

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING February 13,
2024**

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council meeting was held Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 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 Pamela Bovee, Ed Pulecio, Rick Huber, Trevor Power, Brant Kassner, Kevin Thomason, Don Simpson, and Dwayne Andrews.

Also present were City Attorney Dan Rice, Interim Fire Chief/Fire Inspector/Captain Ed Kanduch, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelman, Library Director Sara Peterson, 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
Regular City Council Minutes: 01/23/2024

** *Councilperson Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Bovee. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes: 01/31/2024

Finance Committee Meeting

January 31, 2024

The Finance Committee met Tuesday, January 31, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Miles City, City Hall Conference Room and online at zoom.us. Present were Committee Members Pamela Bovee, Rick Huber, and Donald Simpson. Committee Member Brant Kassner arrived at 5:13 pm.

Also present were Interim Fire Chief/Fire Inspector/Fire Captain Ed Kanduch, and City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe.

Clerk Rowe called the meeting to order.

1. Elect Chairperson

Clerk Rowe opened the floor to nominations.

** *Committee Member Bovee moved to nominate Committee Member Huber, seconded by Committee Member Simpson.*

Nominations were closed.

** *Nomination and election passed, 3-0.*

Committee Chair Huber took over the meeting.

2. Request of Citizens and Public Comment
None

3. Review and Recommend Ambulance Rate Adjustment

Clerk Rowe explained that previously the rates were set in Ordinance to increase by a predetermined amount annually for a set amount of years. The Resolution and Ordinance that are in the packet state that Council can adjust the rates annually based on state rates through Resolution instead of Ordinance to shorten the process and keep the rates current. Committee Chair Huber asked if the rates were reviewed annually before. Captain Kanduch explained that it was an automatic set increase, instead of adhering to the state rate range. He further explained that the rates had not previously been reviewed or adjusted for several years prior to the last Ordinance and it was costing the city money. He went over which items increased/decreased and explained why they were being adjusted. Committee Chair Huber asked why there is not a charge for public assist listed on the rate sheet. Committee Member Kassner said that it had been discussed years ago and it was decided that citizens already pay for that service through taxes and it would be like charging twice for the same service. Committee Chair Huber asked if Captain Kanduch had fully reviewed and adjusted the rate sheet accordingly and felt comfortable with it. Captain Kanduch approved of the rate sheet after he add things specific to Miles City that Pintler had not put in it.

** *Committee Member Bovee moved to recommend accepting the ambulance rate adjustment, seconded by Committee Member Simpson and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

4. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m.

** *Councilperson Kassner moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Simpson. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Public Service Committee Meeting: 01/31/2024

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 31, 2024

The Public Service Committee met January 31, 2024 in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana and online at zoom.us. Present were Committee Members, Ed Pulecio, Rick Huber,

and Donald Simpson. Committee Member Kevin Thomason was not present.

Also present was City Clerk/ Recorder Mary Rowe. Clerk Rowe opened the meeting at 5:20pm

1. Elect Chairperson

Clerk Rowe opened the floor for nominations.

** *Committee Member Huber nominated Committee Member Simpson, seconded by Committee Member Pulecio.*

Nominations were closed.

** *The nomination and election passed, 3-0.*

Committee Chair Simpson took over.

2. Request of Citizens

-None-

3. Adjournment

** *Committee Member Pulecio moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Huber, and passed, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm

** *Councilperson Pulecio moved to approve the minutes of the Public Service Committee Meeting, subject to any changes, and seconded by Councilperson Simpson. The motion passed by unanimous consent, 8-0.*

Human Resources Committee Minutes: 02/01/2024

**Human Resources Committee
February 1, 2024**

The **Human Resources Committee** met Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Members Trevor Power, Dwayne Andrews, Kevin Thomason and Pam Bovee. Also present were: Councilperson Rick Huber and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Recorder Wilkins called the meeting to order.

1. Nominate and Elect Human Resources Committee Chairperson

***Committee Member Andrews nominated Committee Member Bovee, nomination was seconded by Committee Member Power. Nomination was approved by unanimous consent, 4-0.*

2. Public Comments
None

3. Adjournment

***Committee Member Andrews moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Thomason. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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

Public Safety Committee Meeting: 02/01/2024

**Public Safety Committee Meeting
February 1, 2024**

The Public Safety Committee met Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 5:15 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Ed Puleccio, Trevor Power, Brant Kassner, and Dwayne Andrews. Also present were: Councilperson Rick Huber, Councilperson Kevin Thomason, Library Director Sarah Peterson, Library Board Member Shirley Lund, Librarian Carl Raymond, Interim Fire Chief Eddy Kanduch, and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Recorder Wilkins called the meeting to order.

1. **Nominate and Elect Public Safety Committee Chairperson**

***Committee Member Andrews nominated Committee Member Kassner, seconded by Committee Member Power. Nomination passed unanimously, 4-0.*

2. **Public Comment**

Library Director Peterson expressed concern over trucks not navigating the truck route correction increasing concern over the Library patrons' safety. Librarian Raymond also expressed his concerns and thought there may be an issue with signage. The issue of poor GPS coordinates also was expressed. Director Peterson has spoken with Department of Transportation Shane Mintz regarding the issues to see what could be done, but also wanted to bring it to the committee's attention. Chairperson Kassner stated he would talk to Public Works Director Gray about the issue and report back to Director Peterson.

3. **Review and Recommend EMS Billing Policies**

Interim Chief Kanduch explained to the committee that the EMS Billing Policies explained the process of billing collections and

with this process there should not be as many collections coming back to Council. The policies have been reviewed by City Attorney Rice.

***Committee Member Andrews moved to recommend to Council for approval the EMS Billings Polices, seconded by Committee Member Power. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

4. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Finance Committee Meeting 2/20/24 @ 5:15pm

REQUEST OF CITIZENS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbi and Gary Askin, 406 S. Jordan, asked the city for help to improve the appearance of the community. They would like to see the community get together and start a task force and create a plan. There are several abandoned and/or expired vehicles, junk filled vacant lots, and random piles of wood. Then Bobbi continued her request with the curb and gutter near her home is sinking and is not draining; please fix it. Director Speelmon explained that the next phase of the Darling Addition is scheduled and it will be fixed then, but he will inform the Public Works Director so it can be looked into now. She gave her phone number to Mayor Hollowell to address the issue.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff Reports were reviewed with no questions.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Andrews explained that he had put a list in all Council Members boxes assigning items to Committees to get started on. He also reminded Council that the Custer County Water Sewer District Agreement and the Interlocal Agreement need to be started as they expire soon too.

MAYOR COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. **ORDINANCE NO. 1376 -- (First Reading) AN**

**ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 1370,
SETTING AMBULANCE FEES, SO THAT UPDATED
FEES MAY BE ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION.**

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the Ordinance read by title only, and seconded by Councilperson Simpson. On roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.*

**B. RESOLUTION NO. 4549 – A RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING REVISED AMBULANCE SERVICE
FEES FOR MILES CITY, MONTANA.**

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the Resolution read by title only, and seconded by Councilperson Huber. On roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.*

**C. RESOLUTION NO. 4550 - A RESOLUTION ADOPTING
EMS BILLING POLICIES FOR THE CITY OF MILES
CITY, MONTANA.**

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the Resolution read by title only, and seconded by Councilperson Kassner. On roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.*

**D. RESOLUITION NO. 4551 – A RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF MILES CITY, MONTANA,
RELATING TO THE FIRE RESCUE/AMBULANCE
STATION GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES
2024; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND PRIVATE
NEGOTIATED SALE THEREOF TO D.A. DAVIDSON &
CO.**

** *Councilperson Andrews moved to approve the Resolution read by title only, and seconded by Councilperson Pulecio.*

Bridgett Eckstrom from D.A. Davidson explained that this Resolution gives D.A. Davidson the authority to issue tax exempt bonds in \$5,000 increments on behalf of the city.
Nathan Bilyeu, Bond Counsel, pointed out some important sections and went over the process with Council.

** *On roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 8-0.*

**E. DISCUSSION ON CITY LAND USE COLLABORATION
WITH MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AFFAIRS AND MONATANA NATIONAL GUARD.**

Joel Miller with the Department of Military Affairs explained that they are looking for a permanent gravel pit for soldiers to do heavy equipment and National Guard training. He assured council that they would leave the pits better than they found them. He also stated that contact had been made with Director Gray as well and he had no objections.

Mayor Hollowell asked Council if there were any objections to allowing site inspection for use. There were none.

F. PRIORITIZE PROJECT LIST FOR HOUSE BILL 355

FUNDING.

A discussion about the items on the list commenced. The public, Directors, and City Council gave their input as to what was top priority and the list was compiled.

** *Councilperson Bovee moved to approve the list, seconded by Councilperson Thomason, and passed unanimously, 8-0.*

G. APPROVAL OF JANUARY CLAIMS

Claims were postponed until the next Council meeting so they can be reviewed by a member of the Finance Committee

ADJOURNMENT

** *Councilperson Thomason moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Huber, and passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.


John Hollowell, Mayor


Mary Rowe, City Clerk