

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on March 6, 2023 at 7:00 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 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. February 7th 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 February 7th as presented. Pattie Berg motioned to approve the February 7th Meeting Regular Session minutes as presented. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

2. February 21st 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 February 21st as presented. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve the February 21st Meeting Regular Session minutes as presented. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

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 February.

2. City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

The February for the citation activity and case statistics reports was handed out for the Council. City Judge, Lori Sorenson, said that March is starting to be a busy month already. The Mayor said that bids for the City Judge Office/Courtroom exit door and outside ramp/handrail will go out this month.

3. Fire Department Report - City Fire Chief Sam Peeler

4. City Engineer's Report - Great West Engineering

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

The Mayor said that next meeting there will be a Public Work's Report by Jake Gregory as Rocky Vinton and Matt Swett will be at the Montana Rural Water training March 21-24 in Great Falls working on their CECs and Water Exam.

6. Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

Marc Pryor said that he is moving forward on the Spay & Neuter clinic that will be on June 17th. So far he has secured the motel rooms for the Veterinarians and their Teams. He will be looking through the stored supplies from last year and see what is needed for this year's clinic. Marc Pryor has secured donations from Mountainview Coop for drinks and ice. Volunteers so far on the team to help out are Heather, Shannon, and Shelly. Marc Pryor said that

feral cats have been an issue. Some residents in the past have taken a feral cat to Crazy Mountain Vet and they have vouchers that discount the costs to have the animal spayed or neutered with vaccinations for about \$50. Marc Pryor said that he had a meeting with Race for this Place in hopes that they might be able to donate some funds towards the animal shelter facility. Marc Pryor said that there have been 3 impounds and 1 fine this month. There have been several calls for loose dogs and it will only continue as weather warms up. Marc Pryor said that the Sheriff Department has been doing an outstanding job with letting the Animal Control know about situations and everything worked so smoothly to get the animals handled and back to the owners.

7. Parks Committee Report – Jennifer Frazer

Pattie Berg said that there will be a meeting on March 7th to discuss the Parks with the Mayor, Marc Pryor and the Parks Advisory Committee.

8. Meagher County/City Housing Project Report – Jackson Rose

Terry Taylor said that the first full Committee meeting for the housing project on February 23rd with groups and community participation. There was a discussion on the number of short-term rentals, Airbnb's and VRBO's, versus Long-Term rentals in Town that it is a real concern, as short-term rentals have taken a lot of the housing for working community to live. There was a discussion on the number of vacant houses/lots and how to make use of the empty properties that are just sitting there, putting in more trailer courts, make more work camps available, and the group is actively making a list of all the properties that are vacant in Town to come up with a solution. There was a discussion about Subdivisions with different housing options with the different levels of income. There was a discussion on the City's current infrastructure and the ability to support more housing. The lack of housing is rampant everywhere. The next meeting will be on March 29th at 4:00 pm in the Ambulance Building and future meetings will be targeted for the end of months. Terry Taylor said that Jackson Rose wanted her to remind the Mayor to sign the Scope of Work – Meagher County Housing Project Proposal, he said that he would do that in the morning.

9. Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

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

1. Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones – Request a permanent through traffic street closure of 5th Ave SW between the streets of SW Hancock St and SW Garfield St.

Discussion and/or Action

Continued discussion regarding need for street closure requested by Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) as to their property located between SW Hancock and SW Garfield which straddles 5th Ave SW and their plans for development of this property.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to grant street closure (2 gates) and bring matter back for formal Resolution; or Move to continue matter for further discussion.

The Mayor said that this will be tabled until the next meeting or in April. Susan Wordal said that she has spoken to Ted Jones about the easement street closure petition process. Before acting upon the petition a notice would need to be published stating when the petition would be acted on and what street is being asked to be closed and basically 50% of the owners that are affected by the street closure would need to agree that they are aware of the potential impacts on them and don't have a problem with it.

2. Employment Practices Coverage Renewal 2023 – Authorize Employment Policy Language Change

Discussion and/or Action

Authorize and Approve language change on p. 47 of Employment Policy to conform with Montana law, as requested by MMIA. Change language in **X. 4.b. Termination** from: *Brandishing a firearm or weapon on City property.* To: *Brandishing an unauthorized firearm or weapon on City property.*

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to amend City Employment Policy language to specify “unauthorized” firearm or weapon on p. 47.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to change the language recommendation from MMIA. Pattie Berg motioned to amend the City Employment Policy language to specify “unauthorized” firearm or weapon