

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING June 9, 2020
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, June 9, 2020, via Zoom.us, Miles City, Montana. Mayor John Hollowell called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner, Rick Huber, Austin Lott, and Curtis Reese. Kathy Wilcox and Brant Kassner were excused

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Planner In Training Ally Capps, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon and City Clerk/Minute Recorder Lorrie Pearce.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hollowell led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Council Minutes: 5/26/2020

** *Councilperson Reese moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 26, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 5-0.*

Finance Committee Minutes: 5/22/2020

**Finance Committee
Meeting May 22, 2020**

The Finance Committee met Friday, May 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. by remote means (Zoom). Present were Committee Members Austin Lott, Brant Kassner and Curtis Reese.

Also present were: Mayor John Hollowell, Ben Holmen, & Deputy City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe.

Chairperson Lott called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens and Public Comment:
None

2. Discuss and Recommendation regarding the Sale of Leased Land Near Airport to the Lessee

Ben Holmen (Lessee) stated that he has been leasing land from the Airport for three years. It is approximately two acres that border the Airport. There is a straight road in with no public access. A road is currently developed on half of the property; on the other half, one quarter of it is a ravine, and the other quarter of it is adjacent to his property. The Airport had told him to develop the land and construct as needed while leasing the land. Ben added a road to the property, scraped a pad making it useable land, built a culvert, and maintained the sagebrush. He provided the Committee with maps of the property and had gotten a real estate valuation on the land. He said that he is fine with whatever the Committee/Council decides on the value and if it goes to bid, he is also okay with that.

Mayor Hollowell explained that this discussion is to define whether the improvements that Ben Holmen has put into the property are substantial improvements (over fifty percent of the land value). If they are found to be substantial improvements, per the agreement, the land can be sold directly to him instead of going out for bid. This provision is to protect the lessee's improvements from another person coming in and under-cutting the lessee.

Chairperson Lott expressed concern with setting a bad precedent by not putting it up for auction. He inquired as to whether or not it could cause other land sale issues in the future if the land is sold directly to the lessee this time. He also stated that he is in support of a direct sale if that is what is decided.

Committee Member Reese does not want to see Ben Holmen charged for anything he has already put into it. He says that he believes it to be a sizeable improvement to the property. In the future if anyone else does the same with leased property, then he believes the Council will treat them in the same manner.

Committee Member Kassner agrees that it is a substantial improvement, as the improvements cost over fifty percent of the value of the property.

*** Committee Chair Lott moved to recommend to Council to sell the leased land near the Airport to the Lessee, seconded by Committee Member Kassner. The motion **passed** unanimously.*

3. Review and Recommendation on Sending \$28,343.93 from Ambulance fund to Collections

*** Committee Member Kassner moved to recommend to Council sending \$28,343.93 from the Ambulance fund to collections, seconded by Committee Member Lott. The motion **passed** unanimously.*

4. Review and Recommendation Regarding Stipend pay for Part-Time Firefighters for Ambulance Trips

Mayor Hollowell explained that the stipend is only for part-time Firefighters that take out of town ambulance trips. It is an incentive to go. Full-time union Firefighters already get a stipend for the trips. He also said that the ambulance fund is now at \$100,000 in the red compared to \$354,000 in the red a year or two ago, which is extreme.

Chairperson Lott mentioned that every Billings trip makes money for the ambulance fund. Offering this incentive could increase staffing for the trips, which would eliminate missed revenue. He thinks that if we are already paying the full-time employees a stipend then we should also pay the part-time employees. The ultimate goal is to get the ambulance fund healthy and it will take some weight off the general fund.

*** Committee Member Kassner moved to recommend to Council to approve stipend pay for part-time Firefighters for ambulance trips, seconded by Committee Member Reese. The motion **passed** unanimously.*

5. Adjournment

*** Committee Member Kassner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Reese and **passed** unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

*** Councilperson Lott moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of May 22, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 5-0.*

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

The following meetings will be held in the City Hall Conference Room:

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Dennis Hirsch- Presented the awards that he had received at the International Code Council (ICC) meeting. They were as follows:

- State of Montana (ICC) Chapter- He received a belt buckle for leadership in Montana. He served six years as the president in the charter
- Regional (ICC), which includes six states- He received a plaque for his dedication to Region 2 and his work in starting the charter

- International (ICC) presented him with a plaque naming him honoree lifetime member. This honor will allow him to vote on all codes. There were 1100 nominated for the honor and 5 were chosen

Doug Colombik- Reported that the City was awarded the COP grant which will allow the City to have a Special Resource Officer for schools. The award pays for the officer wages at seventy five percent for the first year, fifty percent for the second year and twenty five percent the third year. Starting the fourth year the City would need to pay one hundred percent. This will take the police officers count to seventeen.

Scott Gray- There will be a walk through on Strevell Street next week and hopefully that portion of the project will be completed. Phase III of the Darling project is well ahead of schedule. The twenty-inch pipe should be installed on Pearl Street next week. Phase II of Covid-19 has allowed youth sports to begin and the opening of the Oasis. Things seem to be going good at this time.

Branden Stevens- As of date there are no confirmed Covid-19 cases and the departments personal protection equipment is well stocked. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) inspection was completed this week and the City should receive a report soon. Council will be seeing a request to approve paying part paid employees the same wages as full-time employees for making ambulance trips. It needs to go to Human Resource Committee for approval first. He reported back to Councilperson Reese on insurance companies paying the City for responding to a fire in City limits. He said there was an Ordinance passed in either 2014 or 2015 that states the City will not bill City residents for fire responses on structures.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

MAYOR COMMENTS

Asked Council if there are any objections to post the Council vacancy on dispatches site. There were no objections. He also asked if Council felt it was time to return to Council meetings in the conference room. The consensus was to return to regular meeting in the conference room.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Janitorial Bids for City Hall, Police Department

Councilperson Lott explained the two bids were received for City Hall with the same bid amount. The committee needed to check the references and will present their recommendation at the next Council meeting.

One bid was received for the Police Department.

*** Councilperson Andrews moved to approve Marilyn Foreman bid for \$350 a month, seconded by Councilperson Lott. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent 5-0*

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4326- A Resolution Authorizing the City of Miles City to Enter Into Sales Agreements With Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (America), Inc. For the Sale of City Owned Equipment**

** *Councilperson Lott moved to approve the Resolution, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. On roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. Resolution No. 4326 passed.*

B. Approval of May Claims

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve Mays claims and seconded by Councilperson Lott. On roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0*

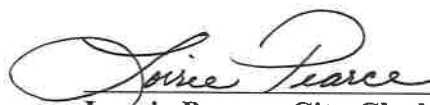
ADJOURNMENT

** *Councilperson Lott moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Gardner and passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.



John Hollowell, Mayor



Lorrie Pearce, City Clerk