

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING April 26, 2022 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, April 26th, 2022, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana and online at zoom.us. Mayor Hollowell called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Kathy Wilcox, Brant Kassner, Dwayne Andrews, Ken Gardner, Rick Huber, Chris Grenz, Roxanna Brush, and Stacy Broell.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, 911 Director Lynn Anderson, Flood Plain Administrator Samantha Malenovsky, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, and Deputy City Clerk/Minute Recorder Jody Kinsey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor John Hollowell led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES City Council Minutes: 3/22/2022

** *Councilperson Kassner moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 22, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes: 03/17/2022

The Finance Committee met Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the conference room. Present were Committee Chair Stacy Broell and Committee Members Roxanna Brush, Brant Kassner and Rick Huber.

Also present were Public Works Director Scott Gray, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, and City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe.

Chairperson Broell called the meeting to order.

1. **Requests of Citizens and Public Comment**
None
2. **Review and Recommendation on Ladder Truck Bid**

** *Committee Member Brush moved to recommend accepting the bid, seconded by Committee Member Huber.*

A brief discussion commenced about the bid process and specifics of the used ladder truck versus current truck and expected lifespan of the new truck.

** *The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

3. **Review and Recommend Reduced Patient Payments on Ambulance Bills**

** *Committee Member Kassner moved to recommend reducing payments to \$10 per month, seconded by Committee Member Brush.*

Clerk Rowe explained that the minimum payments currently accepted are \$25 per month and if a person is unable to pay that amount then they need to address Council to have a lowered monthly payment.

** *The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

4. **Review and Recommend Write-off \$325.78 for Deceased Ambulance Account**

** *Committee Member Huber moved to recommend writing off \$325.78, seconded by Committee Member Brush and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

5. **Review and Recommend Rate Increase at Swimming Pool (Oasis)**

** *Committee Member Brush moved to recommend increasing rates for children aged 7-12 and seniors to \$2 and for children and adults over age 13 to \$3, but leaving the family rates as is-, seconded by Committee Member Brush and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

PROCEEDING OF CITY COUNCIL
MILES CITY, MONTANA

6. Adjournment

Committee Member Kassner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Huber and passed unanimously, 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of March 17th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Brush. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.

Human Resources Committee Minutes: 03/15/2022

The Human Resources Committee met Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at City Hall in the Human Resources Office. Present were Committee Members Kathy Wilcox, Rick Huber and Dwayne Andrews. Excused was Committee Member Stacy Broell. Also present were: Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, Council Member Chris Grenz, Fire Captain Jake Richards, Flood Plain Administrator Samantha Malenovsky, Police Chief Doug Colombik, 911 Supervisor Lyne Anderson, and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Wilcox called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens
None
2. Committee Member Comments
None
3. Position Descriptions: Review, revise, approve
 - a. Utility Billing Clerk
Director Speelmon explained to the committee by adding the duty of directing this would create less miscommunication, removing the director as to the go between in day to day activities.
****Committee Member Andrews moved to approve the Utility Billing Clerk positions description as revised, seconded by Committee Member Huber. On roll call, the motion passed, 3-0.**
 - b. Grant Writer Position;
The committee discussed removing the grant administration language from the Planner-in-Training/Grant Administrator position description. The position will be a full-time position reporting to the Mayor.
****Committee Member Huber moved to approve the Grant Writer position description, seconded by Committee Member Andrews.**
4. Officer Wilkins stated the grant administration language needed to be removed from the Planner-in-Training / Grant Administrator
****Committee Member Andrews moved amend the motion to remove the grant administrator language from the Planner-in-Training / Grant Administrator position description and create a stand-alone position description for a Grant Writer and the Planner-in-Training, seconded by Committee Member Wilcox**
The amended motion passed, unanimously 3-0.
5. Review MT State COLA recommendation; recommend and transmit City COLA for FY 22-23 to Finance Committee. (reference; Non-Union Staff Cost of Living Increase policy; resolutions # 4387 and tracking form).
Officer Wilkins presented the average of the United States Department of Labors matrix for the average 2021 Consumer Price Index Matrix to the committee of 4.7% COLA
****Committee Member Hubel moved to recommend the 4.7% COLA for Non-Union Staff to the Finance Committee, seconded by Committee Member Andrews. On roll call vote, the motion passed, 3-0.**
6. Next Meeting: Tues, April 12, 2022; 4:15 p.m.
The next committee meeting was scheduled for April 5, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room
6. Adjournment
****Committee Member Andrews moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Huber. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**

Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the minutes of the Human Resources Meeting of March 15th, 2022, subject to any changes, and

seconded by Councilperson Broell. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.

