

PROCEEDING OF CITY COUNCIL

MILES CITY, MONTANA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING September 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana and online at zoom.us. Mayor John Hollowell called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Stacy Broell, Ken Gardner, Rick Huber, Elizabeth Patten, Brant Kassner, Kathy Wilcox, and Dwayne Andrews.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon and City Clerk/Minute Recorder Mary Rowe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hollowell led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Council Minutes: 6/8/2021

** *Councilperson Patten moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 8, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0.*

City Council Minutes: 8/24/2021

** *Councilperson Kassner moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 24, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Wilcox. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0.*

Public Service Committee Minutes: 6/17/2021

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 17, 2021

The Public Service Committee met June 17th in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana. Present were Committee Members, Dwayne Andrews, Kathy Wilcox, Ken Gardner, and Rick Huber.

Also present were Public Works Director Scott Gray, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, and City Clerk/ Recorder Mary Rowe
Chairperson Andrews opened the meeting

1. **Request of Citizens**
-None-

2. **Committee Member Comments**
-None-

3. Discussion on Establishing a County/City Park District

Chairperson Andrews stated that a City/County Park District should be established. He had met with the County Commissioners and they are willing to work with the City on this district. It was brought up that the property value for ranchers is considerably higher than the property value of a City resident and inquired about a set rate for the park district as opposed to property value based. He requested that Attorney Rice look into setting a flat fee.

Director Gray explained that in the past, Commissioner Strouf expressed that if the County were to get involved they would not want to follow our procedure, rather they would want to go straight to the community. He supplied the Committee with ten to fifteen years worth of proposals that have continuously changed over the years. The City procedure is to establish the district boundary, get input from citizens, create a Resolution of intent, hold three separate public hearings, mail out notices of protest to every citizen, if there is less than ten percent protest, then implement the Park District. The whole process takes about 8 months from start to finish. The levee could be added to the district as it would also be a recreational area that needs regular maintenance.

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Committee Member Wilcox stated that the City provides several services and County residents are getting these services free. Establishing a City/County Park District would finally divide the costs amongst those that use it.

Committee Member Huber said that the County to its borders should be included in the district. There are large ranch corporations that have several employees that are utilizing our City services too.

4. Adjournment

** Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Andrews. Motion **passed, 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm

** Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of the Public Service Committee Meeting of June 17, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 7-0.

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

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

Human Resources Committee	09/21/2021	@4:15pm
Finance Committee	09/20/2021	@6:00pm
Public Safety Committee	09/22/2021	@6:00pm

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Stevens explained that Chief Lewin had applied for and was awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) training and equipment grant in the amount of \$192,199.

Director Speelmon said they have an application to be submitted next week for an EDA grant for the North 7th Street project. The Governor was recommended a two-million-dollar cap on the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) projects. He also spoke on behalf of Director Gray in his absence that the Montana Department of Transportation grant was not awarded and that North 7th Street was scheduled to be shut down tomorrow.

Chief Colombik stated that of the last seven felony cases they have had are all sex cases.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Patten gave highlights of the Public Health Board Meeting:

- This community received ARPA funds for a public Health Nurse, so they are currently accepting applicants.
- All five ICU beds at Holy Rosary Hospital are all full with Covid-19 patients.
- Yesterday morning Custer County was at 41 Covid-19 positive cases and 66 new positive active cases today. Total of 104 active positive cases as of this moment.

She inquired about the RV park on 7th and Marion with Council and whether they were prepped with sewer and water, to which Mayor Hollowell and Attorney Rice replied that a subdivision is being looked into and it would have to be approved by DEQ before it could actually happen. There is an advisory letter going out addressing this.

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She announced that Baker's Cupboard is being purchased and is on the way to becoming a Bagel Shop. It was exciting news that there will be one less empty building in the community. Councilperson Broell stated that she is the person opening the bagel shop.

Patten had said that she was out a spotted Eagle the other day and the weeds were overgrown and she asked that it be looked into.

Lastly, she gave an update on the Police Department building. The drywall is done, painting is done, and the concrete ramp will be poured on Thursday. They are two weeks ahead of schedule. She asked about auctioning the contents in the outbuildings like washer/dry, two standing freezers, overhead garage door with opener, stove, and other miscellaneous items. She also stated that the taco business across the street would like to take the big sign in the front of the building. Councilperson Broell thought that all businesses should have the opportunity to obtain these items, so nothing should be given away.

Mayor Hollowell stated that City policy had to be followed regardless because the value of the items exceeds the cost of an auction. He said he would get ahold of Matt Smith to find out the next available auction times.

MAYOR COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. RESOLUTION NO. 4427 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 165 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

B. RESOLUTION NO. 4428 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 167 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

C. RESOLUTION NO. 4429 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 171 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

D. RESOLUTION NO. 4430 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 172 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

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- E. RESOLUTION NO. 4431 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 195 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
- F. RESOLUTION NO. 4432 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 202 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
- G. RESOLUTION NO. 4433 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 173 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
- H. RESOLUTION NO. 4434 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 204 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SAID MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 204 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
- I. RESOLUTION NO. 4435 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 205 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SAID MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 205 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
- J. RESOLUTION NO. 4436 - A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 207 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SAID MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 207 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Mayor Hollowell asked the public if any items A-J should be removed to talk about individually prior to doing a consent agenda. There were none.

He called for comments from proponents three times, then opponents three times and, hearing none, the hearing was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4427 – *(Second Reading)* A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY IN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 165 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF LEASING, MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL CURRENT IN SAID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIGHTING DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING

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PAYMENT THEREFORE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

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J. RESOLUTION NO. 4436 - (Second Reading) A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING A TAX UPON ALL OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 207 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SAID MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 207 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Mayor Hollowell asked Council if there were any items A-J they would like removed from the consent agenda to speak about individually. There were none.

** *Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve items A-J on the Consent agenda, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0. Resolution Numbers 4427, 4428, 4429, 4430, 4431, 4432, 4433, 4434, 4435, and 4436 passed.*

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FEDERAL GRANT AWARD H79TI083837

Battalion Chief Lewin explained that the \$192,199 includes SAMHSA EMS Providers more access to paramedic classes, EMT trainings, ALS skills training, six additional trainings for staff to do their continuing education, some major equipment like a simulator (training mannequin), IV arms, and other items like that. This application was submitted in March. She noted that the Montana Healthcare Foundation provided a grant writer at no cost.

** *Councilperson Broell moved to approve accepting the grant and seconded by Councilperson Patten. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0.*

B. APPROVAL OF AUGUST CLAIMS

** *Councilperson Broell moved to approve August claims, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 7-0.*

ADJOURNMENT

** *Councilperson Patten moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Gardner and passed unanimously, 7-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38p.m.


John Hollowell, Mayor


Mary Rowe, City Clerk