

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held meeting #1573 on Monday, May 17th, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Brent Teske.

The Pledge of Allegiance was completed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Teske, Councilors Williams, Beach (via Zoom), Dufficy, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman, and City Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes.

Mayor Teske welcomed all present and prayer was offered by Bill Sonntag.

Announcements:

None.

Committee Reports:

City Administrator's Report: Mayor Teske reported that the City Administrator was on vacation with nothing to report.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported 8 calls for April with 5 in the Rural Area and 3 outside. All calls were grass fires. The Fire Department is still waiting on word about the grant to replace the SCBA equipment and have requested two additional fire hydrants be placed by the Venture Inn with the new water main going in.

Police: Chief Kessel reported that the transition to the new record management system is going well. In April there were 228 calls for service with 14 arrests and 19 citations as compared to 143 calls, 1 arrest, and 4 citations last year. There were 5 Ordinance violations issued in April and 7 so far in May for mostly weeds and trash.

Chief Kessel also reported that Officer Pape had completed 40 hours of Crisis Intervention training to deal with how to de-escalate mental health issues. Officer Buckner has completed 24 hours of Drug Intervention training which completes the training for every officer now serving. This has led to 3 or 4 search warrants being served a month, mostly on vehicles for illegal drugs.

Councilor Smith asked why the numbers had raised so dramatically since last year and questioned what the numbers were when compared to the previous few years. Chief Kessel responded that the numbers increased after the COVID lockdowns were lifted and was also interested to compare the current numbers to that of the pre-COVID years.

Resolution/Ordinances: None.

Lights/Streets/Sidewalks: None

Building: None.

Water/Sewer: Mayor Teske reported that a major water leak had been fixed on Utah.

Zoning Commission: Councilor Smith reported that the Commission had produced a memo from the last meeting giving opinions on the zoning for the Golf Course. The housing portion will be re-zoned as Residential B and the actual course zoned as Park District. The next step is to have a Public Hearing.

Mayor Teske informed the Council that the closing of the CVGC sale was pushed back to the end of the month and Councilor Smith reported that there would not be a Zoning Commission meeting in June due to the lack of members being available.

Cemetery/Parks: None.

Finance: Mr. Sikes reported that work has begun on the annual budget.

KRDC: None.

City-County Board of Health: As Amy Fantozzi was not present, Mayor Teske read an e-mail report that read.

“Last week we (the Board of Health) had a work meeting. There were no decisions made at this meeting. Dan Clark from MSU met with us to go over meeting procedures and discussed ground rules for meetings.

The CDC issued updated recommendations last week, stating that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance (except where required by local rules or businesses) or test after a known exposure. Dr. Black and the Health Department fully support this revised guidance.”

Park District Manager: Mayor Teske reported that Tony Petrusha has plans for a parking lot to be placed by the Dam that would be given to the City Engineer once submitted.

Public Comment on Non- Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

Receive initial proposal for the Logger Trail.

Mark Andreessen presented a plan for the Logger Trail that would basically connect existing walking paths by placing new sidewalks in strategic areas. Discussion was held on the critical areas of need and referenced previous works. It was pointed out that this is a complicated undertaking, and all agreed that the next steps were to involve the County Commissioners and to “dust off” the existing City Sidewalk Plan.

Councilor Smith spoke to the previous Balsam St. Grant and suggested a comprehensive plan be made to include the County, State, homeowners, and City in adopting a sidewalk improvement plan.

Mayor Teske requested that Councilor Beach work with the City Administrator to update the current sidewalk plan which was agreed to.

During public comment Sandy Moog, 1014 Utah, expressed complete support for the Logger Trail and volunteered to go door to door to gather support if there was a survey sheet. Sandy also requested that the public be educated in how to be proper pedestrians, including those in wheelchairs, on topics such as how to travel facing traffic.

Mayor Teske confirmed that Councilor Beach would create a survey and Chief Kessel would place public service announcements in the local papers on pedestrian protocols.

Tina Oliphant expressed full support for the Logger Trail and discussed the “walkability” of the Libby community. Future upgrades to the existing walking paths were discussed.

Mayor Teske ended the discussion of the Logger Trail by having Mark Andreessen commit to speaking with the County and returning for a meeting after Councilor Beach updates the Sidewalk Plan.

Adopt Resolution 1982 – Join State 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

Mayor Teske read over the Plan, mentioning that the State had completed the resolution, and asked the City Attorney for an opinion. Dean Chisholm stated that, although not an expert, there were no problems present.

Mayor Teske asked the City Clerk/Treasurer to speak to the Plan. Samuel Sikes reported that there would be no cost to the city and that employees “may voluntarily choose to participate.” By adopting this Resolution, the city employees may not contribute to any other 457 plans and the State Public Employees’ Retirement Board will facilitate and run the plan.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to adopt the Resolution and Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Mayor Teske stated that this was a good opportunity for the employees to have access to and all the Councilors agreed.

Councilors Williams, Beach, Dufficy, Smith, Taylor, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Adopt Agreement with Montana State Public Employees’ Retirement Board.

Mayor Teske read over the Plan then asked the City Clerk/Treasurer to speak to the Agreement. Samuel Sikes reported that there were two parts to the Agreement concerning the city and the Board responsibilities.

The city agrees to make all payments within 5 days of withholding, ensure employees are within the maximum IRS contributions, and that the employees are not contributing to other 457 Plans. The Board agrees to be the plan manager that is not responsible for losses and to adjust the participants account daily to add all dividends and interest.

Councilor Smith asked if adopting the agreement would add to the Clerk/Treasurer's workload to which Samuel Sikes answered that it would all be done electronically and not cause undue burden.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to adopt the Agreement and Councilor Beach **SECONDED**.

Councilors Williams, Beach, Dufficy, Smith, Taylor, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date.

Mayor Teske read through the applications for: Cherished Memories, Crystal Clean, Vacation Property Services, Hello Sunshine, and K ver Painting.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve the licenses and Councilor Williams **SECONDED**.

The Council discussed Hello Sunshine as to exactly what a mobile spray tanning business was.

Councilors Williams, Beach, Dufficy, Smith, and Taylor, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations.

Mayor Teske reported that an e-mail was sent out today and the city was waiting on IP's response.

Approve location for vault toilet at the Cross-Country Ski Course. (Tabled)

Mayor Teske reported that the architectural drawings for the toilet were now in the hands of an engineering firm and would be looked at by the City Engineer once completed. In other words, there is still no movement on the toilet.

General Comments from Council:

Mayor Teske agreed to reach out when Councilor Williams questioned the status of the Source Water Plan after the meeting with Kristy Kline.

Mayor Teske updated the Council on the fact that the city was waiting on the surveying and engineering prior to fixing the sluffing road going to the Dam.

Adjournment:

Councilor Williams **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn, and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Councilors Williams, Beach, Dufficy, Smith, and Taylor, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.


MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.



Mayor Brent Teske

Attest; _____



Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes