

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- APRIL 1, 2024

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Carr, Heitman, Austin, Ozark, Koski, and Nistler. Also present were Chief Weber, Recreation Director Casterline, and DPW Skubinna. Candy Lagerquist, Ann Kulczyk, Maggan Walstad, Ashley Markle, Michelle Huntsman, Whitney Tatafu, and Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson and City Attorney O'Brien attended via Google Meets. There was no media representation.

Council Member Nistler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Austin made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for April 1, 2024 in the amount of \$289,641.62, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$352.94, and the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr and carried unanimously.

DPW Skubinna reviewed the snow removal plan with the city council. He said this plan will provide guidance and still maintain flexibility. He would like to verbally amend the plan by including 8th Avenue North from Highway 2 to the Irle School and 9th Street North from the bus barn to the Irle School. Council member Nistler made a motion to approve the snow removal plan. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion to hire summer laborers. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman. There will be 2 positions for the parks, 2 for the levee, 2 for the cemetery, 2 laborers for the recreation department and approximately 5 for the summer recreation programs. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business – Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna said the city should have a final SWIF plan by August and a draft by June for him to review. The next levee meeting needs to be scheduled and Great West is looking into additional grant money to bring the levee into compliance with the Corps.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for personnel, water, cemetery, or grant. An ordinance committee meeting will take place following this council meeting.

Department Head Reports:

Chief Weber mentioned the generator for the police department has been ordered and will be installed after it arrives.

Recreation Director Casterline said there will be rec board meeting tomorrow night.

DPW Skubinna reported the 1987 Transmission Main Crossing Project is going well and the contractor is hoping to do the connections for crossing #2 this week.

Council member Austin said that he had talked with City Grant Writer Byers to see if she could find funding to construct a fire training center.

City Attorney O'Brien told the council that City Attorney Pekovitch has been working on ordinances.

Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering said the City of Red Lodge had built a fire training center, he will reach out to them to see what they had used for funding. Also, the pool construction project is going well.

There was no Mayor's Report.

Public Comment: Ashley Markle of the Glasgow Kiwanis Swim Team read the following letter to the Glasgow City Council:



Glasgow Kiwanis Swim Team
PO Box 733
Glasgow, MT 59230
gkst.thunder@gmail.com

Glasgow City Council,

We are writing on behalf of Glasgow Kiwanis Swim Team (GKST) in support of the Valley County Pool Campaign. The pool has needed repair/replacement for many years, so we are excited to see progress occurring. The GKST has been significantly impacted by the lack of a pool.

GKST has had additional expenses without having a local pool. The community has been very supportive of GKST, and we're excited to assist in the construction process with critical infrastructure for bleachers and other spectator amenities.

Hosting a swim meet brings a large financial benefit to the community, where we typically host around 400 swimmers plus their families. This is also the team's largest fundraiser with meet fees, concessions, programs, etc. The team will not have hosted a meet in 2 years, losing out on those proceeds to other area towns/teams. During the design phase, we opted for an 8-lane pool with the expectation that we'd have the accommodations to host the large Divisionals and State swim meets. Glasgow is centrally located, has restaurants, hotels, and activities for tourists to enjoy. Having a nice park for shade, grass, camping, games, picnics, family gatherings, and spectators is crucial. We are in support of a skate park; however, we feel the suggested space would take up a significant amount of the grass area that would be used especially when we host these large events. If the expanded skatepark is passed, there would not be enough space for GKST to host a Divisional or State meet. The park was completely filled with tents at the last regular swim meet GKST held in 2022. Taking away the flat, grassy areas of Hoyt Park to build a large skate park would be taking away the ability for GKST to host a large swim meet.

Again, GKST is supportive of a skate park. However, there is only one location for the pool with only one location where we can put bleachers for spectators watching swimmers (including parents of children in swimming lessons). There is only one location for the hospital, and expansion opportunities are limited. A parking lot for future hospital expansion opportunities is essentially limited to Hoyt Park. The hospital and the pool cannot be moved. However, a skate park can be relocated to an area to create the opportunity for a new or improved park within Glasgow. Instead of making the green space smaller in Hoyt Park, let's work together to find opportunities to create or enhance a green space within Glasgow for a skate park (which could include new bathrooms or new green space), other than Hoyt Park.

GKST is looking forward to growing the team as we highlight the benefits of water exercise for living a healthy lifestyle while also encouraging friendly competition and improving self-esteem. We thank you for your continued support as we eagerly anticipate the new pool!

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to gkst.thunder@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Glasgow Kiwanis Swim Team

Maggan Walstad commented that the location the skate park committee is asking for would interfere with the pipes that are going to be installed for a future waterslide. Recreation Director Casterline said that taking up the additional green space in Hoyt Park will interfere with the summer recreation programs that generate revenue. Whitney Tatafu also spoke to the council about losing additional green space for the park, between the construction of the parking lot for the hospital and the skate park, there won't be enough space for the kids to enjoy. Council member Ozark mentioned the location of the skate park has been talked about after they decided it would not be located in Bundy Park. The meetings have been open to the public and wondering why this is just being brought up now about losing green space. Ashley Markle said she didn't realize when the meetings were held or what was going to be discussed. Mayor Karst then asked City Clerk Amundson how the public is notified on public hearings and meetings. City Clerk Amundson said that if there is an upcoming public hearing, it's advertised in the paper for two (2) weeks prior to the public hearing being held. If it's a committee meeting the agendas are posted at the four (4) posting locations at least 48 hours in advance. If it's a regular council meeting, the agendas are posted on the city's website on the Wednesday or early Thursday morning the week prior to the council meetings that are always held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, unless there is a holiday; then it's moved to Tuesday. All of our meetings are open to the public. Council member Koski stated that they are posted also on the Chambers website and KLTZ has them available on their website. Council member Austin also said you can call the city office and they can tell you about any upcoming meetings. Since there was no more public comment, Mayor Karst asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor