

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING May 24, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, May 24, 2022, in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miles City, Montana and online at zoom.us. Council President Kathy Wilcox called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Dwayne Andrews, Roxanna Brush, Kathy Wilcox, Chris Grenz, Rick Huber, and Ken Gardner. Council Members Stacy Broell and Brant Kassner were absent.

Also present were, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, and Deputy City Clerk/Minute Recorder Jody Kinsey.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Kathy Wilcox led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- A. Regular City Council Meeting 04/26/2022  
\*\* *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the minutes of Regular Council Meeting of April 26th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*
- B. Regular City Council Meeting 05/10/2022  
\*\* *Councilperson Brush moved to approve the minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 10th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*
- C. Regular City Council Meeting 05/10/2022  
\*\* *Councilperson Brush moved to approve the minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 10th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Gardner. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*
- D. Finance Committee Meeting 04/28/2022

**Finance Committee Meeting  
April 28, 2022**

The Finance Committee met Thursday, April 28, 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 Utilities Director Tom Speelmon and City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe. Chairperson Broell called the meeting to order.

- 1. **Requests of Citizens and Public Comment**  
None
- 2. **Review Worksheet Regarding Non-Union Employee Cola and Step Increases**

Chairperson Broell explained what value each column held and that these figures pertained to General fund and they are dependent on the budget.

- 3. **Review and Recommend Billing Software**

\*\* *Committee Member Brush moved to recommend approving CUSTI billing software, seconded by Committee Member Kassner.*

Director Speelmon explained that Black Mountain software is expensive and does not work very well for utility billing. He had been experiencing several corrupted files and spends on average two hours a week fixing bugs. The cost is \$7500 annually. The new software will cost an

initial \$34,160, then \$3,960 annually thereafter. He has the funds budgeted in already, they just weren't allocated to software. There are several other additional features that are included with the new software that Black Mountain software was not capable of.

Chairperson Broell stated that current cost versus CUSI cost, there would be a 10-year recoup period.

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

**4. Review and Recommend Ordinance 1354**

*Committee Member Kassner moved to recommend approving Ordinance 1354, seconded by Committee Member Huber and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

**5. Review and Recommend Business Licensing Ordinance**

*Committee Member Kassner moved to recommend the Business License Ordinance, seconded by Committee Member Brush.*

Committee Member Kassner questioned who would enforce the Ordinance. Clerk Rowe replied that she had already spoken with Chief Colombik and he said he and the MCPD would enforce it.

Committee Member Huber questioned the value of having a business license and why a person should have to get one. He then questioned if the Fire Inspector actually inspected the businesses and if there was a call list in case of a fire at a business. Both answers were yes.

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

**6. Adjournment**

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

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

\*\* *Councilperson Huber moved to approve the minutes of Finance Committee Meeting of April 28th, 2022, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Brush. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0.*

**SCHEDULE MEETINGS**

Public Service Committee Meeting    May 26, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Finance Committee Meeting            May 26, 2022 @ 6:15pm

**REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Catherine Dunphy 904 Pleasant had concerns about the price of the proposed Fire Hall. She handed out census information that showed the poverty level in Miles City and she doesn't think the citizens can afford adding this to their taxes. She stated in her career as a nurse they did not sleep at work. Everyone was on shift work. Councilperson Andrews stated that she didn't have all of the information she needed. He explained that we are no where near a phase where this would go on a ballot to be voted on. The Fire Department is still actively seeking out funding and want to have as little strain on the tax payers as possible. He encouraged her to attend the open houses that the Fire Department has coming up to see the condition of the building.

Craig Dalakow 814 Wells stated that money is tight and the Fire Department should fix what they have and go to shift work to save money. He said the days of gravy train are over.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Airport Board

\*\* *Councilperson Gardner moved to appoint Tye Ketchum, seconded by Councilperson Brush and passed unanimously, 6-0.*

**PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

Dispatch Supervisor Anderson explained how an ambulance is dispatched when a person calls 911. They implemented the King County Training Protocol in 2019 which has three levels of response. ALS stands for Advanced Life Support. They always send a Medic on these calls. BLS Red stands for Basic Life Support. It is still emergent but not as serious as ALS. BLS Yellow is non-emergent. The patient may just need to be transported. They do not use lights and sirens for BLS Yellow calls. Sometimes the level of response changes depending on information they receive from the caller. An ALS call can be dispatched in thirty-two seconds. It is very important to stay on the line and answer the dispatcher's questions. Doing so will get the quickest response time. A BLS Red call can be dispatched in forty-one seconds, and a BLS Yellow call can be dispatched in one minute and twenty-four seconds. In 2020 Fire Chief Branden Stevens and Supervisor Anderson were asked to go to the state level to give a presentation on how their system works. Chief Stevens responded to Ms. Dunphy and Mr. Dalakow on their mention of shift work. He explained that shift work would actually cost a lot more because they would need more people in order to cover all shifts. He said he would love to have more staff but it would not at all be cost effective.

Director Gray let everyone know that the Splash Pad grand opening would be held Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. He also added that the detours on Horizon would last through then end of the week.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilperson Grenz discussed allocating funds to the Fire Department. He thinks the proposed building should be a one level building with a small three-bedroom house behind it for living quarters. Property taxes will be going up and with inflation he doesn't think the current plan has a prayer. He would like to change his decision and use the funding we currently have and build what we can with that. He would like more discussion on the next council meeting. Councilperson Andrews disagrees and said the decision was already voted on and passed unanimously. The two argued for a bit over meeting procedure.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Human Resources Committee recommends increasing lifeguard and seasonal laborer employee wages to \$14.00/hour first year starting wages and employees returning after the first year to \$15/hour.

*The main motion and passed unanimously, 6-0.*

**BID OPENINGS**

None

**BID AWARDS**

None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 1355 (Second Reading) – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY ESTABLISHING REVISED LICENSE/PERMIT FEES.**

Councilperson Wilcox called for proponents three times and opponents three times. Hearing none, the hearing was closed.

- B. **ORDINANCE NO. 1356 (Second Reading) – AN ORDINANCE**

CHANGING THE ZONING OF LOTS 5-8 IN BLOCK 30 OF THE MILWAUKEE PARK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MILES CITY FROM RESIDENTIAL A ZONE TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE, AND PROVIDING FOR A HEARING THEREON.

Councilperson Wilcox called for proponents three times and opponents three times. Hearing none, the hearing was closed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. ORDINANCE NO. 1355 (Second Reading) – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY ESTABLISHING REVISED LICENSE/PERMIT FEES.**

**\*\* Councilperson Huber moved to approve the Ordinance, read by title only, seconded by Councilperson Andrews. On a roll call vote the motion passed 6-0. Ordinance No. 1355 passed.**

**B. ORDINANCE NO. 1356 (Second Reading) – AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF LOTS 5-8 IN BLOCK 30 OF THE MILWAUKEE PARK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MILES CITY FROM RESIDENTIAL A ZONE TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE, AND PROVIDING FOR A HEARING THEREON.**

**\*\* Councilperson Huber moved to approve the Ordinance, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Andrews. On roll call vote, the motion passed by unanimous consent, 6-0. Ordinance No. 1356 passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTION NO. 4460 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MILES CITY TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CUSTER COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.**

**\*\* Councilperson Wilcox moved to approve the Ordinance, read by title only and seconded by Councilperson Huber.**

**\*\* Councilperson Huber moved to approve the interlocal agreement seconded by Councilperson Brush, and passed unanimously, 6-0.**

**B. APPROVAL OF APRIL CLAIMS**

**\*\* Councilperson Brush moved to approve April claims, seconded by Councilperson Huber. The main motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* Councilperson Brush moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Grenz and passed 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

After adjournment Ex Parte communication was brought up. It had been brought to the attention of the clerk and deputy clerk that Council member Huber was meeting

with several citizens about the proposed Fire Hall. Deputy Clerk Kinsey explained to council that any conversations held outside of a council meeting or committee meeting that pertain to council decisions need to be disclosed to all of council. Since the meeting was already adjourned Council President Wilcox asked him to share the information at the next council meeting.

*Kathryn Wilcox*

**Kathy Wilcox, Council President**

*Jody Kinsey*

**Jody Kinsey, Deputy City Clerk**