

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MILES CITY, MONTANA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES July 30, 2013
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council meeting was held Tuesday, July 30, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor C. A. Grenz called the meeting to order and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present were Mark Ahner, Bill Melnik, John Uden, Jerry Partridge, John Hollowell, Roxanna Brush, Sue Galbraith and Dwayne Andrews. Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, City Clerk Lorrie Pearce, Fire Chief Dale Berg, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Library Director Sonja Woods, Historical Preservation Officer Connie Muggli, Animal Control Officer Brian Certain, Sgt. Barney Murnin, Local 283B President, Dispatch Supervisor Heather Roos and Recorder/ Deputy City Clerk Connie Watts.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2013-2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mayor Grenz called for comments on the budget, noting that everyone would have three minutes to speak.

Hannah Nash – Library Employee, addressed the Council regarding the cuts proposed to the Library, which she said would result in a \$20,000 shortfall. The Library has a very low turnover and never overruns its budget.

Sgt. Barney Murnin, President of Police Union Local 283B, spoke against the proposal to cut the Animal Control Officer position to half time and the secretary's position completely. He said that police officers will have to pick up the extra workload. He also noted that Animal Control Officer Brian Certain is less than four years away from retirement.

Dennis Hafla, 814 Milwaukee, Bob and Carol Ford, Larissa Watson, 202 Sprandel Lane, Allison Campbell, Linda Wiedeman, 713 S. Stacy, and Butch Raymond all spoke in support of the animal control officer's continued full-time position. They feel the problems with dogs and other animals will dramatically increase without a full-time Animal Control Officer. Praise for Officer Certain's professionalism and knowledge of Miles City's people and animal problems were cited as reasons not to curtail his position. It was felt that, with the increase in crime that Miles City is currently experiencing, shifting additional duties onto the police officers will mean a loss of response to both animal and crime problems.

Police Chief Doug Colombik stated that the City sees approximately 600-700 animal calls per year.

Becky Stanton, former City Clerk, spoke against the proposed budget. She felt that if the mayor is able to receive health insurance, then the other part-time elected officials, the Treasurer and the City Judge, should receive the same. She also spoke against outsourcing payroll and/or human resources services, cutting back the animal control officer, eliminating the city planner position, and cutting the grant writer position, as all would be detrimental to the citizens of Miles City. She feels the City has healthy reserves and no cuts should be necessary.

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Linda Wildman, 2103 Tomy, former Deputy City Clerk, also spoke against the budget as presented. She noted there are no revenues in the budget except for the general fund. She also asked for someone to state which positions are to be cut, so the taxpayers would know which positions are being eliminated. She felt the legal ad that was in the paper was not clear about when taxpayers could be heard, or what the process was and when the budget would be final.

With no more citizens requesting to comment, Mayor Grenz called the hearing closed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



C.A. Grenz
Mayor

ATTEST:



Lorrie Pearce
City Clerk