

## APPROVED MINUTES

The Libby City Council held a Special Council meeting for a Vacant Council Position on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Council Chamber at Libby City Hall.

### **Call to Order:**

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

Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Melissa Berk, Ian Smith, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, and Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold.

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting was to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by a resignation. Mayor Williams stated there was one application submitted by Gail Burger.

Ms. Burger gave a brief introduction herself.

Councilor K. Smith stressed the importance that rules of civic engagement are followed in taking on a position of leadership in a group setting and being aware of websites and forums Ms. Burger has either been host or propagated other information about people in the community that was either false or mean spirited and not community orientated, how would she approach that being appointed an official.

Ms. Burger explained she runs several local pages on Facebook, having those pages doesn't mean she posts on them, people are free to post what they like but she does monitor them to make sure they don't get out of control for the most part. She believes freedom of speech is important, and as long as it isn't an outright lie that she is aware of, she does not personally engage with that. Being the President of the Libby Business Association, she tries not to engage as much as possible.

Councilor Berke inquired what made her decide to submit her application.

Ms. Burger said she knows there is a disconnect between a lot of the time with the council and the community and wanted to try to see if she can get it back on track.

Councilor Zimmerman inquired what she thinks she can bring to help with the disconnect she sees between the council and the public.

Ms. Burger is unsure at this time but knowing there is a lot of distrust and the many things people are saying she wants to be open and fair and see what they can do.

Councilor I. Smith inquired what is the number one issue she sees facing the residents today.

Ms. Burger says housing is a big issue in the community right now.

Councilor Taylor inquired if she sees any conflict between the Libby Business Association and being on Council.

Ms. Burger said she had discussed that with her board, and they have gone through their articles of incorporation and bylaws, there are no conflicts.

**Public Comment:**

DC Orr, 1117 Nevada Ave., commented on conflicts of interest and mentioned what he sees as conflicts of interest with other Council members.

Councilor Smith called Point of Order; the question is about comments on the appointee.

Councilor Berke **MADE A NOMINATION** for Gail Burger, Councilor K. Smith **SECONDED**.

Mayor Williams called for a roll call vote.

Councilors Berke, I. Smith, K. Smith, and Taylor voted **FOR**. Councilor Zimmerman voted **AGAINST**.

**NOMINATION PASSED**

Mayor Williams welcomed Ms. Burger to Council and clarified under MCA 71-41-37, even though she will be sworn in tonight, it states that before the officer performs any official duties, the oath of office, certified by the official before whom the oath was taken, must be filed with the election officer. Meaning, while Ms. Burger can at the council table tonight, she cannot vote.

Mayor Williams swore in Ms. Burger.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.

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Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold