

**PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
MILES CITY, MONTANA**

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **February 13, 2014**
8:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council meeting was held Thursday, February 13, 2014, in the Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, at 8:00 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, Jerry Partridge, John Hollowell, Roxanna Brush, Dwayne Andrews, Susanne Galbraith, Kenneth Gardner, and Sheena Martin.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, City Clerk Lorrie Pearce, Fire Chief Dale Berg, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Public Utilities Director Al Kelm, and Human Resource/Payroll Officer /Minute Recorder Billie Burkhalter.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES/COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Council Meeting 1/28/2014

****** *Councilperson Galbraith moved to accept the City Council minutes of January 28th, 2014, as presented, seconded by Councilperson Gardner and, on roll call vote, passed unanimously, 8-0.*

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- Planning Board Meeting on 2/18/2014 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Flood Control Meeting on 2/21/2014 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Public Information Meeting on 3/6/2014 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Miles Community College Room 106 & 107
 - this meeting is for the Community and it concerns information gathering for Floodplain

APPOINTMENTS

- **Housing Authority Board:** Brent Leischner

Mayor Grenz stated he would like to appoint Brent Leischner to the Housing Authority Board with consent of the Council. He asked the Council Members who were in favor to say aye. All Members said aye. No one was opposed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution No. 3662: A Resolution Pursuant To §7-6-4006 Of The Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing Amendment Of Final Budget For FY 2013-2014 For Allocation Of Personnel And Associated Costs

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Between The Fire Department And Ambulance Funds
And Providing For Hearing Thereon

Mayor Grenz requested any discussion from the City Council before going to the Public. There was none.

Mayor Grenz called three times for comments from opponents, then three times for comments from proponents.

Mayor Grenz questioned Fire Chief Berg why the overtime was not in the Ambulance instead in the Fire Department. Fire Chief Berg responded that it is in the Ambulance.

Hearing no comments either for or against, the hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 1258: An Ordinance Enacting A New Section 24-96 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Miles City, Montana To Provide For A Process For Site Plan Review

Mayor Grenz requested any discussion from the City Council before going to the Public. There was none.

Mayor Grenz called three times for comments from opponents, then three times for comments from proponents. Hearing no comments either for or against, the hearing was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution No. 3662: (Second Reading) A Resolution Pursuant To §7-6-4006 Of The Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing Amendment Of Final Budget For FY 2013-2014 For Allocation Of Personnel And Associated Costs Between The Fire Department And Ambulance Funds And Providing For Hearing Thereon

** *Councilperson Ahner moved to defer consideration of Resolution No 3662 until next Fiscal Year after the Finance Committee has conducted its budget review for the current Fiscal Year and for the Fiscal Year forthcoming. Motion died for lack of a second.*

** *Councilperson Galbraith moved to approve Resolution No. 3662: A Resolution Pursuant To §7-6-4006 Of The Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing Amendment Of Final Budget For FY 2013-2014 For Allocation Of Personnel And Associated Costs Between The Fire Department And Ambulance Funds, 2014 as presented, seconded by Councilperson Martin.*

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Councilperson Ahner requested clarification, as it appears as though under the third “whereas” on the first page of the resolution it states 2.5 FTE personnel. However, the computed FTE sheets from the Fire Chief indicate it should be 2.3 FTE’s. He questioned if the resolution is retroactive to the beginning of the Fiscal Year, July 2013. City Clerk Pearce indicated that it was. Councilperson Ahner stated he wonders why there is a necessity to pass this resolution when the City is nearly three quarters of the way through the fiscal year. This apparently has been an ongoing problem for some time and it would be more appropriate to consider the cause of the problem of being overrun on an annual basis in a more intensive review. Councilperson Ahner estimated that 90% of the dispatch calls are ambulance calls and with the passage of this resolution only 28% of costs will be regulated to the Ambulance Fund. This may look good from the standpoint of improving the appearance of the Ambulance Fund, but all that is being done is that the General Fund will have to come up with \$118,400 to support the fund.

Chief Berg clarified that the number of ambulance calls are about 78%. When he did his research on the Ambulance Fund, it was originally set up to have 4 FTE’s. Then it went to a percentage in 2006-2007, which was 70-30, or 9.5 FTE’s in the General Fund and 4.5 FTE’s in the Ambulance Fund. The Council has continued to increase the FTE percentage. During that time the previous Fire Chief stated it would not withstand that many people. They also have not had a rate increase since 2005.

