

APPROVED MINUTES

The City Council held Council Meeting #1586 on Monday, September 20th, 2021, 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 competed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mayor Peggy Williams, Councilors Gary Beach (via Zoom), Rob Dufficy, Zachariah McNew, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman (via Zoom), City Administrator Jim Hammons, and City Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes.

Mayor Williams welcomed all and congratulated Zachariah McNew as the newest member of the Council.

Announcements:

None.

Prayer was offered by Tom Cole.

Committee Reports:

City Administrator: Jim Hammons reported substantial completion on the Water Systems Improvements and spoke to the numerous water leaks in the system. The leaks are caused because a strong vacuum that is created when the line empties and the pressure of refilling the line creates the opposite forces that fracture older lines and joints. The city crew and two contractors are currently working to patch the leaks.

Jim Hammons also reported that the street crew is still short on personnel so the water/sewer bills would be late. No late fees will be assessed until the meter reading gets back on track. Councilor Dufficy asked what was going to happen with the old above ground main and if it had any value. Jim stated that it would remain in place as it had no value and would be cost prohibitive to remove.

Police: Chief Kessel, for August of 2021, reported 297 calls for service, 35 arrests, 32 citations, and 7 ordinance violations. For the same period last year there were 290 calls, 14 arrests, 26 citations, and 6 ordinance violations. Pre-COVID numbers for August of 2019 were 349 calls, 42 arrests, 50 citations, and 5 ordinance violations.

Chief Kessel reported that an Officer and his family are now recovering from COVID, the jail is now only taking violent offenders, new radios will be up and running next month.

Councilor Dufficy asked if there was a common denominator to the citations to which Chief Kessel answered weeds. Councilor Taylor asked if there were any calls for bear activities to which Chief Kessel answered that there were a few calls for trash cans being knocked over.

Zoning Commission: Councilor Smith reported that the next Zoning Meeting would be on the 22nd of September at 6pm to continue working on Residential A. Also reported was that there would be upcoming planning meetings with the growth policy people. The Council will have special meetings around the third week of October to be updated.

Finance: Samuel Sikes reported that the final budget for FY22 has been completed and turned into the Department of Administration and copies of the mill levies were submitted to Sedaris Carlberg at the County and Judith Hemphill with the Department of Revenue.

City-County Board of Health: Mayor Williams read an email from Amy Fantozzi reporting a meeting was held on September 14th and that the hospitals are overwhelmed with the COVID numbers exponential growth. The next meetings will be on 12th and 19th October.

Public Comment on Non- Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

Ordinance 1992 – Zoning changing for properties in Cabinet Heights neighborhood (Cabinet View Golf Club). (Second Reading)

Mayor Williams completed the second reading of Ordinance 1992.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve Ordinance 1992 and Councilor Taylor **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Appoint a new City Council President.

Mayor Williams explained that the policies and procedures for this position means that it would only be valid until the 31st of December this year adding that the normal standard is to appoint the senior councilor as the Council President.

Councilor Taylor **NOMINATED** Councilor Zimmerman and Councilor Dufficy **SECONDED**.

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

NOMINATION PASSED.

Councilor Williams explained the Council assignments and requested that the Councilors send Council President Zimmerman an e-mail with desired positions.

Councilors Smith and Dufficy stated pleasure with the current assignments. Councilor Taylor expressed pleasure with current assignments and volunteered to fill the vacancy in Ordinances.

Council President Zimmerman will make any changes that will be good for the next 3 months and Councilor McNew will e-mail Council President Zimmerman with requested positions.

Unfinished Business:

IP negotiations.

Mayor Williams asked Councilors Smith and Taylor if there were any comments. Councilor Taylor informed the Council that there had been conference calls moving forward with public information and forming a legal strategy. Updates will be coming soon since not everyone in Libby fully understands the history of the IP situation.

American Legion Auxiliary #97 – Statue in cemetery repairs.

Mayor Williams and the Council agreed to place the statue repairs question into the Park/Cemetery committee.

Lower Reservoir sampling building/generator purchase or donation.

Jim Hammons reported that the building has not been used in the past 6 years and could see no future use as city property as the building is now wasting away.

Councilor Dufficy asked if the building was to be sold as one piece and Mayor Williams said that the easiest way to sell it would be to put it up for bid. Councilor Dufficy stated there should be a reserve on the sale and Mayor Williams said it is not easy to find the value. Councilor Dufficy argued that the building has to have a minimum value.

Mayor Williams offered a draft copy of a resolution for discussion that is necessary to sell surplus equipment. A list of surplus items to be sold needs to be attached to the resolution. Hammons or Sikes can set a price. Councilor Smith asked if any lots would be sold and Sikes informed the Council that the building and tank were not attached to any lots as it is roughly just an 8 x 12 shed.

Noble excavation request for easement by Sewage Treatment Plant.

Mayor Williams requested that the easement question be placed into committee to which Council President Zimmerman agreed as there is a lot to look into with the infrastructure and road questions.

Councilor Dufficy stated that Noble was agreeable to complete in-kind work believing that this action would be a smooth process. Mayor Williams stated that the city still had to set requirements for the easement. Councilor Smith asked if Noble was going to complete the work to which Mayor Williams answered yes, after the city and BNSF gave the OK.

General Comments from the Council:

Council President Zimmerman congratulated Councilor McNew on the appointment to the Council.

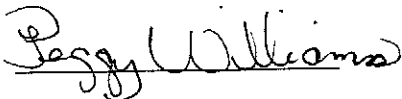
Mayor Williams informed the Council that it was believed that the city had missed another year of grants due being allowed only one open federal grant at a time. The Mayor was pleased that the deadline for grant applications had been extended and that Fraser was working hard to submit a new grant request for the Sewer Department. Special meetings will have to be held due to the short timeline on approving any grant requests.

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.



Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest;  _____

Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes