

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING November 10, 2020
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, November 10, 2020, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana and via Zoom. Mayor John Hollowell called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner, Elizabeth Patten, Rick Huber, Austin Lott, Kathy Wilcox and Stacy Broell. Councilperson Brant Kassner was excused.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Works Director Scott Gray, 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

Mayor Hollowell led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Council Minutes: 10/27/2020

** Councilperson Patten moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 27, 2020, and seconded by Councilperson Wilcox

** Councilperson Broell moved to amend the motion by changing the description in her interview to say 11 years' experience in accounting, auditing and finance, with her most recent experience at Stockman Bank, seconded by Councilperson Wilcox.

** The amended motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 7-0.

** The amended main motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 7-0

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

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

- Flood Control
- Human Resource
- Finance Committee

- Thursday 11-19@ 6pm
- Thursday 11-19 @ 4:15pm
- Tuesday 11-17 @ 6pm

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Business Owner, Bruce Ingraham, 1102 N. Montana, explained that he was asked to perform an asbestos inspection on a house at 1501 North Merriam. He found the house was condemned under City's order, which meant, by State regulated asbestos laws, that he could not go into the building to inspect it. Without the inspection it could cost the property owner anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for demolition. With the inspection the cost would be around \$4,000. He wondered why the building was condemned so quickly and would like to get some directive from the City as to how the City is going to handle problems like this now and in the future. He felt that if the issue was not corrected it was going to cost the citizens of Miles City a lot of money to tear down condemned buildings. He thought the City should form a Committee to write a process to recognize how condemned buildings should be treated.

There was a discussion between Council, Mayor and City Attorney on the issue. There was a consensus that the City would look more into the issue and

PROCEEDING OF CITY COUNCIL
MILES CITY, MONTANA

thought the present Building Inspector could grant an exception to allow entry for inspection.

APPOINTMENTS

Donald Neese for Police Commissioner

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to appoint Donald Neese as Police Commissioner, seconded by Councilperson Lott. The motion passed 7-0*

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Dan Baker- Regarding Police relocation, he explained that the building on the North side of the Veterans Administration property is in limbo. There would not be a decision as to what happens to the building until the County makes their decision on either accepting the building, or not accepting the building. He said that decision had been extended again, he had no idea when that decision would be made. He added that the Police Department is running out of time to find a home. He would like the Architect to look at the Boutelle building also. He said the cost of the building is higher and the renovation would be higher, but he did not want to short cut the City and Police Department by just accepting to buy the TLC building, because the location of the TLC building is not ideal.

Doug Colombik- Added that the Police Department could find a temporary home, but it could take five years for a decision to be made. The department has four months to be completely moved out. Architect Brandon Janshen said that he had met with Chief Colombik and Captain Baker to determine the space needed to operate. The cost was approximately \$600,000, which includes purchasing the building.

Lyne Anderson- Reported that there was a power outage at Dispatch and it took out all the computers in Dispatch. Also, the UPC backup at the jail is failing. She warned Council that if there is another power outage before the backup is installed it could shut down Dispatch. If that would happen, Rosebud County would have to receive all Garfield and Custer County 9-1-1 calls. They are understaffed, which means that our dispatcher would have to travel to Rosebud County to help out. She received an estimate of \$15,000 to replace the backup, which County and 9-1-1 would split the cost.

Ally Capps- The City has been approved for a CARES Act reimbursement of \$641,933. The next cycle will be due on November 20th.

Branden Stevens- He said he is down six staff members, so the overtime will be very high. The department recorded 75 hours of overtime in a 24-hour shift. The three FEMA grants that his department had applied for were unsuccessful. There was an AFG grant that opened this week and closed this week, and said he will do his best to get the grant request in. Out of town transfers were down last month and this month. The department is doing minor repairs to their building to get them through the winter. The new website is up and running and he is very pleased with it.

Scott Gray- Reported that a walk through was completed for Phase III on the Darling Addition project. A few items needed to be addressed, but it all looked good.

Russell Murphy- Thought that forming a committee to write a policy on condemned property was a good idea.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ken Gardner- Thought the City should move on purchasing the TLC building. Time is running out and if the City waits much longer, he was afraid that the City would lose it, like the Stark building.

Kathy Wilcox- Felt that the revenue received from the CARES Act should be put in a capital expenditure fund so it is not picked away on other projects. She thought the majority of the money should be spent on the Police Department building and a new roof for the fire station.

Austin Lott- Explained that the Finance Committee had started a list of recommendations as to where the money could go.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Read a thank you card from Raggedy Ann Antique thanking the City and Council Members on getting a two-hour parking sign in front of her business.

He received a letter from Mid Rivers stating that cable will be increasing \$5.00 on January 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION NO. 4375- A Resolution Authorizing the City of Miles City to Enter into an Agreement With the County of Custer County, Montana, and the Miles City Unified School District, for the Funding of a School Resource Officer for Fiscal Years 20-21, 21-22, and 22-23

** *Councilperson Lott moved to approve the Resolution, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Andrews. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0. Resolution No. 4375 passed.*

A. Approval of October Claims

** *Councilperson Lott moved to approve the October claims, seconded by Councilperson Wilcox and passed unanimously.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.


John Hollowell, Mayor


Lorrie Pearce, City Clerk