

APPROVED MINUTES

The Libby City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 6:00pm to obtain public comment regarding a proposed application to the Montana Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and other programs, as applicable for a sewer system improvement project consisting of replacing the treatment plant control system and selected deteriorated sewer mains.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peggy Williams at 6:00pm.

Present were Councilors Gary Beach, Kristin Smith, Brian Zimmerman, Hugh Taylor, Rob Dufficy, Zach McNew, City Administrator Sam Sikes, and Deputy Clerk Charlotte Luedecke.

Mayor Williams gave the floor to Tina Oliphant and Mike Fraser to give their Power Point presentation on the on the Wastewater System Improvement and the Dept. of Commerce Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Program.

Oliphant pointed out that this public hearing was to discuss the project but, more so, to discuss the funding source. Oliphant noted that this meeting was advertised twice and proceeded to the Power Point slides explaining that the City is seeking funds for Wastewater Treatment Facility Control Improvements by upgrading 4 control panels including PLC hardware, as well as prioritizing replacement of 3 sections of sewer main.

Oliphant deferred to Mike Fraser who discussed the maps for where the work is to be done. The three top main replacement priorities are California Ave between 9th and 10th Street: Balsam Avenue South between Custer Avenue and Gallatin Street and Flower Street West of Nevada Avenue. The PLC hardware and SCADAs that will be replaced and improved are located at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Councilor Beach questioned if one of the lines could be moved to under the street down the block if that would that make more sense.

Fraser, noting good observation, said that is most likely what will happen as this is a known problem. Tina continued to explain the CDBG Grant Process and gave the total cost of the project which is \$1,039,000.

Fraser gave information and benefits on grants and projects already awarded for the sewer system. The Bar Screen will provide the biggest benefit in mitigating impacts to the plant wastewater system by removing solids before the grinder pumps which will save about \$750,000 in future costs. This will improve the whole process downstream all the way to the disinfection system. The plant is under strict permit discharge limitations, and it is going to assure compliance with discharge permits and reduce maintenance & operating costs. Without upgrading the operating system PLCs and SCADAs this could be at jeopardy in the future.

Fraser stated that this grant must be submitted by 10/28/2021.

Councilor Smith asked, keeping fingers crossed, what were the chances of making the deadline and getting the grant. Fraser was positive and said the city is ranked high going into the Competitive Grant Process.

Fraser added that there are a lot of good components, it will just depend on the competition, which may be less due to ARPA funds. A lot of communities have ARPA monies as 75 projects have been awarded in the competitive grant cycle and those are all using other ARPA monies, not CDBG. The city is in a good position strategically to proceed. We have finished the water project with the Certificate of Water Completion being signed tomorrow and submitted. So, this is looking favorable.

Mayor Williams opened the floor for comments. There were none.

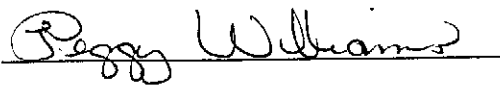
Mayor Williams made a couple of announcements:

Next meeting on CDBG to be held 10/25/2021 at 6:15pm.

In relation to the Growth Policy, Joel Nelson from Land Solutions will be in Libby that same week and will meet with the planning/zoning board. Since the City will already be holding a meeting, Mayor Williams wants to start discussion the Growth Policy at a Council meeting following the CDBG meeting on 10/25/2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:23pm.



Mayor, Peggy Williams



Deputy Clerk, Charlotte Luedecke