Councilperson Ahner stated that in working with the former Fire Chief, the goal had always been to have 7 FTE’s in the Ambulance Fund. This number had come from a private ambulance service that stated for a City of this size and number of calls it would take that many to run a full time ambulance service. Councilperson Partridge agreed with this.

Councilperson Hollowell stated the Finance Committee’s feeling on this was that it is a slow process in congruence with other plans the Fire Department is working on to try and make the Ambulance Fund more efficient. Seven is probably what the work load requires but is unsustainable.

Mayor Grenz stated, looking forward on the budget, that no matter what is put into the General Fund they are going to need to find that money. It might come down to a decision of keeping essential personnel and nonessential personnel. Typically that would be in the Parks Department. Councilperson Andrews asked if the reserves were not sufficient enough to cover this shortfall. Mayor Grenz responded that the Auditors stated there needs to be 25% of the General Fund in reserve. Councilperson Andrews stated it is there for emergencies, and Councilperson Partridge agreed. Mayor Grenz did not.

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****** *On roll call vote, motion passed 6-2, with Councilperson Ahner and Brush opposed. Resolution 3662 was adopted.*

Ordinance No. 1258: (Second Reading) An Ordinance Enacting A New Section 24-96 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Miles City, Montana To Provide For A Process For Site Plan Review

****** *Councilperson Brush moved to approve Ordinance No. 1258: An Ordinance Enacting A New Section 24-96 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Miles City, Montana To Provide For A Process For Site Plan Review, seconded by Councilperson Hollowell. On roll call vote, motion passed unanimously 8-0. Ordinance 1258 was adopted.*

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 3663: A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miles City, Montana, Amending Resolution 3658 And Calling For An Election On The Question Of Conducting A Local Government Review And Establishing A Study Commission To Do So.

****** *Councilperson Galbraith moved to adopt Resolution No. 3663: A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miles City, Montana, Amending Resolution 3658 And Calling For An Election On The Question Of Conducting A Local Government Review And Establishing a Study Commission to Do So, seconded by Councilperson Andrews.*

Councilperson Galbraith stated under Section 3, where it states vote for one, instead of a dollar amount, the Finance Committee wanted it to state "2 Mills" so the public understands this is a mill levy. Mayor Grenz stated it would be helpful to provide how much it will cost per household. Councilperson Andrews questioned if both could be done. City Attorney Rice explained that from guidance from the City Clerk's office, it can only state mill or dollars, but not both.

****** *Councilperson Galbraith moved to amend Resolution No. 3663: under Section 3 to strike the amount of \$14,142 and replace it with 2 Mills, one for each fiscal year, under both for and against, seconded by Councilperson Martin.*

Councilperson Hollowell questioned if they could define what a mill is on the ballot. City Clerk Pearce stated that the County is also doing this, so maybe both entities could put something in the paper. She explained this is exactly what the MCA states. Mayor Grenz stated it is only fair to let the public know what this will cost them.

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****** *On roll call vote, the amended motion passed unanimously, 8-0.*

****** *On the original motion and on roll call vote, motion passed unanimously 8-0. **Resolution 3663 was adopted.***

Approval of January Claims

****** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the January Claims as presented, seconded by Councilperson Gardner.*

Councilperson Ahner questioned if the Kruztfeldt and Jones payment was for the pending grievances. City Clerk Pearce stated it was.

Councilperson Ahner asked what the Montana Department of Transportation payment was for. Director Gray explained that was for the City's portion of the Tatro project.

Councilperson Ahner questioned what the Christina Lucinda Heller website payment was for. City Clerk Pearce stated it was for RSVP.

Councilperson Ahner explained the payment to the Custer County Clerk and Recorder in the amount of \$4382.00 for General Elections. The Council had set aside \$9000, based on the fact that the Elections office had informed them they would have to pay for the primary as well as general election. Instead of the \$9000 it only ended up being \$4382.00.

Councilperson Ahner questioned dog tag payments. City Clerk Pearce responded it was for licensing dogs.

On roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

****** *Councilperson Galbraith moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Brush and passed unanimously, 8-0.*



C.A. Grenz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lorrie Pearce, City Clerk