

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Special Council Meeting #1585 on Monday, September 20th, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall to conduct interviews and appoint a new council member.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by Mayor Peggy Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was competed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Peggy Williams, Councilors Gary Beach (via Zoom), Rob Dufficy, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman (via Zoom), City Administrator Jim Hammons, and City Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes.

Mayor Williams welcomed all and requested that the candidates be escorted from the room. Jim Hammons led Melissa Berke and Zachariah McNew out of the chambers while Mayor Williams explained to the Council that there were three applications for the appointment although only two were present. One candidate had to depart town on a family emergency.

Jim Hammons returned with Zachariah McNew and Zach approached the podium. McNew gave a brief biography before Mayor Williams opened the meeting up for questions from the council. Councilor Zimmerman wished McNew luck stating that Zach had done good works for the Rotary. Councilor Beach complimented the resume and asked McNew what his hopes and goals were if appointed onto the Council. McNew voiced the belief that Libby is at a crossroad and needed more jobs and housing to help the community discover its identity adding that this starts at the top.

Councilor Smith thanked McNew for applying and Councilor Taylor asked what McNew thought was Libby's number one challenge. McNew felt the community was stuck in the old ways with all the youth leaving Libby and added that Libby needed to learn how to handle money better by learning from the past.

Councilor Dufficy, mentioning Zach's decent credentials, asked how McNew felt about development in the area, such as the Port Authority. McNew stated that the Community had to look at itself on items such as housing and entertainment. Zach expressed the desire to make Libby more beautiful, see greener grass, extend the sewer system out to old ShopKo area, and build more houses to lower housing costs.

Mayor Williams thanked Zach McNew after there were no more questions from the Council.

Jim Hammons brought out Melissa Berke who Mayor Williams welcomed and asked to give a short biography.

Melissa Berke spoke to the challenges of owning a small business and the desire to make Libby better in the future.

Councilor Zimmerman asked Melissa what updates she required. Melissa stated willingness to attend more meetings and to make contact with the City Engineer Mike Fraser. Berke thanked Sikes for lessons

on the budget and government accounting before stating willingness to act if the Council would just point the way.

Councilor Beach thanked Berke and pointed out Melissa's concern in the resume that the local area was out priced and asked how that could be fixed. Berke stated that the influx of people had raised the housing costs adding that Libby needed more jobs and industry such as could be made possible in the Port Authority. If Libby can bring in more business it will bring in more money.

Councilor Beach asked what committees Berke would like to be on. Melissa voiced the desire to help Sam with the budget and also serve on the Water/Sewer committee. Councilor Smith thanked Melissa and did not pose any questions.

Councilor Taylor thanked Berke and asked what diversity Melissa would bring to the Council. Berke voiced pride in being a small business owner and a mother of young children who possesses the desire to help the community.

Councilor Dufficy asked if Berke worked at the Cabinet View Golf Club in 2014 and 2015. Berke answered yes. Councilor Dufficy informed the Council that Berke handled large dinners at the Club and expressed appreciation in a person who would leave a job to take the risk of becoming an entrepreneur.

Councilor Dufficy stated that it was unfortunate that the third candidate was not present. Councilor Taylor pointed out that the third candidate, Garrey Allen, had not submitted a resume with the application and was ineligible and Mayor Williams agreed stating that was how the packages were introduced earlier and again explained the Allen could not make it due to a family emergency.

Mayor Williams opened and closed the floor to public comment once none was offered and opened the floor to nominations.

Councilor Dufficy nominated Melissa Berke and Councilor Beach nominated Zachariah McNew.

A voice vote was held by hand. Councilor Beach – McNew, Councilor Dufficy – Berke, Councilor Smith – McNew, Councilor Taylor – Berke, and Councilor Zimmerman - McNew

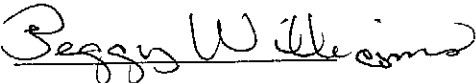
Mayor Williams swore in Zachariah McNew into the Libby City Council.

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

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


MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.



Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest;



Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes