

APPROVED MINUTES

The Libby City Council held a Public Hearing on Monday, September 7, 2021, at 6:15pm for the purpose of reviewing the accepting public comment of the FY22 budget.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peggy Williams at 6:15pm.

Present were Councilors Rob Dufficy, Hugh Taylor, Gary Beach, City Clerk/ Treasurer Samuel Sikes, and Deputy Clerk Charlotte Luedecke. Present via Zoom were Councilors Brian Zimmerman and Kristin Smith. City Administrator Jim Hammons was absent.

Mayor Williams completed a Power Point presentation giving an overview of the FY22 budget and opened the floor for Council Members comments.

Councilor Dufficy asked why the City Court costs had increased from \$29,000 to \$33,000, and questioned if there was any discussion on the increase or if they just billed us and we paid it.

Sikes responded by saying that there had been discussion and approval on previous agenda. The Judge asked for a 3-4% increase that was approved through Council.

Dufficy wanted to know if anyone had spoken to the Judge and asked why the increase was necessary?

Mayor Williams replied that the Judge expressed that the increase was for his employees.

Discussion was held on Resolution 1990, Setting the Tax Levy for FY22, which is on the agenda for this evenings Council meeting regarding lighting.

Councilor Dufficy asked why the decision was made to place 3 streetlights on Commerce Way as opposed to more.

Councilor Beach explained that Flathead Electric (FEC) engineers are the ones who decided 3 would be sufficient.

Councilor Dufficy asked who will be installing lights.

Councilor Beach stated that FEC would complete the installation and added that the City just helped to facilitate easements.

Mayor Williams announced that the total FY22 budget is \$9,790,728.

Councilor Dufficy asked how much of that budget will be spent.

Sikes responded that the Capital Improvement Plan, ARPA, and IP fund monies are about \$2 million that the council can vote to spend or not, surmising that the city was looking at approximately \$6 to \$6.5 million dollars from the budget. Mayor Williams added that the Grants monies will make the budget appear bloated even though the money is brought in equally to what is spent excluding the city match.

Mayor Williams opened the floor for Council comments.

Councilor Taylor questioned line item pg. 7 of 26 acct 410500 line 251 there is \$500,000 dollars in that line item as misc. account.

Sikes addressed this question by explaining that the reserve account can only be 50% of total budget and entering these dollars helps keep the reserve in check adding that next year that money would be transferred to the CIP at the end of the year.

Councilor Taylor asked if that money had to be spent.

Sikes replies that this money will not be spent until the end of year if available.

Further discussion followed.

Taylor asked about line 225 on pg 2. Police protective clothing taking a 224% increase.

Sikes replies that this fund was combined with 2 other smaller funds to simplify the Police budget.

Taylor asked about pg. 2 line 210 – office supplies and materials.

Sikes states that this was combined with about 4 other lines to clean and simplify the budget.

Taylor asked about pg. 3 Building Inspector increased by 153%.

Sikes ,owing to the fact that the committee had a plan for a planning tech operator, added the wages in that line item whether one was hired or not.

Discussion followed.

Taylor Water asked about utilities pg. 22 line 353, accounting and auditing being doubled.

Sikes states that was correct. That was doubled due to COVID. The auditors missed a year so the City will have 2 audits this year. Each audit is about \$30,000. There was an audit 2 months ago and expecting another in October.

Taylor asked about pg. 24 line 353, up 200%.

Sikes replies same issue as the water. It affects the water, sewer, and general fund.

Taylor asked about line 360 repairs, maintenance, services increased 220%.

Sikes said the sewer needed new brushes for the chain in the bar screen, and with the sewer increase passed by the Council last year there was funding available for them this year.

Public comments were made by:

D.C. Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., Orr asks why LADC is still being reported.

Mayor Williams stated that it takes several years for these accounts to fall off.

Sikes states that it was called LADC when the fund was created to pay that loan and it cannot be changed mid-stream within the system. This must remain the same until the loan is paid and it clears the system.

Orr asks even though the Council voted to disband LADC in 2004.

Sikes Yes, the paperwork was done years before and cannot just be changed.

Orr wants to know where funds drafted on this account go.

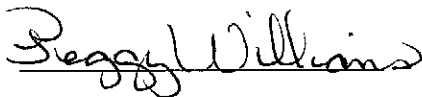
Sikes into the Community Development Fund #2386, each year they are transferred into this fund.

Orr asks if it is anticipated that those funds will zero out at any time.

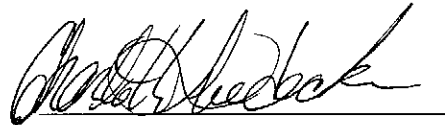
Sikes Mineral Ave Special Improvement Fund cannot end as it was added to the tax rolls. It will self-terminate.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Williams".

Mayor, Peggy Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Luedecke".

Deputy Clerk, Charlotte Luedecke