

Regular City Council Meeting

Carnegie Library

February 22, 2022

Mayor DeBoer opened the Regular City Council Meeting and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

Others Attending are:

Council: Justin Ferguson, Ken Rockeman, Leonard Woehler, Linda Brunckhorst

City Attorney: Jim Lippert

City Staff: Nadine Stosich, Clerk/Treasurer

Public: Barbara Selk, Mike Shirley, Angela Selby, Chad Bauer, Ryan Coffman, Amanda Dunwald, Robert Curry, Ray Stenberg, Raymond Porter

Press: Chelsa Nickell

Councilman Rockeman gave the Invocation.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the corrected minutes of the 2/7/22 Regular City Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim apologized that Ordinance #490 was not ready. He will have it ready to read at the next meeting.

Jim Lippert told the Council about an invoice that the city received from Montana Rail Link for repairs from a possible "hit and run". Our contract with MRL dated July 16, 1990, essentially requires the city to repair any damage that is done at that crossing. This time, law enforcement was not made aware until a day or two later when it was too late to determine who was at fault. Jim doesn't feel that a letter of protest from him would do any good, we are still under contract and are responsible. Councilman Ferguson explained that the agreement was put in place when the crossing arms were originally installed at the request of the City Council. Jim was asked to write a cover letter to MRL explaining the concerns of the Council. MRL will be expected to report any damage to the Sweet Grass County law enforcement immediately in order to protect the lives and property of those persons using the crossing. Councilman Woehler moved to have the City of Big Timber pay invoice # 2021397 in the amount of \$1357.28 to Montana Rail Link, and to include a cover letter from Jim, seconded by Councilwoman Brunckhorst. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer started off the "garbage discussion" by stating his concern for the lack of safety precautions around the scale house. It now sits about three feet off the ground and there are no steps to get in. Robert Curry, Republic Operations Manager, is in the process of getting an estimate for skirting around the bottom of the scale house and OSHA approved steps. He hopes to have those installed on March 1st and 2nd, but will call Nadine on Thursday, 2/24/22 with an update.

Nadine Stosich, City Clerk/Treasurer, discussed some concerns that she is having with the invoices received from Republic Services. In the future, she would like weight slips for everything that leaves the Big Timber transfer site in the big roll-off containers and weight slips for garbage that comes in from the county and that is collected in the city as well. Chad Bauer, Republic Municipal Manager, guaranteed that this procedure would start tomorrow (2/23/22) and continue from now on. Nadine also mentioned problems with the scale on windy days. Chad will contact the scale company and see what can be done. He also suggested that the Council have a minimum charge at the transfer site. Mayor DeBoer asked about the cameras that were promised and when they are to be installed. Bob will get a hard date as to when it will be done. Councilman Woehler was concerned about when the trucks are getting fueled up and whether we are being charged for the fuel weight as well as the garbage. Robert assured him that the tare weight of the trucks is when it is completely full of fuel and DEF fluid.

Report from Robert Curry: 1. Automated Call System list has been separated out into routes now. 2. New hires = James Smith does the County and is still in training. He is also certified to fill the bins and we can expect those bins to be completely full and should weigh between five to six ton. Mark Cartmell will start as soon as his background check comes through. He is 80% through that test. 4. Supervisors are calling office when driver is done about 90% of the time. 5. The Scale is operational, and Republic will produce weight slips. 6. Traffic patterns at the transfer site – They have moved the metal pile back so there is more room for vehicles to turn around. 7. The green and red lights are installed but are still in the process of getting signs put up. 8. Amanda Dunwald was trained on the “Trux” system in Missoula. Just waiting to have it installed here in Big Timber so she can use it. 9. Bins are being packed full by the new hire, James Smith.

Councilman Ferguson requested a status report on repairs that need to be done to the building. Bob will get an estimate on those repairs and will let us know when to expect those to be completed. He also informed the Council of a hole in the roof that the city is responsible for. Kris Novotny will be asked to get an estimate to get it fixed. Councilman Ferguson explained the report that he completed. He then asked for explanations as to why some of the credits are missing and other charges are so high. Chad Bauer tried to explain, but then assured the Council that an audit is being done to make sure that the city was charged and/or credited correctly. He also explained that the city is being credited more than the actual charge of dumping the rural garbage at the landfill in Billings. He will let Nadine know the exact amount. Recycling was also discussed. Chad assured us that we are not getting charged for any of the recycling except for the tires. The recyclables are taken to the recycling center in Billings. This is a service that Republic is providing to the city at their own cost.

Councilman Woehler feels that after looking at the report from Councilman Ferguson, the city needs to reconsider the rates at the transfer station. Chad will be happy to walk through a rating system with the Mayor and the Council. This will be on an upcoming agenda. A hazard waste day was also discussed. It may be a possibility in the future.

Mayor DeBoer started a discussion regarding the leasing of City property. He was wondering about the low rents and why we don't use the building for our own use. Ray Stenberg offered to double his rent if the Council agreed to let him keep the lease for one more year. Councilman Rockeman would like an inventory of all the equipment that could be stored in the building from Kris Novotny. Jim Lippert suggested that we find out for sure whether the city is going to use that space before the Councils talks about leases.

Due to the late hour, the Mayor suggested that discussion of the other two leases take place at the next meeting.

Nadine Stosich wanted to make the Council aware that the current health insurance provided for the employees will increase 39% on April 1st. The monthly premium will jump from \$630.63 to \$876.58 for the same coverage. She was asked to get quotes from other insurance companies, meet with the city employees and then come back to the Council with a proposal.

There was no public comment.

There were no Council concerns.

Councilman Rockeman moved to approve the claims for the 2nd half of January 2022, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm, seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nadine Stosich, Clerk/Treasurer