

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on July 3, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Ron Coleman
Lee Blanchard
Pattie Berg
Rick Ellison

A. Call 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. May 1st Meeting – Work Session and Regular Session
Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended
2. May 16th Regular Session and Work Session
Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended
3. June 5th Meeting – Regular Session
Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended
4. June 20th Regular Session
Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended

The Mayor said that there are not any minutes available for approval this time.

F. Receive/Accept Reports

Sheriff Jon Lopp asked if there were any questions or concerns about the June COMM Report. The Mayor asked about possibly adding radar speed signs at each of the three entrances to town to try and slow incoming traffic. The Sheriff agreed that it would be a good idea and he would look into the grant funding available and let the Council know what he finds out. The cost of each radar sign is approximately \$5,000. The Mayor and Sheriff will ask Ted Jones, MT Department of Transportation about placing the signs and if there is any available funding for the radar speed signs.

City Judge Lori Sorenson handed out the June Report to the Council. The Judge said that it has been a busy month with hearings, 97 cases pending, and community service. Currently the community service person has been working at the County/City dump, but will be working on the clean up after the fireworks and cleaning up yards. The Mayor asked if the dog case was done. The Judge said that there was a change of plea and they plead guilty, the sentencing will be completed by next week.

There was not a City Fire Report given.

The City Engineer On-Call Engineering Services report as of June 30, 2023 was handed out to the Council for review.

The Animal Control was reported by Marc Pryor and he said that the new animal shelter is coming along with the concrete slab that is done. The animal shelter shed will be arriving on Wednesday. This year's proceeds from the, "Race for this Place" will be being donated to helping build the new animal shelter. Marc Pryor said that there was a good turn out on the spay & neuter clinic, with vaccines and chips done on over 30 animals. Marc Pryor mentioned that he had hoped that more feral cats had been brought in. Marc Pryor mentioned that a chip reader would be beneficial. Marc Pryor mentioned that maybe the vet from Livingston might have one that could be donated to the City if not would like to have one be included into the this next budget. The two Vet Teams were so appreciated of the volunteers, the autoclave sterilization was a big help, and the good rooms and food.

There was not a Parks Committee Report given.

There was not a Meagher County/City Housing Project Report given.

The County/City Library reported was given by the Co-Director, she said that the native grass garden with the wild flowers are still blooming, (a brochure was handed out to the Council), and when they go to seed they will be trimming the grass down. The summer reading program is going on now. The library has received funds from the Friends of the Library used books sale along with other donations, and a Bair Grant for the new electric doors. Mountainview Medical Center received a grant and is able to sponsor a free lunch program for kids after the Summer Reading (11-12 pm) on Wednesdays from 12-12:30.

The Public Work's Report was given by the Mayor, he said that the City Shop Building has a concrete slab now and 2-3 weeks later the building should be erected.

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

1. Septic to Sewer – 1st Avenue NW - Funding Options Discussion/Plan

Discussion and/or Action

Based on approval of Task Order #8 from Gt. West Engineering as to design, continue discussion as to funding options and process.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: (Motion depends on results of discussion)

The Mayor, Council, City Attorney, and Craig Erickson, discussed the septic to sewer, 1st Avenue NW funding plan options. The June 30, 2023 report on:

Task Order 8: 1st Avenue NW Septic to Sewer Project

Background: This project was developed over the past few months as septic system issues were identified on 1st Avenue NW. The project approach has been developed and includes abandonment of septic systems on three existing properties and connection of these properties to City sewer via installation of individual grinder pumps and force main.

Current Status: Great West has prepared a task order for the engineering design, bidding, and construction management services, totaling \$81,400. Task Order 8 was presented to the Council on June 20th and the Council approved the task order. The total cost estimate for the sewer project is \$269,100 (including engineering) and a project budget has been prepared which assumes 48% SRF loan forgiveness. The anticipated funding strategy for the sewer project is as follows:

1st Avenue SW Septic to Sewer Project Funding Summary

Funding Source Amount Status/Timing of Funding Availability

SRF Loan Forgiveness \$128,576 The City will need to apply by submitting an SRF application (Great West will prepare).

Approximately 48% of the funds will be requested for loan forgiveness. If loan forgiveness is not awarded, the entire project cost will be funded through an SRF loan. The City will not be able to draw on these funds until construction. If the City needs assistance with payment of engineering fees, a small bond anticipation note can be submitted to SRF.

SRF Loan Total Amount (Loan + Bond Reserves) \$140,524⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