Human Resources Committee Minutes: 04/05/2022

The Human Resources Committee met Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at City Hall in the Human Resources Office. Present were Committee Members Kathy Wilcox, Stacy Broell, Rick Huber and Dwayne Andrews. Also present were: Fire Captain Jake Richards, Flood Plain Administrator Samantha Malenovsky, Police Chief Doug Colombik, 911 Supervisor Lyne Anderson, AFSCME 283A President Carl Raymond, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, Local 600 President Casey Miller, and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Wilcox called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens
None
2. Committee Member Comments
None
3. Position Descriptions: Review, revise, approve
 - a. Planner I position
The grant administration duties were removed from the draft position description and physical requirements were added.
***Committee Member Andrews moved to approve the Planner I position description as revised, seconded by Committee Member Huber. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*
 - b. Class B-CDL Operator Position with Train-the Trainer stipend recommendation
This stipend will be part of the Local 283A collective bargaining negotiations, requirements of this position require further research.

***Committee Member Broell moved to table the Class B-CDL Operator with Train-the Trainer position description, seconded by Committee Member Huber. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

4. Review & compare 4 options, revise as needed & recommend to Full Council: updated Wage Scale Matrix for FY 22-23
 - No change to current matrix as approved for FY 21-22
 - Revise current matrix to reflect only a 4.7% COLA increase recommendation
 - Revise current matrix to reflect only a Wage Scale increase
 - Revise current matrix to reflect both COLA and Wage Scale increasesOfficer Wilkins presented a spreadsheet with the comparison of the wages and the effect on the general fund for FY 22-23
***Committee Member Andrews moved to forward the spreadsheet information to the finance committee for consideration during the budgetary process, seconded by Committee Member Broell. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*
5. Discuss & approve next steps new position concept: In-house Ambulance Biller
Chief Stevens and Office Wilkins will continue to look at other outside ambulance billers instead of having an in-house biller.
6. Next Meeting: Tues, May---, 2022; 4-15 p.m.
The next committee meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room
7. Adjournment
***Committee Member Huber moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Broell. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.*
The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

****** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the minutes of the Human Resources Meeting of April 5th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Public Safety Committee Minutes: 03/01/2022

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, March 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, Police Captain Dan Baker, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Council Member Rick Huber, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson. Fire Lieutenant Casey Miller and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Brush called the meeting to order.

1. **Discussion on Safety for residences of Leighton Blvd**

PROCEEDING OF CITY COUNCIL
MILES CITY, MONTANA

There is concern by residents living on Leighton Boulevard of the speed of traffic. The committee discussed possible solutions: continued police patrol traffic enforcement of the area, placing a sign in the area to let drivers know if they are speeding and painting of crosswalks.

***Committee Member Wilcox moved to continue the police presence, painting crosswalks two times a year and to continue to work with the Police Chief, seconded by Committee Member Brush, the motion passed, 4-0.*

2. Fire Department update

Fire Chief Stevens updated the committee:

- The replacement costs for the fire station are coming in at \$6.1 million, he explained to the architect that he had a budget of \$5 million. The architect was able to cut out 1500 square feet and which reduced the cost to \$5.7 million.
- His concerns are that by cutting corners the community may not receive a solid structure and functionality will suffer.
- He is currently working on finalizing the USDA low interest 40-year loan and a 35% grant match and has submitted an environmental assessment on the fire training center. A mil levy will need to go out for election to help defray the building costs.

3. Police department update

Captain Baker commented there was need for a resolution for SDI Architects to proceed with Phase 2. Hardy has completed a walk through.

4. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

- ** *Councilperson Gardner moved to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of March 1st, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Brush. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

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

Finance	4/28/2022	@4:15pm
Human Resources	5/17/2022	@4:15pm

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Stanton Morlock spoke on behalf of Keep Miles City Beautiful to talk about The Great American Cleanup. It will take place May 14th 2022 from 9:00 am to noon and they will meet at Riverside Park at the gazebo. At the same time the dump will be offering their free dump day and this year they are allowing electronics to be thrown away too.

Mark Ahner spoke about the 4th of July Parade events. He asked that the city close the streets from 8:30-11:00 am, that they can use the street closed signs. They would like the city to issue them a park use permit and pay for event coverage insurance. They would also like the police to escort the parade.

- ** *Councilperson Huber moved to approve the request and seconded by Councilperson Grenz, passed unanimously.*

APPOINTMENTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Colombik introduced Stacy Zinn-Brittain, Resident Agent in charge of the DEA in Montana, who gave a presentation on the Fentanyl problem in our area.

She said that drug dealers have perfected the recipe and the pill press to make other drugs mixed with Fentanyl to look just like other well-known pills. People think they are taking an Oxycodone and are actually getting a lethal dose of Fentanyl. Carfentanyl is even more potent than Fentanyl and they are seeing it being sold in Billings. They are giving people free samples with other drugs and it is causing more overdoses to happen. The demand for these drugs is so high that a single pill in Sidney Montana is selling for \$120. The powdered version looks exactly like Cocaine so people who think they are using Cocaine are overdosing. She said that Miles City had five overdoses last year and this year we have already had eight. She predicts Miles City will double or triple the number of overdoses from last year. Because of our location Miles City is a huge hub for drug trafficking. The police and special teams are doing the best they can but state laws need to change to make a difference. She said she contacted school board members and school councilors so that she could do presentations in the school district to warn kids about the danger of these drugs. She said not a single person responded to her. She explained that kids are experimenting and that is the problem. They think they are trying a drug that is fairly harmless and it ends up being laced with Fentanyl. She also mentioned that legalizing Marijuana did not help the growing drug problem in the state.

Chief Stevens stated that the Fire Department will hold a mock car crash on May 9th at the high school. The City received a grant that allowed all police cars to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in each police car. Battalion Chief Lewin trained the officers how to use them. A life was saved last week when a person was having a cardiac event and a police officer arrived on scene before the fire department. The police officer was able to get the patients pulse back. Battalion Chief Lewin then arrived in scene and was able to administer Advanced Life Saving care and medication and safely get the patient to the hospital.

Director Gray attended a Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD) meeting and he is going to approach them about fixing some of the downtown alleys. They are gearing up for the Bucking Horse Sale and he said it would be nice if we did the cleanup that we do before Bucking Horse Sale year around because it is only done once a year. He noted that the street crew will be setting the posts for the new Police Department sign at the same time that they are building a sign for the Maurice Hilleman Complex. Many people wanted to give thanks to the street crew for their work removing snow.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council person Grenz wanted to know how the city was going to account for the rise in gas prices. He stated that the city would not have luck finding seasonal help for \$10-\$11 an hour. He wanted to know if non-union employees would be receiving raises. He said he thinks the city should vote on paying for an ambulance service to cover the costs we could levy or annex. He thought we have to many loans already.

Council person Gardner asked Chief Colombik about the cracks at the Woolhouse. Chief explained that Nathan Jewell of Jewell Masonry is working on it and he believes that it will solve the bat issue.
Ward III Resident Letter-

3/3

Dear Sir,
 I am writing this letter you if they is any med relief this has I thought it would be paid by insurance and was denied by del the only comy Social Security of about 950 monthly for Award holds by one. Please let me kn if there is any relief or pay's monthly. Thank you for all the services you offer. Also they clean send you what records of my income if needed.
 Sincerely,
 Deborah J. Huber
 702 Station St
 Miles City 58130

MAYOR COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Zoning Committee recommends approval of the zone change at 1011 N. 6th Street.

** Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve the recommendation, and seconded by Councilperson Broell. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 8-0.

Finance Committee recommends Reducing payments to \$10 per month for Debra Nesbit.

** Councilperson Broell moved to approve the recommendation, and seconded by Councilperson Brush. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 8-0.

Finance Committee Recommends - Write-off \$325.78 for deceased ambulance account.

** Councilperson Huber moved to approve the recommendation, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 8-0.

Finance Committee Recommends Increasing rates for children aged 7-12 and seniors to \$2, and for children and adults over age 13 to \$3, but leaving the family rate as is.

** Councilperson Andrews made a motion to move forward with increasing pool rates, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion **passed**, 7-1, with Councilperson Grenz voting opposed.

Public Safety recommends Creating an Ordinance regarding texting and driving.

** Councilperson Kassner made a motion to move forward with the recommendation, and seconded by Councilperson Brush. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent, 8-0.

BID OPENINGS

None

BID AWARDS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A.

ORDINANCE NO. 1352 – *(Second Reading)* AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE FRANCHISE AND RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE, WITHIN AND UPON, IN AND UNDER THE STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY, CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA.

**

On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0. Ordinance No. 1352 passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

Councilperson Andrews said the money needs to go to the Fire Department. Administrator Malenovsky said we will most likely receive funding for the Slough project and it will cost the city nothing. The Tongue River Project is going to congress. It is hard to find money for this project. Without the funding the community will not be able to fund this project. Councilperson Andrews recommends giving \$500,000 to the Slough and any additional Fiscal Recovery Funds go to the Fire Department. Chief Stevens respects Administrator Malenovsky's willingness to help his department. Director Gray stated that it would be bad to turn down free money to fix the Slough. Battalion Chief Lewin asked that the council decides on the Fire Department before the building makes the decision for them. She stated that buildings do collapse and it has already been deemed unsafe by four separate entities.

ADJOURNMENT

**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49p.m.

Kathy Wilcox

Kathy Wilcox, Council President

Jody Kinsey

Jody Kinsey, Deputy City Clerk