

PROCEEDING OF CITY COUNCIL  
MILES CITY, MONTANA

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING October 26, 2021**

**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miles City, Montana. Mayor John Hollowell called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Brant Kassner, Ken Gardner, Elizabeth Patten, Rick Huber, Kathy Wilcox and Stacey Broell. Absent were Roxanna Brush and Dwayne Andrews.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon and Deputy City Clerk/Minute Recorder Jody Kinsey.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hollowell led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**City Council Minutes: 10/12/2021**

\*\* *Councilperson Kassner moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 12th, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Patten. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*

**Human Resources Committee Minutes: 09/21/2021**

**Human Resources Committee  
September 21, 2021**

The **Human Resources Committee** met Thursday, September 21, 2021 at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Members Kathy Wilcox, Stacy Broell, Rick Huber and Dwayne Andrews. Also present was: Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Wilcox called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens  
None
2. Committee Member Comments  
None
3. Review, Recommend Building Inspector Wage Scale for FY 2022

After a discussion of the qualification requirements of the position description and the state of Montana and considering wage information from O\*Net along with 20/21 financial information for fund 2394 Building Code enforcement it was determined that \$24.58/hour would be an appropriate probationary wage.

*\*\*Committee Member Broell moved to recommend a probationary wage of \$24.58/hour for the Building Inspector Position, seconded by Committee Member Andrews. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

4. Next Meeting – to be determined
5. Adjournment

*\*\*Committee Member Broell moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Huber. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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\*\* *Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of September 21st, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Broell. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*

**Public Safety Minutes: 09/22/2021**

**Public Safety Committee Meeting  
September 22, 2021**

The Public Safety Committee met Thursday, September 22, 2021, at 6:00 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Elizabeth Patten, Kathy Wilcox, and Ken Gardner. Also present were: Councilperson Rick Huber, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson, Animal / Code Enforcement Officer Mark Winkley, Police Patrol Officer Michael Morris, Fire Captain Jake Richards and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Patten called the meeting to order.

**1. Request of Citizens for Public Comment**

Cindy Conley, 1501 Palmer St is concerned about the trapping and dumping of animals, and would like to have this addressed by the City, and would also like to see training done for people to prevent missing cats, there have been 75 reported missing. Chairperson Patten commented the City is currently working on this and thanked Ms. Conley for the reminder.

**2. Staff Comments**

Fire Chief Stevens reported that the department is currently down one officer and will be interviewing in the future for this position. He stated it's more difficult to keep part-time EMT employees, much of this is due to higher EMT standards.

**3. Committee Member Comments**

Chairperson Patten made to the following revisions to the agenda order: Item 9 of the agenda was moved to Item 5. Item 8 was moved to Item 6. Item 6 was moved to item 8. Item 6 was moved to item 9.

**4. Discuss and Recommend Police Department Building progress - furniture**

Chairperson Patten stated the construction company is currently working on concrete work on the front and side entrance; mudding, taping and painting will be occurring soon. When the shrubs were pulled away water damage to the bricks was discovered and the contractor gave a contingent price of \$70,000 to repair. Gutters were recommended to prolong the life of the brickwork. Furniture is being looked at there will most likely a few pieces that will require purchase. Police Chief Colombik has meet with Morrison-Maierle and straighten out some IT issues.

**5. Discuss and Recommend Animal Control how to work with vet on stray animals.**

There was discussion on the transporting cats to a Billings shelter, at one point in time this shelter became overwhelmed and cats were being transported to a shelter in Livingston until there was an outbreak of distemper. It was agreed that information should be put together for the public regarding found cats. Chairperson Patten and Officer Winkley on plans for taking care of stray animals. Committee Member Wilcox recommended reviewing the current City Ordinance regarding animals. Ms. Conley will be dropping off information to Human Resources Officer of guidelines for the public when a cat is found.

**6. Discuss and Recommend Dispatch staffing update – extra duties – service to Powder River County**

Supervisor Anderson reported the 911 Committee and approved Dispatch adding an additional employee and she is currently recruiting for this position due to increase call volume. Powder River County Dispatch transferred all calls to South Eastern Montana Dispatch from September 8 – 11, 2021 due to a COVID outbreak. This transfer was handled seamlessly and without incident.

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**7. Discuss and Recommend using/informing BLM dispatch for wildland incidents as well as South Eastern Montana Dispatch – how to facilitate communication between agencies.**

Chairperson Patten had worked dispatching during the wildland fire season and wanted to get the ball rolling to help improve facilitation of communication between all agencies prior to next year's fire season. Fire Chief Stevens and Supervisor Anderson will meet with all parties involved and report back to the committee to help this facilitation.

**8. Discuss and Recommend Fire Department Ladder Truck options.**

Fire Chief Stevens provided the committee with estimates for the following ladder truck options: repairing, purchasing used, or purchasing new. He also stated that Engine 8 will need to be replaced. The ladder truck is necessary to keep the current ISO rating for the City. Other equipment needs for the fire department are a water tender truck and the replacing ambulances. Options for financing this equipment discussed were either through and Inter-cap Loan or mil levy

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to send discussion regarding apparatus truck and equipment to the Finance Committee, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

**9. Discuss and Recommend Fire Department Building – Start process moving forward – preliminary conversation about funding**

A PAR (Preliminary Architectural Report) has previously been drafted. At this point, a decision needs to be made as to whether to remodel or build should be made. Chairperson Patten suggested taking a look at the fire station the SDI had designed for Fairview. Committee Member Wilcox suggested that since winter is coming it was important to identify three immediate needs to get through the winter. Chief Stevens will bring back to the committee prices and priorities for the fire station

### **10. Adjournment**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**\*\* Councilperson Gardner moved to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Patten. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.**

## SCHEDULE MEETINGS

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

Human Resources Committee	11/2/2021	@4:15pm
Finance Committee	11/2/2021	@6:00pm
Public Safety Committee	11/4/2021	@6:00pm

## REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Marc Ingraham of 602 Orr and Kyle Pryor of 311 South Custer came to present plans for a new nine inning scoreboard to be placed at Conner's Stadium. The new scoreboard will be just to the right of the existing scoreboard. They also brought plans for infield turf to be done at Conner's Stadium. The turf would last for fifteen years and they plan to raise enough funding that it can be replaced at that time. They explained that turf would help with drainage issues and game delays due to standing water on the field. Repairs can be done if the turf needs patched or sections need replaced. There will be a full drain system in place that drains into the storm sewer. Miles Community College will be helping with funding on this project.

**\*\* Councilperson Huber moved to approve the scoreboard, seconded by Councilperson Wilcox. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.**

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\*\* *Councilperson Gardner moved to approve the concept of the turf, seconded by Councilperson Patton. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*

## APPOINTMENTS

None

## PROCLAMATIONS

None

## STAFF REPORTS

Chief Colombik gave updated statistics on felonies. He stated we have had twenty-one sexual assaults. There have been eighty-eight domestic disputes, and fifty-nine felonies. He said felonies are down from this time last year. They have had twenty-nine sex crimes reported, which is slightly up from last year. A growing problem in the area is fentanyl. It is being mixed with methamphetamines and marijuana. Councilperson Huber asked what citizens should do if they know of a drug house. Chief Colombik stated there is a really good chance they already know about it. Felony Drug cases can take two to three years before a search warrant can be issued. They need a lot of evidence and need to make sure the people don't move their evidence before the search warrant is served.

Director Gray announced that the splashpad is finished at Wibaux Park. They did a walk-through with Corland Construction and the splashpad is expected to open in the late spring to early summer of 2022. They still have a few bugs that they need to work out. It will be dedicated to the city sometime in the spring.

## CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Patten said she completed a walk-through of the police building. Windows are currently going in. Painting is around seventy-five percent done. Gutters are on the building. They will see a cost savings on the IT wires. It was in the budget twice. Montana Dakota Utilities is going to be updating their meters. Final inspection is set for November 17<sup>th</sup> with owner acceptance set for November 30<sup>th</sup>. There is still \$57,000 in contingency and they are discussing using some of that for improvements to the front of the building. Some dirt work and small tree removal is needed on the North side of the building. Councilperson Patten asked if that was something that the city could do sometime this winter. Director Gray said that it is hard to say what will come this winter and he felt if they want to make sure it gets done they should just contract it out.

## MAYOR COMMENTS

None

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

## BID OPENINGS

None

## BID AWARDS

None

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. RESOLUTION NO.: 4441

\*\* *Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve the Resolution, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. There was discussion on the resolution, and Councilperson Huber moved to call for question. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0. Resolution No. 4441 passed.*


## ADJOURNMENT

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\*\* Councilperson Kassner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Patten and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08p.m.

  
John Hollowell, Mayor

  
Jody Kinsey, Deputy Clerk