

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on January 3, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pattie Berg
Ron Coleman
Rick Ellison
Lee Blanchard

A. Call Regular Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

D. Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted on public matters not listed on this agenda and are within the jurisdiction of the City Council and having a significant interest to the public. During a regular session, there will be time after each agenda item for comment about that item.

1. Step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record.
2. Please limit your comments to THREE (3) minutes.

E. Read & Approve - Accept or Reject Minutes

1. November 15th Meeting – Regular Session and Work Session

Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve or reject the Regular Session and Work Session minutes from November 15th as presented. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve the November 15th Meeting Regular Session and Work Session minutes as presented. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

2. December 5th Meeting – Regular Session

Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve or reject the Regular Session minutes from December 5th as presented. Pattie Berg motioned to approve the December 5th Meeting Regular Session Minutes as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

3. December 20th Meeting – Regular Session and Work Session

Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended

Not ready yet.

F. Receive/Accept Reports

1. Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Meagher County Sheriff's Office Complaint Report month of December.

2. City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

Judge Sorenson handed out the December the citation activity and case statistics reports. Judge Sorenson has worked through and cleaned up the old past hearings without result cases, having

started at 109 cases, but unfortunately a lot were dismissed due to time constraints and had to let them go at a loss, leaving 21 active cases left.

3. Fire Department Report - City Fire Chief Sam Peeler

None.

4. City Engineer's Report - Great West Engineering

None.

5. Public Work's Report - City Public Works Supervisor Rocky Vinton

Rocky Vinton said that the City Crew had a week of non-starting vehicles during the cold snap and now they are behind on the snow plowing. Rocky Vinton said that this last years water/sewer sampling was good with no violations reported. The 1990 white truck is down and in need of repairs (the axle broke, shaft will need to be fixed, along with clutch repairs, and it will need new tires), it is at Berg's Garage now getting a bid on the cost to fix it. Rocky Vinton will be looking for a replacement truck if it is not feasible to fix the white truck. It was suggested to look on the State Auction website in March or to attend the Auction Sale Billings in August/September.

6. Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

Marc Pryor said that no citations have been issued, probably this is due to the colder weather. He has trapped/disposed/harvesting of the 13 of the allotted 25 deer management season that goes from December 15th through February 15th. There was a discussion about stray animals, people picking them up or not, and the process/procedure that needs to followed through per Resolution #634, instead people should call the authorities if you see a stray animal.

7. Parks Committee Report – Jennifer Frazer

The next Parks Advisory Committee meeting will be on Thursday. In December, the City was one of five agencies selected by the Montana Access Project to participate in a funding "Pitchfest", the group selected "Spike's Happy Trails" as the project to pitch. It was videoed and will be on YouTube if anyone would like to watch it.

8. M.C. Housing Committee Report – Jackson Rose

None.

9. Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Racheal Wahlstrom reported that there was a change in the library board, Elton Lee stepped down because of being in Mexico the winter months and Shannon Graham will be replacing him. The new book loan system, Partners, went live on December 23rd and they have sent out about 200 books so far. They are officially starting up on HOOPLA in February where people can borrow and enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music everywhere you have a screen, your computer, your phone, your car, even your TV. All you need is a library card. HOOPLA puts your public library at your fingertips anytime everywhere.

G. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Reconsider City Shop Building Contract Award

Discussion and/or Action

Brought back from October 3 and 18, December 5 and 20 Council meetings.

Reconsider other proposals and re-award contract or republish bid solicitation.

Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion Options: Move to re-award contract to XXX for their bid of \$XXX,XXX.
OR, Move to republish bid solicitation (with or without revisions).*

The Mayor said that the newest bid from General Steel Corporation is a more complete bid than the previous bids and with fewer hidden fees. The estimated price would be the erected labor and equipment, concrete material, labor, and equipment budget cost is estimated at \$159,632. There was a discussion on the 4" Roof and Wall Insulation and adding more R-Values (insulation thickness) to the roof prior to acting. Lee Blanchard motioned to have the Mayor proceed and move forward on the General Steel contract after looking into the questions that were brought up about the roof and insulation. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

H. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Committee Appointments

Mayor to Appoint Members of Council to City Committees: Parks, Finance, Streets, Alleys.

The Mayor said that it will be; Parks, Pattie Berg, Finance, Lee Blanchard, Streets and Alleys, Ron Coleman and Rick Ellison.

2. Election of Council President

Discussion and/or Action

Receive nominations for Council President from Council membership to act in the absence of the Mayor.

Accept Public Comment

Public Motion: Move to elect [name of Council Member] as President of Council.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to nominate a President of the Council for this year. Pattie Berg mention that she is stepping down from the President of the Council as Ron Coleman is already a second signer to checks in the absence of the Mayor. Pattie Berg said that she will also be gone here and there. Pattie Berg motioned to nominated Ron Coleman as President of the Council. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion to nominate Ron Coleman. Pattie Berg, Lee Blanchard, and Rick Ellison said Aye. Motion carried and passed for Ron Coleman as President of the Council.

3. Appoint City Judge for a 4 Year Term

Discussion and/or Action

Consider appointment/reappointment of Lori Sorenson as the City Judge.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to Approve the appointment of Lori Sorenson as City Judge for a 4 year term.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to reappoint City Judge, Lori Sorenson for a 4 year term. Rick Ellison motioned to reappoint City Judge Lori Sorenson for another 4 years. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. City Clerk-Treasurer will swear in City Judge Lori Sorenson and record the Oath of Office at the Meagher County Clerk & Recorder's Office.

4. Freedom Days LLC: Street Closure And Open Container Waiver Request

Discussion and/or Action

Discuss this year's request for Freedom Day's street closure for the 4th of July. Consider any additional information to be presented. Consider approval of street closure and Open Container Waiver.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to approve Freedom Day's street closure and Open Container Waiver for July 4th.

Freedom Days LLC, Kate Martin and Josh Manning presented the Council with a request to close Main Street on July 8th for their 4th Annual Car Show (10am-4pm) and Street Dance (7pm-1am). They usually plan the events on weekend of July 4th but since it lands on a Tuesday this year they will plan on the event the next Saturday after the holiday, and they will continue to do this the next couple of years. They are starting to plan the events early this year to secure a band and advertise the car show early in hopes to get more cars. They have contacted someone to oversee trash pickup during and following the street dance as well as the car show. The street signs will be placed and picked up at the appropriate times. They will have porta potties placed to alleviate any stress on the Main Street establishments. MDT Road closure forms will be submitted to the City once they have approval from the Council. Freedom Days, LLC will be providing event insurance for the events. All the Main Street establishment bars will be giving out 21 and older wrist bands to give out to all people over the age of 21 for the events. In order to reduce any liability for the insurance provided by Freedom Days, LLC, they will not be allowing liquor to be catered. This event including the street dance and car show, is not having alcohol catered. They would like to welcome street vendors and close off the street 1st Ave from Hampton to Houston Street. It was suggested to let the businesses that the date that the street closure is going to effect. They said that they would talk to those businesses that it effects. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve Freedom Day's street closure and open container waiver. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve Freedom Day's street closure and open container waiver for July 8th. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

5. Discuss Meeting of Council with Great West Engineering Jan. 4th at 10:00 A.M.

Discussion and/or Action

Discussion regarding scheduled meeting with Gt. West as to PER and water system and other issues as necessary. Potential for quorum at meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Accept Public Comment

The Mayor said that there will be a meeting via zoom at 10:00 am with Great West Engineering to discuss the Water System PER update, before it goes to the public for review, and then the final approval on the updated Preliminary Engineer Report for the water system will be in March. Trent Townsend, the landowner, will have a presentation for the Council of some drone footage of the Willow Creek reservoir water source from what it looked like in 2015 after it was cleaned it up, what it looks like currently, and what he would like to see cleaned up and flushed out in the holding/settling pod and catwalk. It was suggested to get a turbidity sample of the holding/settling pod and then another turbidity sample up stream in Willow Creek and this would be some good information for the City and the Forest Service to have.

I. Comments/Discussion

1. Future Business

2. Mayor’s Comments—Rick Nelson

The Mayor asked who will be attending the Rural Water Conference in Great Falls this March 22-24. The Mayor, Ron Coleman, Lee Blanchard, Rocky Vinton, Matt Swett (will be also testing for a water test), City Clerk Treasurer, and the Assistant Clerk will be attending. The Mayor will also be attending the Executive Forum – Montana League of Cities and Towns in Helena March 1-3. The Mayor said that he will be done from January 9-20. The next Council meeting will be in February.

3. Council Comments/Discussion

a. President of the Council—Pattie Berg

Pattie Berg said that she will be gone from February 4-24.

b. Council Member—Ron Coleman

c. Council Member—Rick Ellison

d. Council Member—Lee Blanchard

There was a discussion on cardboard recycling and where to take it.

J. Council Review of Financials

K. Claims Signing/Motion to Approve the Bills

Pay the Bills

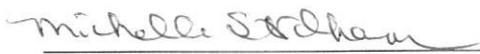
Payroll & Electronic Check’s #9298-9315 December 16-31 for \$19,624.56

Utility Billing System Adjustments Journal Vouchers \$-302.87 December 1 thru December 31

December 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 were presented for Council’s approval. The Mayor asked if there is a motion to pay the bills. Ron Coleman motioned to pay the bills as presented. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

L. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.


Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor – Rick Nelson