDED**.

Councilors Beach abstained.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all Coin Operated Licenses received to date:

American Legion Club, 319 California Ave. and VFW #1548, 114 W 2nd St.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all Coin Operated Licenses received to date, Councilor Berke **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

Handyman for Hire and HELYN'S Jewelry Store

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from the Council:

Mayor Williams thanked Councilor McNew for his two years of service on City Council and announced the swearing in for new Council and new Council terms would be December 27th at noon to give time to register with the County prior to the 1st council meeting in January.

Merry Christmas!

Adjournment:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold