

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING February 22, 2022
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 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 Ken Gardner, Rick Huber, Kathy Wilcox, Chris Grenz, Roxanna Brush, Brant Kassner, Duane Andrews, and Stacy Broell.

Also present were Public Works Director Scott Gray, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Captain Daniel Baker, Supervisor Lynn Anderson, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, 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: 02/08/2022

** *Councilperson Grenz moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 8th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Public Safety Committee Minutes: 02/01/2022

**Public Safety Committee Meeting
February 1, 2022**

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 6:00 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Roxanna Brush, Chris Grenz, Kathy Wilcox, and Ken Gardner. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Mayor John Hollowell, Police Captain Dan Baker, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Council Member Rick Huber and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Recorder Wilkins called the meeting to order.

1. Elect Chairperson

Recorder Wilkins called for nominations:

***Committee Member Wilcox nominated Roxanna Brush, seconded by Committee Member Grenz.*

Nominations were closed.

Nomination passed, 3-0. Committee member Brush abstained from voting.

2. Request of Citizens

None

3. Staff Comments

Mayor Hollowell made the following comments:

- The senior citizens are interested in utilizing the back space of the Woolhouse for a Senior Citizen Center.
- Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson has been doing a tremendous job. Dawson, Rosebud and Powder River Counties have approached her regarding coming on with Southeastern Montana Dispatch. Dispatch is wanting to use space at the police department to allow for expansion.

- Matt Webb of BNSF contacted him regarding the Rail Authority stepping in if the City is not wanting to take over the depot.

Chief Stevens had the following comments:

- Call volume is down a little from last January.
- One member is on extended leave.
- The department has applied for a FEMA SAFR grant.
- The hospital would like to meet with the City regarding ambulance transfers and come to an agreement. There have been a lot of cancellations.
- There will be a house burn on the 12th as joint training for Custer County Rural Fire Department and the City fire department.
- Looking at a FEMA AFG grant.
- An industrial hygienist will be visiting the department regard carbon monoxide (CO) exposure.
- Reviewing a rural development loan for the building. There needs to be an environmental assessment of the building.

4. Committee Member Comments

Committee Member Wilcox would like the committee to be kept up-to-date on what is going on at the fire station.
Committee Member Grenz commented it would be good to enter into a contract with the hospital. He asked Chief Stevens, why the need for a water tender. Chief Stevens explained that there are areas in the City where water pressure is inadequate for fighting fires and the need for a tender in fighting wildland fires when the County water tender is not available.

5. Discuss and recommend maintenance plan for police department building

Committee Member Gardner noted the necessity of creating a plan of what needs to be fixed and completed. A priority list for something the committee could work from and stay on top of and keep focus. Chairperson Brush commented there was a list from Captain Baker with the following items: 1) masonry issues, 2) parking lot, 3) landscaping and maintenance. Chief Colombik commented that there was a grant available from the Montana Historic Preservation that could possibly provide funding for the masonry issues. Captain Baker said the first phase of the building still has punch list items that require addressing. The building inspector will do a walk-through of the building so the committee can begin planning for the completion of the rest of the building and address existing issues.

6. Adjournment

***Committee Member Grenz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

- ** *Councilperson Grenz moved to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 01, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

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

Finance Committee	03/01/2022	@6:00pm
Public Safety Committee	03/02/2021	@6:00pm
Human Resources Committee	03/04/2021	@4:15pm

