

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Austin, Heitman, Nistler, and Carr. Council members Ozark and Koski were absent. Also present were Code Compliance Officer Dees, Chief Weber, Captain Edwards, Grant Writer Ryan, Head Librarian Haddix, and DPW Skubinna. City Clerk Amundson and City Attorney Pekovitch attended via Google meets. Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering, City Grant Writer Beyers, Ann Kulczyk, Shelli Isle from Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC), and Dain Christensen were also in attendance. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Auston made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for October 17, 2022 in the amount of \$91,092.05, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$941.47, the minutes of the October 3, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, and **Resolution No. 3118** – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the DPHHS Grant Fund for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Received from the Department of Health and Human Services. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion to appoint the following members to the Board of Adjustments for a three (3) year term effective October 18, 2022: Neil Chouinard, Rene Clampitt, Rod Fargo, John Fontaine, and John Kulczyk. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

The council discussed the city's current per diem rates. The city currently follows the state rates as set by Montana Code Annotated. Council member Carr made a motion to implement the state per diem rates that are located on the GSA.gov website. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously. A resolution for updating the City's of Glasgow personnel policy manual to include this change will be presented at the next regular council meeting for adoption.

There was discussion on renewing Chaz Hopstad's maintenance contract for the Valley Court Apartments. His contract is up at the end of this month and the city is in the process of transferring ownership of this property. It will still be about another three (3) months or so before this actually happens. Council member Austin made a motion to renew the contract on a month-to-month basis until the property is transferred, since there is still maintenance to be completed. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously. Mayor Karst said he will contact Chaz to let him know.

Mayor Karst reported on the wage compensation committee meeting that was held to discuss water operator's pay scale with certifications. At that meeting the committee was going to recommended increasing the operator's pay to \$25.19 from \$24.82, then after meeting with the Street Foreman and emails from the union representative, the water operators wage with two (2) certifications should be \$25.42. Council member Nistler made a motion to increase the pay to \$25.42 for the two (2) certifications and retroactive from July 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Council member Carr reported on the Personnel Committee meeting. The committee talked about Covid leave at that meeting. They decided that municipalities no longer receive government funding for time off due to covid, and employees will have to use their sick leave. They also reviewed other states policies this to come to this decision.

Mayor Karst talked about the Ordinance Committee meeting. The committee is recommending allowing up to two (2) recreational marijuana storefronts within the city limits, but wanted to bring it to a full city council vote before the ordinance is drafted for adoption. Council member Nistler made a motion to allow up to two (2) storefronts. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman. Council member Carr voted against; motion carried.

Council member Austin made a motion allowing the library to purchase the property behind their building using their endowment funds and this property will belong to the library for development, even though it will be in the city's name. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr. Dain Christensen had inquired on how the process for the money will work since the investment company will write the check to the library and then the library will pay the seller. City Clerk Amundson explained that a resolution will be completed and approved by council allowing for the receipt and expenditure of this money. She told Dain that they can continue with the purchase before the resolution is passed if needed. Motion carried.

The council discussed the next options for the swimming pool. Shelli Isle from GNDC updated the council on the asbestos report from the test ran at the pool. It came in at less than 1%, so DEQ will not have to be involved with the demolition of the existing pool, but OSHA guidelines will have to be followed. Kaden Bedwell from Interstate mentioned that he still has not heard back from DPHHS on the construction plans, but has received approval from the Corps. There was further discussion on how the demolition was going to be completed. Initially, they had talked about volunteers completing the demolition, but there were some concerns brought to the pool committee's attention. So, they would like to see the demolition portion included in with the construction bid documents. Council member Nistler made a motion to move forward with the bid contract and include the demolition of the existing pool. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna reported on the meeting with DNRC, FEMA, Tester’s Office, members of the levee committee, and the Corps, that was held on October 11th. The mapping project for the levee is underway and hoping to have a draft by 2025. After this project is completed then it will trigger FEMA to conduct a study. They recommended having a Risk Assessment completed to address the encroachments on the levee. City Grant Writer Beyers will start looking for funding to assist with the assessment cost.

-Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – The State approved the additional costs for the current project and the contractor is working on finishing it.

There was no Mayor’s Report.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel, Water, Ordinance or Cemetery. City Grant Writer Beyers mentioned that EDA may be a starting point to look for funding for the levee assessment. She is continuing to search for funding for the construction of the pool. The two (2) grant applications for the Capital Improvements Plan have been submitted to the funding agencies and the city’s rate study will begin on November 2nd with Montana Rural Water Systems. Police Grant Writer Ryan reported that the city has been awarded three (3) grants. One is additional money for Bulletproof Vests in the amount of \$1,600.00, one for \$4,525.00 that will assist with updating the children’s advocacy center with new interview equipment, and the last one for \$120,000.00 to support law enforcement agencies in seeking accreditation through the Department of Justice. She also mentioned Officer Dick and herself are still working on their crisis intervention training.

Department Head Reports:

Chief Weber told the council that his department has been busy. They now have two (2) openings within the department, as he had to let another officer go during their probationary period. Captain Edwards asked the council if it would be possible to put a committee together to come up with some incentives or ideas to have people apply for the openings within the department.

Code Compliance Officer Dees talked about the JC Building that had asbestos testing done. Shelli Isle talked about the issues with this building. A complete asbestos test couldn’t be completed since it’s unsafe to enter the building. There are some issues with the soil surrounding this building. There are a couple of different options, but she mentioned if the building were to be demoed the rest of the testing could be done, so the report is not completed as of now. Code Compliance Officer Dees then reported on the Valley Court Apartments and that he has been working on issuing permits.

City Attorney Pekovitch said the police department is keeping her busy. She should have the contract for David George reviewed and finalized tomorrow.

City Clerk Amundson mentioned the city’s audit will be conducted the week of October 31st and she is gathering information for the auditors. They will do the audit remotely again this year.

Public Comment: NONE

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey A. Amundson
City Clerk - Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor