

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2022
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL & ZOOM

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM & AT CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, May 16, 2022. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Kacie Fey, and Cesar Morales. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Building Inspector Yeagley, Police Chief Schultz and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Vernon Thomas, Tom Shock, Kim Stoltz, Nate Kavanaugh and Bernice Koelbl

ABSENT: Councilperson Vermulm

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vernon Thomas asked what the outcome of the discussion with the engineers had been concerning the possibility of getting a wind turbine to generate the City's electricity. Mayor Winchell has been too busy to get with the engineers on this topic, but she will talk to them soon.

Kim Stoltz asked if there was funding for new trees at the parks or replacement of old playground equipment. Superintendent Suta responded, informing her of the park maintenance fund which is used specifically for this type of item.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss asked if the speed sign located by the school could be repaired. The wires were ripped out and it is not working, despite the efforts of the street crew. Councilperson Curtiss fears that by allowing it to be broken we may be out of compliance since it was paid for with grant funding. City Superintendent Suta said he would investigate it.

CLAIMS: Councilperson Fey moved to approve the claims through May 12, 2022, for \$123,011.29, including warrants 60232-60276. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2022, meeting, and the payroll from May 12, 2022, for \$82,735.86. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Fey seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the report. Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Judge Berkram gave a report on how the shared usage of the City Court with the Justice, Standing Master, and District Courts is going. It appears to be that they will be sharing for a while longer as the County Courthouse is still not usable. Testing was done and the results showed that it was not yet inhabitable. The County has used the courtroom about nine times and there haven't been any problems. Council would like another report in a month.

Kim Stoltz requested permission to plant two green ash trees at the park by the school and the community garden. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to allow the planting and Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

Nate Kavanaugh, Cut Bank Chamber President, presented the Chamber's rebranding Cut Bank project to the Council. This originated from ideas from the Reimaging Rural meetings. They have received a \$2,000 grant to kick off the project and would like the City to contribute \$1,500 toward the cost, estimated at \$18,000. The goal is to have this done by next year's tourist season. Chamber will be going to other entities for funding as well. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to partner with the Chamber without any financial support at this time. Councilperson Morales seconded the motion. A vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.** The vote to donate funding will be put on the next agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Winchell explained to the Council that the artwork displayed around the room is submissions for a contest. The first-year art class was asked to submit paintings for a contest in which the winners would have their artwork made into pole banners to decorate Main Street. There were 23 paintings submitted. Council took a break and voted for their favorite paintings. When the votes are calculated, the top eight will be displayed for the public to vote on the week of May 30, 2022.

The community survey that was created by Great West Engineering as part of the growth policy update was reviewed and suggestions were made to improve it. There will be a meeting of the Cut Bank Stakeholders next Monday, May 23, 2022, to discuss the survey.

The website is being updated but it is not yet to a level that the Council can review.

City Superintendent Suta reported that the pool coating, installed last year, has failed. The grout work still looks good, but the coating needs to be replaced. The Superintendent is working with the company as it should have lasted much longer. With the Swim Team needing to practice in early June and holding their swim meet in June, Superintendent Suta recommends opening the pool as scheduled and then closing it early in August to make the repairs. Projected opening will be June 6, 2022.

Mayor Winchell also reported that she is talking to First Interstate Bank about the possible purchase of their Main Street building to use for City offices, police department and court offices. Talks are in the early stages, but we have ARPA funds which could be used for the purpose of bringing all City departments, except public works, into one building.

Mayor Winchell went before the County Commissioners this morning and asked for \$1, 047,000 of ARPA minimum allocation funds from the County for our water tank project. The project has a deficit of \$2 million after funding we have received. If we can get this funding, it would bring the amount of a rate increase down from \$7.50 per customer to around \$3.00 per customer. This money is only to be used for infrastructure and nobody has asked for it yet. Mayor Winchell was informed at the Commissioner's meeting that they just received a request for \$200,000 for another entity, but they would consider both requests. Great West Engineering would do all the work on the grant reporting so the County would not be getting any additional work. Commissioners will speak with Glacier County CFO Chancy Kittson about it.

Great West Engineering needs to have approval for several draws for the water project this week for the funds to be disbursed before the loan closing which is set for June 1, 2022. For this reason, there will be a special Council meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, to approve these draws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Superintendent Suta reported that the City of Shelby will be continuing their membership in the Tri-City Interlocal for another year. The shop has been cleaned up. They will not be using the jet truck for water leaks, however, as this use lessens the life of the equipment. Shelby bought their own vac truck to use for this reason. Supervisors will meet monthly now instead of quarterly and will review the hours the equipment has been used and the condition of the equipment.

Councilperson Fey told the Council that she has been unable to attend any of the Transit Interlocal meetings as they are held at times she is unavailable. Council will need to reappoint someone who will be available to attend the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kimberly Winchell, Mayor

