

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING September 8, 2020 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, September 8, 2020, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana. Council President Kathy Wilcox called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner, Rick Huber, Austin Lott, and Curtis Reese. Mayor John Hollowell and Councilperson Brant Kassner were excused.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Wilcox led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance Committee Minutes: 08/04/2020

Finance Committee Meeting

August 4, 2020

The Finance Committee met Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by remote means (Zoom). Present were Committee Members Austin Lott, Brant Kassner and Curtis Reese.

Also present were: Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Planner in Training Ally Capps, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson, Floodplain Administrator Samantha Malenovsky, Mayor John Hollowell, Deputy City Clerk Mary Rowe & City Clerk/Recorder Lorrie Pearce.

Chairperson Lott called the meeting to order.

- 1. Request of Citizens and Public Comment:**
None
- 2. Discuss and Recommendation for 2020/2021 Preliminary Budget**

Clerk Pearce said that she was looking at the tax spreadsheet and there was an error. She was not sure what the difference will be. She felt it would be at least \$7,000-\$10,000 to much revenue, she needed to recalculate the spreadsheet because the one she used was not up to date.

Committee Member Reese asked if the County would pitch in more money to support the Special Resource Officer. Chairperson Lott thought that the numbers looked good enough to add it back into the budget.

Councilperson Wilcox asked why the expense went up in the police department object code 220. Chief Colombik and Dispatch Supervisor Anderson confirmed that it is the cost of body cams and the City is receiving revenue to cover the cost. Councilperson Wilcox made a last push to approve a one to two percent wage increase to Department heads that supervise others. Committee Member Reese agreed. Mayor Hollowell thought that the committee should look at giving an increase to just the employees who requested the increase or to all non-union employees. He explained that the City has a process on wage increase request for non-union employees. He felt giving the increase to a certain group was not idealistic. After a short discussion, it was decided to discuss the increase for union and non-union employees at a later date.

Administrator Malenovsky explained her costs that were cut earlier.

- EDA grant would cost \$125,000 and the City would receive \$100,000 for the grant
- KLJ Expenditures would cost \$7,500 and the City would receive \$2,250 back from the County
- Murdo's expenditures would cost \$5,000 and the City would receive \$1,500 back from the County
- City will get reimbursed \$24,000 for the slough grant
- A net change of increase would be \$9,750

Chairperson Lott asked if it was possible to use the capital improvement fund to repair some items at the fire department. Chief Steven said it would take about \$10,000 for the repairs, which would include \$6,000 to repair the sewer line, with additions cost to replace rain gutters and roof repair on the cabins. Clerk Pearce said there was \$38,995 in the CIP fund.

There was a long discussion on the percentage that the City wants to move from Fire to Ambulance. It was decided to talk about it at a later date.

Chief Colombik said that he had extended the acceptance date for the Special Resource Officer (SRO) and a decision needs to be made by August 31st. The cost to the City in the first year would be \$14,800, the second year would be just under \$17,000 and the third year, would be a little higher than the \$17,000. Starting the fourth year, the City would pay 100% of the wage cost. He has contacted the school district to see if they are interested in a match for the position, but had not contacted the county. If the school district and county agree, a Memorandum of Understanding would need to be signed.

** *Committee Member Lott moved to add the SRO and flood changes that were presented by the Flood Administrator and Police Chief, seconded by Committee Member Reese. The motion passed unanimously*

3. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

** *Councilperson Lott moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of August 4, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Huber. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 6-0*

City Council Minutes: 8/11/2020

** *Councilperson Gardner moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 11, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Reese. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 6-0*

City Council Minutes: 8/25/2020

** *Councilperson Lott moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 25, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Huber. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 6-0*

Public Service Committee Minutes: 9/2/2020

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 02, 2020**

The Public Service Committee met Wednesday, September 02, 2020 at 5:00pm in the City Hall Conference Room. 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana. Present were Committee Members, Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner, Kathy Wilcox, and Rick Huber.

Also present: Deputy City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe.

Committee Chairperson Andrews opened the meeting

1. Request of Citizens/Public Comment:
-None-

2. Committee Member Comments:

Committee Member Wilcox said that there is a grass fire just outside of Jordan and they are evacuating the town. The fire is expected to spread east/southeast and wanted to get the word out to help keep everyone safe.

3. New Business:

A. License request for a revocable license at 21 South 9th Street, Miles City, MT

- The project is in its early stage and nothing has been discussed or decided on the dike concerning closure of the trails or a different access for the residents living on or by the dike

APPOINTMENTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Lorrie Pearce- Approval for letter of support on the food bank moving to different location

Lorrie Pearce explained that Representative Bob Parker from the Food bank had requested her to ask Council to sign a letter of support. The approval is to support the Food bank in receiving a grant for their move to a different location.

The approval was unanimously approved 6-0

Doug Colombik- Announced he was notified by a Veterans Administration representative and was told that the VA will be leaving during the second quarter of 2021. He felt that it would be at least a couple more months before anything is decided between the County and VA. Since the Food Bank is leasing a building that the City was interested in, he felt the City needed to keep moving forward with options of buildings.

Ally Capps- The City has received approximately \$4,800 from a grant that will be split with the county. The grant was from May to December for purchasing personal protection equipment on Covid-19.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kathy Wilcox- Asked for an update on buildings that the City is looking into purchasing for the Police department. She said she did not feel safe waiting on the decision from the VA and would like to see a contract from the VA stating that they would not kick the department out of the building. Attorney Rice said that the Mayor had sent him an agreement with Branden Janshen to inspect the buildings that the City is looking at. Councilperson Andrews thought it would be the Police's decision as to what will work for them.

Rick Huber- Asked Chief Colombik where he is at on the license plates issue. Chief Colombik stated that it is on his to do list, but not on his priority list. Councilperson Huber was wondering if the "Gainful Employment" Ordinance could be posted in the Star, Facebook and other social media. Chief Colombik thought that when the School Officer was at the schools, he could make note of out of State licenses and the department would take it from there.

Dwayne Andrews- Gave kudos to the Police, Fire and Dispatch departments for all they do.

MAYOR COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Councilperson Wilcox invited the Finance Committee and Directors to the Human Resource meeting scheduled September 17th. She said they will be discussing a new wage matrix and would like feedback on the issue.

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION NO. 4367- A Resolution Granting a Revocable License to Otium Brewing LLC for an Encroachment Upon City of Miles City Right of way for Bridge Street and South 9th Street, for the Benefit of the South 42' of Lots 8-10 in Block 61 of the Original Townsite to the City of Miles City

** Councilperson Lott moved to approve the Resolution, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Gardner.

Councilperson Huber asked if Montana Department of Transportation needed to approve the encroachment since it is on a truck route. Attorney Rice tried to call Director Gray and Administrator Malenovsky with no success.

** Councilperson Lott amended his motion to add "subject to approval from MDT as verified by the Engineering Department", seconded by Councilperson Andrews. The amended motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0 Resolution No. 4367 passed.

B. Approval of August Claims

** Councilperson Lott moved to approve the August claims, seconded by Councilperson Huber. The motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Kathy Wilcox, Council President


Lorrie Pearce, City Clerk