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

John Sulkosky, 2307 Leighton, came to discuss speeding, lack of stop signs, and police presence on Leighton. Three vehicles have been totaled and mailboxes have been hit. He has seen children almost get hit because there is nowhere for them to safely cross. He suggested a stop sign at Sewell or at the very least a yield sign and

painted crosswalks. Councilperson Grenz suggested speedbumps. Councilperson Brush said that she drove the street and saw that the crosswalks exist but they are just faded. Edward McBride, 2207 Leighton, has the same concerns. He has had three vehicles hit in front of his house. One vehicle was hit twice in a four-day period. Brad Davis, 103 S Strevell, is the Husband of Adrian Davis, owner of the Ruby which is located on Leighton. He read a letter that Adrian wrote about what she has seen in the past two years since having her coffee shop located on Leighton. She has seen two crashes into light poles. She has seen children almost get hit, and she sees speeding every day. Councilperson Huber commended the gentlemen for their presentation. He suggested looking at the fines for the past year. Chief Columbik said that he will make time to get people there. Kids and school zones are a priority. Director Gray suggested illuminated signs that display the speed. He stated that Leighton is an Urban Route and so the Department of Transportation will need to assess a transportation survey and a study will have to be done. The Department of Transportation will have a say in anything that is done. All crosswalks in town are painted once a year in August before school starts.

APPOINTMENTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Supervisor Anderson informed the Council that the \$370,000 grant from 2019 has been removed by the state. Because of the cost to make needed upgrades many dispatch centers will be dissolved. Our dispatch is looking at taking on an additional four counties. They are running out of space at their current location and if they become a regional dispatch center they will not have room for additional employees or work stations. The loss of the grant should not affect the budget. The counties that join would pay for additional dispatchers. Councilperson Gardner thinks dispatch should move to the new police department as soon as possible before something else comes up. 911 Dispatchers have been reclassified as First Responders. Their retirement will change from a thirty-year retirement to a twenty year. The 911 Board would have to approve any move.

Chief Stevens explained a claim that was questioned at the last council meeting. It was training that was budgeted for and they also received a grant that paid for it. The fire departments training burn went really well. There were no complaints from the neighboring homeowners. There is a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant in the works. It is a thirty-five percent match grant. Councilperson Grenz asked for clarification on the need for a tender truck. Chief Stevens explained that many county residents purchase structure protection from the city. We currently rely of the rural fire department to show up with a tender. The rural fire department is trained in wildland firefighting. We have been on a waiting list with the Department of Natural Recourses and Conservation surplus program since 2016 with no luck. Councilperson Huber suggested having the mechanics build a tender. Chief Stevens said that is way too much liability on the City because they are not specialists in building tender trucks. He is hopeful that they get the grant.

Director Gray shared his appreciation for his crew for the job they did removing snow on a holiday. Councilperson Andrews asked if there had been any discussion on the Stacy Fountain. Director Gray stated it will cost between \$130,000 to \$150,000 to do it correctly. There is an organization in town that wants to help and be involved in the project. Councilperson Gardner received a call from a citizen in his ward asking if he could pile his snow on the piles of snow in the street, to be removed by the city crews. Director Gray stated that snow should not be piled on the street piles. He said a good place to pile your snow is on your lawn for moisture.

Deputy City Clerk Kinsey asked for \$1140.00 additional funding for meals, travel, and registration for training at the Clerks Institute.

** Councilperson Brush moved to approve denying funds for the clerk's institute training, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Brandon Janshen with SDI Architects and Design gave a report to the council. Councilperson Huber mentioned that the rain gutters were blown onto the roof. Captain Baker let him know that is something that is addressed in the punch list of things that still need completed. Councilperson Huber also stated that the handrails were not secure in front of the building. Architect Janshen explained that the temperature has to rise before that can be done or it will just chip away and not set. Substantial Completion was signed in December which gives a one-year warranty on the project from that date.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Julie Emmons sent a letter asking for support from the council, for a Historic Grant for the Milligan Building for the new One Health location.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL TO WRITE OFF WATER ACCOUNTS OF DECEASED CUSTOMERS WITH NO ESTATE TOTALING \$506.15

** Councilperson Broell moved to approve, and seconded by Councilperson Huber. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.

B. APPROVAL TO SEND NINE PAST DUE WATER ACCOUNTS TOTALING \$1,912.50 TO COLLECTIONS

** Councilperson Andrews moved to approve, and seconded by Councilperson Broell. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.


John Hollowell, Mayor


Jody Kinsey, Deputy City Clerk