

Budget Work Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting

Carnegie Library

June 6, 2022

Mayor DeBoer opened the budget work meeting at 6:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

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

City Attorney: Jim Lippert

City Staff: Nadine Stosich, Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer

City/County Staff: Alan Ronneberg, County Sheriff

Public: Mike Shirley, Angela Selby, Raymond Porter, Sally Owen-Still, Amanda Dunwald, Angie Moen, Stacey Smith, Patrick Watts

Press: Chelsa Nickell

Councilman Rockeman gave the Invocation.

Budget Discussion – Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, presented the preliminary budget. Many items were discussed such as flagpoles and flags for City Hall, rewiring the Fire Hall, purchasing a Vactor, updating the meter reading system and increasing fuel budgets due to rising fuel costs.

Mayor DeBoer opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

Councilman Rockeman moved to approve the minutes of the City/County Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting of 5/16/22, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that there were 344 calls, 19 cases, and 55 offenses for the month of May. Deputy Mental Health and Wellness program is up and running. They are considering adding a second SRO so there is one for BTGS and SGHS due to the increased workload. They might qualify for another grant to help with that. The Department has also been approached by schools and businesses to do active shooter training. Councilman Ferguson suggested speed control on McLeod for mining workers going to and from work.

Public Works Director, Kris Novotny, reported the Water Main Replacement Project is done except for the paving which should begin this week depending on the weather. There were 112 locate requests in May. The majority was due to the fiber optics project. DEQ did an inspection on the water treatment plant and everything looked good. They are waiting for a new discharge permit. The other one expired

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in 2017. They reapplied in 2016 but haven't received one yet. They will start drainage, curb and gutter work on Bramble Street. There are problems with the bathrooms at the pool being locked and unlocked at the right times and are looking into the possibility of purchasing locks with automatic timers on doors so that won't be a problem

Kris Novotny asked for approval of the On-Call Engineer. Our current contract expires at the end of June. The city advertised and received one response from Great West Engineering. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to accept Great West's proposal as the on-call city engineer, seconded by Councilwoman Brunckhorst. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Kris Novotny asked the Council for approval for the county to use part of the Old Landfill adjacent to the county shop to store equipment. Councilman Wohler made a motion to allow the County usage of the Old Landfill for storage, seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council.

Sally Owen-Still, representing Friends of Dornix Park, discussed the current situation of Crazy Mountain Dog Park. Friends of Dornix Park would like to take over the lease agreement and the insurance policy which expires June 15th. City Attorney Jim Lippert is concerned that the leases for Crazy Mountain Dog Park and Dornix Park does not require insurance requirements for death or injury to humans with respect to dogs. Sally requested that the Crazy Mountain Dog Park lease be assigned to the Friends of Dornix Park before they take it over. Angie Moen pointed out that the Insurance company has a rider to cover dog bites and is ready to write another policy for them as well when Friends of Dornix Park takes over the lease of Crazy Mountain Dog Park. After a lengthy discussion, City Attorney felt that \$25,000 per occurrence was not enough. The city council would like them to increase to a \$1,000,000 policy per occurrence and make sure it includes, mauling and death. Until an agreement is met, the city council would need to close Crazy Mountain Dog Park once the insurance policy expires on June 15th. Councilwoman Brunckhorst made a motion that if the insurance lapses on Crazy Mountain Dog Park that we give the authority to Public Works to lock it up until such time as we negotiate a new lease for insurance situation is squared away, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council.

Councilman Ferguson made a motion that the limits on the dog park insurance policy would be \$1 million coverage for injuries to a person, property, injury, or death at Crazy Mountain Dog Park. Seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council

Stacy Smith asked the Council to reconsider the rental rate for the dugout for Big Timber Daycare. She proposed to pay \$650 month for use of the dugout in the mornings (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-Noon) for the summer break. Councilman Woehler asked us to consider it on a case-by-case basis. Jim Lippert says we can amend the policy for a for-profit business that rents for an extended period to be approved by the council. He also said because the policy is not on the agenda, it cannot be addressed at this meeting. It was decided to just change the Rental Agreement with Big Timber Daycare and not the policy. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the Rental Agreement with the City of Big Timber and Big Timber Day Care for the term of June 1-Aug 19 for \$600/month for full days with the understanding that there may be a request to use it by other parties, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council.

Patrick Watts attended to report on Republic Services. Siding on the transfer station was fixed and completed on May 28. Placed a block wall inside the building to help keep siding secure. Camera installation was completed on 4/12 but have limited access on who can remotely view it. It can be requested to view if needed. Trucks installation that will replace the scale tickets is a system that will be installed within the next month if the IT guy makes it out. The scale certification permitting has been difficult to do. The holdup has been with the State. Waiting for the date when the State will send people to certify the scale. The temporary license is good until that happens. Weight scale misreadings during high winds have gone down since they installed cement blocking along the scale. All signage has been installed. Staffing – Amy Newman is now the Scale Attendant from Greycliff.

Councilwoman Brunckhorst reported that Montana on a Mission is having their Week of Service August 9-13th and are teaming up with the City to do their City Wide Clean-Up Day during that time as well. Would like Republic to have the dump open on Saturday, August 13, from 8:30am-4pm for a Free Dump Day. Raymond Porter from the Chamber of Commerce asked about including dump of Hazardous Materials and Recycling as well. Patrick thinks it will be ok but will put together a plan and get back with us. It was decided that Sweet Grass County residents would be included in the Free Dump Day.

Councilwoman Brunckhorst wanted to revisit the Interim Ordinance #489 (Marijuana Zoning Ord). Ordinance is expiring today. She would like to extend the ordinance 90 days to give the planning board a chance to get the permanent agreement together. Jim Lippert said that the statute would allow an extension. Paige Dringman from the planning board asked if they want to hold a public hearing? Yes, they would like to hold a public hearing in July. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve a 90-day extension to Ordinance #489. Councilwoman Brunckhorst seconded it. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council.

City Clerk/Treasurer Nadine Stosich asked the Council to consider the Audit Agreement from Amatics for the next three years. Agreement expired with last audit. Councilman Ferguson asked if we should put this out for proposals from other companies. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to put out to accounting firms, proposals for auditing the city, seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the council.

Nadine Stosich asked the Council for authorization for the new clerks to perform all duties of the clerks including banking authorization. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to authorize Hope Mosness as Clerk/Treasurer for the City and Patti Duval as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer to perform all duties including financial responsibility/banking duties seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the council.

Public Comment:

Stacy Smith requested magnetic locks on the bathrooms at the Lions Club Park. She would also like the swimming pool to look into getting a water bottle filler. Raymond Porter announced that Sweet Grass Fest will be June 24-25th. Councilman Rockeman said that the grass pile at the transfer station has turned into trees and other items more than grass. He would like to see cameras and signs put into place.

Councilman Rockeman moved to approve the claims, payroll, and overtime for the month of May 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Brunckhorst. 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 8:58pm, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer

