

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on November 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 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.

The Mayor asked if there were any Public Comment. President of the Arrowhead Meadows Homeowners Association, Paul Jenkins, approached the Council about landscaping and maintaining the .1 acre triangle where the Arrowhead Lane “Y” ’s at Wall Street. The members want to improve the entrance to the subdivision this springtime. They would like to place a sign in the triangle that the City owns. The Homeowners Association (HOA) will meet and work on a design plan for the entrance sign and landscaping. This will be on the January 8th Agenda.

E. Read & Approve - Accept or Reject Minutes

1. October 2nd 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 October 2nd as presented. Pattie Berg motioned to approve the Regular Session October 2nd minutes as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

2. October 17th 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 October 17th as presented. Pattie Berg motioned to approve the Regular Session and Work Session October 17th minutes as amended. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

F. Receive/Accept Reports

1. Sheriff’s Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

The complaint report was received by the Council members.

The Mayor said that the City received a flyer on 3 solar-powered radar speed signs for \$9,000, the sale ends December 31st. Radar speed signs are designed to slow cars down and make streets safer for everyone and are proven to be effective in getting drivers attention, particularly today’s distracted drivers. Ron Coleman said that he is waiting to speak to Ted Jones at the Department of Transportation to discuss grant funding possibilities.

The Mayor asked Sheriff Jon Lopp if he has heard anything about grant funds. In the past there have been small grants available, but nothing that Jon Lopp has heard of lately.

Pattie Berg suggested that the City look into CTEP funds. The Mayor said that he will ask Great West Engineering about any funding options that might be available.

There was a discussion on the traffic issues by the four-way intersection by the Bank of the Rockies and possibly looking into installing a few signs, or a four way stop signs with flashing lights, or even a roundabout could be an option.

2. Fire Report – Fire Chief – Sam Peeler – No Report.

3. Parks – Pattie Berg reported that Craig Erickson submitted the CDBG Planning Grant November 1st. The next Parks meeting will be on November 9th at City Hall. The Parks Advisory Committee will be reviewing and updating the ordinance code section. It was mentioned that all of the Parks Advisory Committee Agenda and Minutes on the City’s website whitesulphurspringsmontana.com under the Government section. Spike’s Happy Trails has been surveyed by Schauber Surveying and filed with the Clerk & Recorder’s Office at the Courthouse. The next scheduled quarterly City Council meeting on February 5th.

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

1. Water System Draft PER document. Jessica Salo, Gt. West Engineering

Discussion and/or Action

Review and provide comments as to draft document. Provide direction to Engineer and City Attorney as to adoption of PER and submission of reimbursement for planning grants.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to direct City Engineer/City Attorney to bring draft PER back with corrections/additions as discussed for final adoption. OR Move to continue to another meeting.

Jessica Salo emailed out an electronic copy of the draft Water System PER document to the City and a hard copy will be mailed out this week. Jessica Salo said that there was a slight change due to how the SRF loan funding agency works with Cities that do not calculate water rates based on the EDU system like the City, for the upcoming water main transmission project. The change will reduce the expected rate increase from \$4.00 to \$1.50 per month. The Council will be reviewing the document and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

1. Sewer Line Easement Request – 300 block East Larime Property – Bruce Lay

Discussion and/or Action

Applicant is requesting a sewer line easement to connect Lot 7, which is the eastern most portion of the Lay property (Lot 6 is identified as 304 E. Larime and currently has a residential structure), to existing sewer from alley in the 300 block between East Larime and Washington Street. Connection would be to west of property in 3rd Ave. NE sewer line. Proposal does not indicate a new structure or propose any waiver of fees. Review and consider application with diagram.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to authorize installation of sewer service line in alley between Larime and Washington Streets connecting to 3rd Ave. NE sewer line at owner’s expense. OR Move to continue to another meeting.

There was a discussion on the request for a sewer line easement to be run in the alley between Washington and Larime. The options would be to extend the existing sewer line, making it a shared line or to run another line that is parallel to the current line in the alley. The Mayor said that the homeowner said that Rooney’s was supposed to have run a camera thru the existing line but has not seen the results of the marked sewer line with the material of the line. The Council agreed to wait on the decision and see what the landowner found out with the camera results came back as, so that there was not another situation like the line on Houston has been the last two months.

I. Comments/Discussion

1. Future Business

2. Mayor’s Comments—Rick Nelson

The Mayor said that last month’s City Court Report was missed, Judge Lori Sorenson apologized for that, and he said that if anyone has any questions to ask her.

The Mayor said that there have been several communication issues with the construction company working on the water line at the new Hospital site. They laid the 12-inch water line in a different location than on the drawings the City had received. The City wanted it to be on a straight grid flow layout and they laid the line diagonally, of which