

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 6, 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 Kim Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, June 6, 2022. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Kim Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, and Kacie Fey. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, Building Inspector Jim Yeagley, City Attorney Smith, Police Chief Schutz, and Clerk Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Scot Heisel of Ponderosa Publications, Vernon Thomas, Kim Stoltz, Sam McCleod

ABSENT: Cesar Morales (excused)

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**CLAIMS: Councilperson Fey moved to approve the claims through June 3, 2022, for \$529,429.17 warrants 60277-60322. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 3-0.**

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the May 16, 2022, minutes, the May 18, 2022, minutes, and the payroll from May 26, 2022, for \$74,188.57. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

**Superintendent Suta** reported that Burlington Northern wants us to case the entire line that runs through their property to get a permit. This is not possible if they want water from the line. Discussions are ongoing and Joel Pilcher will contact Superintendent Suta once a decision is made by BN. A resident asked if the fire hydrant on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be replaced as it is not working. Superintendent Suta replied that it will be replaced. We have hydrants in stock. It may not be replaced at the same location though. Superintendent Suta assured everyone that if a hydrant is not working, the fire department is aware of it and has enough hose to reach the area from another hydrant. The street crew will be shooting oil next week while they are trained on the new Tri-City equipment. The other cities will have a crew here to be trained as well. With the much-inflated cost of supplies the Council will have to decide soon whether to increase the amount they levy or they do less each year. Resident Sam McCleod stated that he sees City Police and County Sheriffs using their cell phones while driving on duty. Police Chief Schultz added that while law enforcement has an exemption for the law, he will remind his officers to use their Bluetooth connections while driving. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Superintendent's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

**City Attorney Smith** reported that he is remarkably busy and falling behind because his secretary is gone due to an emergency. He is keeping up with City Court cases but has little time for anything else. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the City Attorney's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None. Vernon Thomas asked to address the Council on an issue that he believes is old business. He asked for an update on the research into possible wind power. Mayor Winchell explained that she had spoken with our engineers and wind power is not in their wheelhouse, so they will consult with someone who knows more on the topic. At this point, there is nothing more to report, and it will likely take some time before we have anything else to report.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the variance request at 402 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion.** The owner moved the corner of his fence so that it was not within twelve' of the corner, satisfying the conditions of the City County Planning Board. **A vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Kim Stoltz requested permission to sell canned beer at the Farmer's Market this summer. Councilperson Curtiss told her that to make any changes to the sale of alcohol in Cut Bank, the Council must pass a resolution. Such a resolution must include the name of the seller and every date that it will be selling beer. Ms. Stoltz told the Council it would be from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM every Wednesday from June 29, 2022, through September 14, 2022. City Attorney Smith said he would have the resolution ready for approval at the next meeting.

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve Resolution 2022-02, the grant and loan resolution for the Airport Authority. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion.** City Attorney Smith explained that there will be no cost to the City for the over \$600,000 of improvements to be made at the airport. This resolution is required for the grant. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Appointment of representative on the Transit Interlocal** was tabled until we have a full Council present.

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the Draw for \$157,286 from SRF Loan Forgiveness, \$142,255 from LRF B Loan, and \$1,729 from the DNRC grant. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion.** These draws are for the current water project. **Motion passed 3-0.**

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the building inspector's contract to begin next month. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

Mayor Winchell reported to the Council that she will be donating \$1,500 to the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce for the rebranding Cut Bank project. There are funds in the budget.

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve awarding the contract for the water storage tank project to DN Tanks of Montana, as recommended by engineer Joel Pilcher. Councilperson Fey seconded motion. Motion was approved 3-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Winchell reported that 14 Colorado Blue Spruce trees have been ordered for the dog park. The City Crew will pick them up and plant them. They will be planted on Thursday. Councilperson Curtiss asked that the labor be billed in a compliant way and not be taken out of the park maintenance fund. Superintendent Suta stated that there is money in the General Fund parks budget for this. Kim Stoltz asked if the City could make the dog park an official City Park and City Attorney Smith answered that they could designate it as a park quite easily. Vernon Thomas offered his help with the planting of the trees. He has the equipment to dig round holes for trees. He will contact Superintendent Suta to discuss details.

Mayor Winchell displayed the winning paintings for the pole banner contest. There will be four designs made into pole banners to hang in Cut Bank.

The Glacier County Commissioners will be hearing from Mayor Winchell at their next meeting, June 9, 2022, as she is on their agenda. She will be asking them for a decision regarding her request for the one million dollars from the minimum allocation grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: City Superintendent Suta reported that the Northern MT Regional Refuse District was audited and received no findings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kim Stoltz asked if the City had plans to update repair the old ice-skating rink by the Community Garden. There was a skating pond there and there is a shed there that was used as a warming area. She would like to see it worked on to be more attractive. She was told that it belongs to the School District, and it would be their responsibility to care for it.

Sam McCleod asked if there was anything going to be done by the City to clean up the Burned Glacier Motel. It was explained to him that it is private property and the responsibility of the owner to remediate the clean-up. It was also reported that the EPA is working with Sweetgrass Development to get it cleaned up.

Vernon Thomas asked if anyone had reached out to Llew Jones to see if any of the excess marijuana tax could be used by the City to help fund the upcoming water tank project. No contact had been made to the legislator about this issue.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

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Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

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Kim Winchell, Mayor