**APPROVED MINUTES**

The City Council held meeting #1557 on Monday, November 16, 2020, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Brent Teske.

The Pledge of Allegiance was completed, and Roll Call commenced. Present were Mr. Beach (via Zoom), Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith (via Zoom), Mr. Taylor, Mr. Zimmerman (via Zoom), and City Clerk/Treasurer Mr. Sikes. Mrs. Williams was not in attendance.

Mayor Teske welcomed all in attendance, continued without prayer as Mr. Mark Smith was not in attendance.

Approve City Council Meeting minutes for #1553 dated 21 September 2020. Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Mr. Beach, Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith, Mr. Taylor, And Mr. Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

Approve Public Hearing minutes for 21 September 2020. Councilor Dufficy **MADE A MOTION** to approve and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Mr. Beach, Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith, Mr. Taylor, And Mr. Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

Approve City Council Meeting minutes for #1556 dated 2 November 2020. Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve and Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Mr. Beach, Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith, Mr. Taylor, And Mr. Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Announcements:**

There were no new announcements.

**Committee Reports:**

**City Administrator’s Report**: Mayor Teske stated that Mr. Hammons had sent any pertinent reports to the key personnel that would be discussed as reached during the meeting. The Mayor went on to update the Council that the leaf pickup was completed, but that the crew was still driving the small pickup around to catch any stray bags of leaves.

**Fire**: Councilor Zimmerman reported that in October LVFD responded to 7 calls for service. The calls consisted of 2 for the City and 5 in the Rural District. 2 were for vehicles, 1 for structural, 1 for a chimney, 2 for mutual aid and 1 false alarm. This brings the total number of calls to 108 through the end of October.

**Police**: None.

**Resolution/Ordinances**: None.

**Lights/Streets/Sidewalks**: Councilor Beach reported that Noble was finished removing the two platforms from the walking bridge and that crews were dismantling them to repurpose the timbers in repairing the bridge itself, where the fence attaches. New security fencing will be installed once it arrives and the repairs are completed hopefully within the next two weeks depending on the weather.

**Building:** None.

**Water/Sewer**: Councilor Zimmerman reported that the water main replacement in the alley around Idaho and Nevada, near 10th and Bush, should be completed tomorrow. Roughly 50 linear feet of the previous 2” piping had deteriorated and was leaking, so it had to be replaced with a new 8” main. This main replacement meant that six new radio-read meters and meter pits were also being installed. Councilor Zimmerman went on to explain that this replacement was originally going to be completed via a bid that was included in upcoming water project bidding but owing to the extent of the leaking the replacement status had to be upgraded to an emergency. Thus Thompson Contracting was hired to complete the work. Further reclaiming of the alley will have to wait until spring and fairer weather.

Councilor Zimmerman went on to inform the Council that applications were still being received to replace the Wastewater Treatment Operator stating that Friday the 20th of November would be the cutoff for receiving applications.

Councilor Dufficy asked if the old 2” pipe was being replaced with 8” and if the differences would be noticed by the City. Mayor Teske stated that there was 2” main, mostly in the old rural outreach areas, replaced and there would be much better pressure in the hydrants but that homeowners would not realize much change except a small boost in pressure.

**Zoning Commission:** Mayor Teske brought to everyone’s attention that the newly added committee report was next. Councilor Smith informed the Council that the Commission would be meeting on the 30th of November and on the last Monday of the month moving forward. The next meeting will go over the Residential Zoning A and Conditional Use Permit Code 10.17 with nothing else new to report.

Mayor Teske informed everyone that there would be a Public Hearing at 6:30 pm on the 23rd of November to go over the Conditional Use Permit for the Asa Wood Assisted Living facility and asked that the Council refresh themselves with Code 17.10 and the Residential Zoning A.

Councilor Smith stated that everyone should have received the memo on the updates and the recommended course of action, and if not, it could be resent. Councilor Smith then asked if there were any new updates whereas Mayor Teske responded that the only changes is that Gerald Fritts with the Housing Foundation would like to have the meeting via zoom due to Covid-19.

Mr. Sikes stated that he would send out an electronic copy of all the proposed Asa Wood paperwork in the morning tomorrow.

**Cemetery/Parks**: None.

**Finance**: Mr. Sikes informed the Council that the audit with Bob Denning is going well and everything should be completed and returned to the City in the next couple weeks. From there Mr. Sikes stressed the importance of completing the end of year reports due to the State and Federal Government by the 31st of December. Also reported was that Mr. Denning was going to assist the City in bank reconciliation once an e-mail is received showing the problems.

**KRDC**: None.

**City-County Board of Health**: None.

**Park District Manager**: None.

**Public Comment on Non- Agenda Items:**

Mrs. Teri Kelley, 163 Scenery Rd., approached the Council from Flathead Electric to discuss the proposed electric car charging stations now that the State had released the RFA and a deadline to submit of the 11th of January. Teri was excited to identify specific locations on Highways 2 and 93 mentioning that the Libby, Eureka, and Kalispell corridor will apply and work together with other utilities and other locations. Teri stated that by working together all involved would earn more points towards getting the proposal accepted by the State.

Mrs. Kelly went on to express her desire to obtain letters of support from the Council and area business owners speaking to the economic benefits that the charging stations would bring to the area. The same requests will be presented to the Chamber of Commerce as the plan is to put the charging station in the Chamber’s parking lot as that would be an ideal location, just as is planned in Kalispell.

Mrs. Kelly mentioned that Lincoln Electric in Eureka was going to do the same charging station but was unsure of the exact location planned. Teri added that the DEQ operates slowly so there is no way to know when the project could be funded but believes it has a good shot at being accepted.

Mayor Teske asked the Council if they would be interested in submitting a support letter which received resounding agreement with Ms. Smith stating that this would absolutely be a good thing. Mrs. Kelly went on to again say that receiving support letters from local business owners is important if we want to get a high score to increase the odds that the application would be approved.

Councilor Dufficy asked if there was only going to be one charging station in Libby which Mrs. Kelly responded that there would be one station with a Level II and a Level III charger at the same location owing to the State’s redundancy factor.

Councilor Zimmerman questioned if Mr. Sikes had access to the business e-mail list that had been used in the past to request letters then Councilor Smith commented that it may not be appropriate for the City get so involved and that the Reporter in the room should report the request for support adding that Mr. Chisholm may have something to add.

Mr. Chisholm commented that it was probably not illegal for the City to e-mail business owners but that it may appear to be inappropriate in some eyes. Mayor Teske commented that the Council Members know enough business owners that word will spread and saturate without sending an e-mail from the City. Councilor Smith added that the Chamber sends out a weekly letter that would be the optimal way to get the request for support out.

Mrs. Kelly went on to explain that each location will be constructed with one Level II and one Level III charger on site with the ability to expand each location. Councilor Dufficy then questioned the differences between chargers. Teri explained that a Level III charger is a quick charger, taking just 30 minutes to fully charge while the Level II charger is more comparable to a household station taking several hours to completely charge a vehicle averaging 20-30 miles charge per hour.

Councilor Dufficy then asked about sensors or auto shut offs on the electric vehicles worried that car owners will just plug in and leave the vehicle unattended for extended periods. Mrs. Kelly went on the explain that electric vehicles only charge to capacity, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ the location at the Chamber would be perfect as people could go to Rosauers or stay at the Venture while their car was charging and still be close enough to unplug and move the vehicle once charged.

Mayor Teske stated that most electric cars shut off charging once they reached capacity stating that the City will complete a support letter and put the word out for business letters soon.

**New Business:**

**Approve all business licenses received to date.**

Mayor Teske read through the 3 applications. Councilor Taylor **MADE A MOTION** to approve all three licenses and Ms. Smith **SECONDED**.

Mayor Teske commented that he was pleased to see all the new license requests as it means the City is doing well and that the City could always use another tree cutter.

Mr. Beach, Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith, Mr. Taylor, And Mr. Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Unfinished Business**:

**City of Libby Wildlife Management Plan**. Councilor Taylor informed the Council that communication was being held with Tonya and Neil referring to where Mr. Taylor found a refrigeration trailer for sale and how much it had cost from who.

**IP Negotiations**. Mayor Teske said that the EPA and DEQ want to have a Zoom meeting between the City and International Paper to discuss the controlled groundwater area, but no word has been received from International Paper. Mr. Teske informed the Council that Mr. Payne had in fact been out of the country but has since returned and will commence working on it.

**Approve location for vault toilet at the Cross-Country Ski Course.** Mayor Teske informed the Council that he was in contact with Mr. Scott who was getting State Building Permits for the facility next week but has nothing ready to present to the Council at this time as he is researching construction standards and load capacities. Mr. Teske was answered in the affirmative when he asked the Council if they had all received the second draft of the Source Water Delineation and Assessment Report (SWDAR).

**General Comments from Council**:

Mayor Teske spoke as to the number of Covid-19 cases in Libby stating that the infection rate is through the roof with well over 500 cases and well over 200 active cases being reported in folks we know and are close to so to be cautious and safe.

Mayor Teske, Councilor Dufficy and Councilor Smith entered a conversation. Mr. Dufficy questioned age break-downs for Covid-19 infection and the Mayor stating that with the current workload, the Libby Health Department is not publishing the age brackets in e-mails as of late, adding that the State is hiring Contact Tracing workers right now.

Councilor Smith spoke to Covid-19 age ranges across the board mentioning that age brackets were included in the past but not in the last few posts. Ms. Smith also informed the Council that Libby school students are now remote learning from home for the next two weeks. Ms. Smith spoke of the impact of how swamped the Health Department is and about how the working parents are now having to make work and childcare arrangements. Mayor mentioned that the Eureka schools were also out but was unsure of Troy’s status.

**Adjournment:**

Councilor Dufficy **MADE A MOTION** to Adjourn and Councilor Smith **SECONDED.**

Mr. Beach, Mr. Dufficy, Ms. Smith, Mr. Taylor, And Mr. Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

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Mayor Brent Teske Clerk/Treasurer Samuel Sikes