

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on October 02, 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. There was not.

E. Read & Approve - Accept or Reject Minutes

1. July 3rd 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 July 3rd as presented. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve the Regular Session July 3rd minutes as presented. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

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

3. August 15th 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 August 15th as presented. Pattie Berg motioned to approve the Regular Session and Work Session August 15th minutes as presented. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

4. August 29th Preliminary Budget 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 Preliminary Budget Session minutes from August 29th as presented. Rick Ellison motioned to approve the Preliminary Budget Session August 29th minutes as presented. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

5. September 5th 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 September 5th as presented. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve the Regular Session September 5th minutes as presented. Pattie Berg seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

6. September 19th 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 September 19th as presented. Ron Coleman motioned to approve the Regular Session and Work Session September 19th minutes as presented. Pattie Berg seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

F. Receive/Accept Reports

1. Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

The September COMM Report was emailed to the Council for review.

2. City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

No Report.

3. Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

Marc Pryor said that there was one dog bite reported. Marc Pryor said that he transported three dogs to the Stafford Animal Shelter in Livingston, of which two have been adopted within 48 hrs. The Stafford Animal Shelter donated 24 kennels and Marc Pryor picked them up and they will be used in the new animal shelter for dogs and in the older animal shelter for the cats. Marc Pryor said that the animal shelter area is now fenced in. Marc Pryor said that electrical, heating, and then the interior of the new building will be the next items to finish up.

4. Housing Report – Terry Taylor

No Report.

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

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

1. Montana League of Cities and Towns – Proposed Dues Increase

Discussion and/or Action

Consider the League proposal for a Dues increase to stabilize services and assistance provided to members and obtain additional resources for growing needs. Proposal: Graduated increase from \$0.48/person to \$2.00/person over a 3-yr period. This will impact the City budget if approved at the League meeting on October 12th.

Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to authorize the Mayor or a designee to vote in favor of this proposal.
OR, Move to authorize the Mayor or designee to oppose the increase.*

The MT League of Cities & Towns have not kept up with the inflation since at least 1981 and costs of services have been increasing ever since and will be asking for a vote to help with more resources, in the October annual League Conference. The increased dues necessary to cover both existing deficiencies and build capacity for providing long-term member services would be accomplished by raising League memberships due from the current \$.48/per person to \$2/per person over a 3-year phased in period. This proposal must be approved by the full membership at the annual meeting to be held during the conference lunch on October 12, 2023 in Helena. By pooling resources, the League can provide the support and advocacy necessary to create and defend efficient and effective municipal government. They are asking the League for the support of Cities & Towns when the proposal is put for a vote. The Mayor asked if there was a motion of support. Pattie Berg motioned to authorize the Mayor or a designee to vote in favor of this proposal in behalf of the City. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: Budget Amendments 2022-2023 by Resolution

a. Accounts 2342 and 2810 Data Entry Corrections: Resolution 2023-11

Discussion and/or Action

Fund 2342 Volunteer Fire Department – Relief Account: No appropriation appeared to reflect the expenditure. Fund 2810 Police Reserve Training: No appropriate appeared to reflect the expenditure. Corrections reflect the appropriation, which originates from a check from the State in the single amount of \$4,684.00, is split to reflect an appropriate of \$2,342.00 into the VFD fund and \$2,342.00 into the Police Training fund.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-11