**Flood Control Committee**

**February 13, 2014**

The **Flood Control Committee** met Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Members John Hollowell, Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner and Sheena Martin. Also present were Councilperson Jerry Partridge, Councilperson Susanne Galbraith, Floodplain Administrator Sam Malenovsky, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Engineer Project Manager Carl Jackson with KLJ and Recorder HR/Payroll Officer Billie Burkhalter.

**1. Election of Chairperson**

\*\* *Committee Member Andrews moved to nominate Committee Member John Hollowell as Chairperson of the Flood Control Committee, seconded by*

*Committee Member Gardner; motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

**2. Requests of Citizens/Public Comment**

-None.

**4. Update on Public Information Meeting**

Chairperson Hollowell moved this agenda item up for full discussion.

Carl Jackson, Project Manager, explained that the Public Informational Meeting is set for March 6, 2014, at Miles Community College. His firm will present Administrator Malenovsky with drafts of public notice advertisements consisting of media releases, mass mailings to the community and posters for her approval. They have also designed a web page specifically for this project that will be linked to the City of Miles City’s website. This website will contain maps and public information as it becomes available. When it goes live, it will have the ability for the public to make comments or ask questions through the web page.

Carl Jackson, Project Manager, emphasized that this meeting is a Public Information meeting and they are intentionally not calling this a “Public Input” meeting, as they want to distinguish between the two. Carl Jackson explained this is a high level study and, at this point, they are not going to get into the fine details. He wants to make sure to let the public know that they are in the initial stages of this project. Ultimately, the first step is to analyze all the alternatives available to the City with a recommendation on how to move forward with flood control and insurance issues.

Carl Jackson explained that the general format of the meeting will have an introduction to his firm with a formal presentation of the project overview. Then he plans to break out the audience into their prospective wards, each with a facilitator to outline how their area is affected. He feels that this will be advantageous due to each ward having different issues and concerns. Once this is completed, they will all come back together as a whole group, and they will be provided an overview or summary of the questions and feedback they received. Administrator Malenovsky explained that each Ward is affected differently. By conducting the meeting as described, it will facilitate communication and make people more comfortable about asking questions on how their individual ward is affected.

Administrator Malenovsky explained that the final meeting will be scheduled sometime after the Flood Awareness Day in April, depending upon comments from DNRC (Department of Natural Resources and Conservation), USACE (United States of Army Corp of Engineers) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Carl Jackson advised the Committee that he wanted this meeting to be as successful as possible and, if they had any ideas that would enable this, please contact Administrator Malenovsky.

Committee Member Gardner explained that his Ward, which is Ward I, is very concerned about the flood issue and will be very vocal at this Public Informational Meeting. He stated that he foresees three major questions being asked; first, does this affect my home; second, how much it is going to cost; third, how long is it going to take.

Carl Jackson replied that one of their most important recommendations is to get aggressive with a strategy. This might be a combination of planning internally with the Community to see what funding mechanisms needed to be considered. There also needs to be a political strategy at a State and Federal level.

Councilperson Galbraith requested a cheat sheet be provided for the meeting for definitions on floodway, flood fringe, LOMA etc. Administrator Malenovsky advised the Committee that they are in the process of completing one and it will be available in time for the meeting.

**3. Approval of Flood Plain Ordinance**

Administrator Malenovsky explained to the Committee that the proposed Flood Plain Ordinance is from State and Federal regulations, and she has marked the amendments in the document that she feels are important for the City of Miles City. Chairperson Hollowell stated this is a new revised Flood Plain Ordinance that would repeal the old ordinance if adopted.

Due to time constraints, Committee Member Andrews stated it would be acceptable to have Administrator Malenovsky present the Committee with her changes and recommendations for the final Flood Plain Ordinance. Committee Member Gardner was in agreement. Chairperson Hollowell requested Administrator Malenovsky keep the proposed Ordinance intact and note any amendments off to the side of the document that she feels are necessary. Committee Member Martin agreed.

Administrator Malenovsky wanted to point out that a big issue between NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) and FEMA is how they do not communicate very well together. She referenced the City’s Ordinance currently reads if a homeowner completes a crawlspace, the crawlspace floor has to be at or above base flood elevation(BFE) with the lowest floor of the structure having to be at BFE plus two. The problem with that, insurance wise, is the lowest floor will be considered at BFE for insurance purposes. The proposed ordinance states the same as the current ordinance, with the one change being that the crawlspace enclosure must also meet wet flood proofing requirements. This means that now they have to put vents in that crawl space. With this addition of the wet proofing requirement, the next lowest floor, which is at BFE plus 2, will be used for insurance rating purposes.

\*\* *Committee Member Martin moved to table approval of the Flood Plain Ordinance until the next scheduled meeting, seconded by Committee Member Andrews and, on roll call vote, motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

**5. Adjournment**

\*\* *Committee Member Martin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by*

*Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Flood Control Committee Chairperson

Billie D. Burkhalter, Recorder John Hollowell, Chairperson