

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1650 on Monday, April 1, 2024, 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 Bill Sonntag, and roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gary Beach, Melissa Berke, Ian Smith, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Mayor Williams welcomed all those present.

Announcements: Mayor Willaims announced Monday, April 8th there will be a Public Hearing on water/sewer rate increases at 7pm. April 26th is the Arbor Day declaration presented at Peace Officer Park. The City received an \$850 DNRC grant towards the tree purchase and those will be planted along the Boulevard. April 28th, the Bachmann family will be here for a dedication of a plaque near the Police Department to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death in the line of duty. Mike Fraser has requested a Public Hearing for the April 15th meeting to receive public comments regarding the Montana lift station.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes requested two items be put into committee. First is a petition for rezoning for the Flower Creek development by Asa Wood. Second, a letter was received for the Council members from Byron Sanderson at KSI requesting to abandon a portion of Kootenai Street and Colorado Ave. Councilor Kristin Smith accepted into Committee.

Sewer Department, one of the aerator blower motors was down and has been rebuilt. With all three up and running they will begin cycling them and keep them on a maintenance cycle to ensure the system is running properly. The company that produces the ballast and UV light, that disinfect the effluent before entering the Kootenai River, has changed their setup and instead of changing the whole system they are working with electrician to have the multiple UV lights stay on which will be kill more bacteria and keep the cost down instead of having to update the system every two years.

Water Department, Justin has been covering the progress of the leak repairs identified with the leak survey. When those large repairs are finished, Corey the leak detector, will come back to do another survey to identify more leaks. He uses equipment that can detect the leaks by sound. There were more leaks, but they could not be pinpointed until the larger leaks were repaired. The cost will be \$13,500 but has not been done for many years.

Finding and repairing the leaks will help conserve on water loss especially with the drought that will be even worse this year, the City wants to do everything in its power not to go into water restrictions.

Still fielding questions concerning the proposed water and sewer rate increases and creating an FAQ sheet to get posted on the website for all of the questions and answers and would like to get those out with the supporting documents for the Public Hearing agenda to try to answer a lot of the questions before the presentation at the meeting.

Jody has decided to go and seek a journey with another position in the city and we want to say thank you for the great job she did, she was with the city for 8 years. Resumes have been coming in from all over to fill the position, starting wage is \$15.56 per hour and goes up to \$17.76 after one year.

Will be working on the SLIPA Grant to repair/replace Spruce Street and work with a land use attorney to change the access roads for the Lincoln County Port Authority, Spruce Street will become the collector road.

Approve minutes of City Council meeting #1647, held February 20, 2024:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve minutes of City Council meeting #1647, Councilor K. Smith **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Street Supervisor: Justin Williams reported the crew has been busy with sweeping, jetting mains, cleaning sediment out, and many cemetery digs.

At the ballfields, replaced 20 boards on the bleachers, got water turned on for the bathrooms, leveled up sand around dugouts and exterior of the fields, tighten up the cement blocks, by request, to keep traffic from driving through the fields from one end to the other to allow foot traffic only.

Met with developing group on Commerce Way to discuss city expectations on utilities placement and associated fees.

Vandalism to the vertical steel upright that prevents vehicular traffic on the walking path off 5th Street entrance. It was cut down and pulled out of the way, so a big boulder was placed there, so foot traffic and bicycles can still get through and will restrict side by sides and small vehicles from making their way to the bridge.

Met with Tony Petrusha at old haul bridge to discuss means of repair, trying to prevent vandalism, and funding sources to rehab and extend life of the bridge.

Damage was reported at the island on corner of Minnesota and Hwy 2. The light that was hit and destroyed has been replaced.

Performed fire flow test on Cabinet Heights main extension, rate of flow has increased from 380-400 gallons per minute to 770 gallons per minute with 2 pumps running, when the third pump kicks on the rate is 1010 gallons per minute.

Water leak repairs identified with the water leak survey are going well. Noble was hired to repair ten leaks that were in areas of asphalt and were repaired in 4 days. Some curb replacement is coming up in relation to these repairs.

John Hibbs attended 3 days of training in Great Falls and took his water distribution test, waiting to get results.

Assisted Jannell with Department of Labor hanging banners on Mineral and Nevada.

Spoke with Scott Foss and Ron Miller to get lights installed at Legion Ballfield.

A small paver and compactor has been delivered and now will be able to make more of an impact on areas that have been neglected over the years.

Council K. Smith inquired about the affordable housing project on Commerce Way. Mr. Sikes explained they had planned on having some funky roads twisting through there and not going according to plan with the straight roads allowing the City could plow and add more infrastructure. Mike helped correct that and they have recently come back with new plans from a new architect.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported for the month of February, 4 calls received, 1 in City, 2 Rural Fire District, and 1 outside of City or RFD. 1 structure, 1 mutual aid with LVA, 1 false alarm, and 1 electric. For March, 9 calls were received, 2 vehicle, 1 grass/wildland, 1 mutual aid with LVA, 1 powerline, and 2 electrical, totaling 18 calls in 2024.

Police: Mayor Williams announced Chief Ercanbrack was out of town taking his equivalency course.

Building: Councilor Taylor announced a meeting will be held 4/10 at 6:30 to review the lease agreement with the fitness center.

Water/Sewer: Councilor Zimmerman announced next week would be the Public Hearing for rate increases.

Planning/Zoning: Councilor K. Smith announced at the last meeting the Planning Board wrapped up the review of the Subdivision Regulations changes and will be presented at a Public Hearing on 17th of April and the same with the Land Use map amendment to the Growth Policy.

Zoning Commission has begun working on Business Residential district changes and will come to Council with recommendations when changes are wrapped up.

Cemetery/Parks: Councilor Berke announced anyone is welcome to join Justin and herself on Wednesday, April 3rd to meet with the Libby Little Loggers group at the ballfields by the cemetery. Mayor Williams announced they had gone down to Peace Officer Park looking at getting the concrete pad and wings back up.

Finance: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported an email had been received from the auditor's office requesting the first needs list to begin the fiscal year 2023 audit on Friday, April 5th.

Wildlife: Councilor Taylor announced a meeting was held to go over the Turkey Plan with the local biologist and her supervisor, the Turkey Plan has been going back and forth with their legal department. At this time a kill permit is the only viable option, it will start with 25 turkeys and will be asking the PD to do this so it can be done in a safe and efficient manner. The turkeys will need to be donated to the food bank or a local church.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Zach McNew had concerns about water/sewer increase putting a burden on the lower income households.

DC Orr requested the complaint and grievance on the police chief be released to the public.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Review Ordinance Committee recommendation of Title 14, Chapter 28 regarding trailers and trailer parks, and revising for RVs:

Councilor K. Smith explains the update is to define what an RV is, temporary use, and storage opportunities on property. The Ordinance Committee recommends the update.

Council discussed rules, regulations, and recommended changes.

Brad Nelson inquired why people should be prevented from building an RV pad on their property and renting it out because the community is in need of affordable housing.

DC Orr requested the Committee address the questions asked before voting and inquired what problems are being fixed.

Jennifer Nelson had suggestions to expand some of the language and asked to present them to Council members before the next reading.

Zach McNew suggested reviewing the 10-foot rule for property similar to his, he has a pad built next to his house for his camper and boat.

Council discussed changes to the language of the recommended Ordinance.

Councilor K. Smith suggested it would be helpful if Council bring prepared language changes to the first reading for recommended changes.

Approve all claims received to date:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business license applications received to date:

Bubblegum Buffalo, Kootenai Float Company LLC, and Ridgeback Enterprises Co.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

Update to Libby Development Fund Policy and application process:

Council discussed how they would like to see the funds used. Mr. Chisholm was asked if the funds could be used for a grant writer, he said he would have to look at the original documents to see if there were any exclusions. Council agreed they would like to postpone discussions until Mr. Chisholm had a chance to review the original documents.

General Comments from the Council:

Councilor Beach inquired about the request from KSI. Mayor Williams explained that request had been presented to Council in the past and the abandonment to that road was denied due to landlock.

Councilor Zimmerman inquired if the missing stop sign on Poplar and Hwy 2 was the responsibility of the State of the City. Mr. Williams responded it was the States responsibility.

Adjournment:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn, Councilor Berke **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold