

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 21, 2023
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 7:26 PM, Monday, February 21, 2023, immediately following the public hearing on the proposed annexation of properties located along Railroad Street. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, Kacie Fey, and John Reynolds. 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: None

ABSENT: None

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Councilperson Vermulm asked if the clean up of the Glacier Motel property was a done deal. Pending an unforeseen disaster, the EPA is planning on funding the clean up to be done this summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CLAIMS: Councilperson Vermulm moved to approve the claims through February 17, 2023, for \$108,579.55, including warrants 60944-60974. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Fey moved to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023, meeting, payroll from February 16, 2023, for \$82,606.90, and October financials for \$9,314,821.54, and the November financials for \$9,326,364.51. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

A short break was taken from the meeting. After 10 minutes, the meeting resumed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief

Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. The report stated that during the month of January, the department answered 294 calls for service, which included 31 cases and 8 felonies. Forty-three citations were written including 24 Criminal, 17 Traffic and 2 Ordinance Violations. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

Councilperson Fey moved to accept the report. Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

Councilperson Fey moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the amendment to the City Policy Manual, under Section 20 – Workplace Violence. Changes made were the addition of the work "Unauthorized" in the handgun section, and the addition of Juneteenth to the recognized holidays. **Councilperson Reynolds seconded the motion that carried 4-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

The annexation plan was discussed. Councilperson Vermulm pointed out that fires out of city limits are not paid for by the City. If a fire occurs in the area proposed for annexation, the property owners will be billed for fire service. This is quite costly. It is also unknown if the ISO rating is different in this area. If it is, these property owners could be paying more for their insurance than they would be if they were in City limits.

Building Inspector Yeagley pointed out some items that were not mentioned in the public hearing. Annexation would create jobs, help with City beautification, etc. And these businesses will also benefit from these areas.

City Attorney Smith stated he does not believe that the State would take away an existing liquor license if the business was annexed. He will check with the Department of Revenue to get a concrete answer.

City Superintendent Suta reported to the Council that they will be having to make some zoning decisions at the next meeting.

Plowing snow into the streets was discussed. The general rule has always been that if you plow it, you need to remove it. The City will pick up piles left on the parking lane of streets, but snow plowed into the driving lanes or not piled but simply plowed into parking lanes will be removed at the expense of the property owner who plowed the snow into the street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

City Superintendent Suta reported that he attended the refuse district meeting. Trash blowing off the district's property is becoming a big problem. The district plans to put up a 21' fence

around their property to keep this from happening. Blown trash will be picked up later when the weather is more welcoming.

Councilperson Vermulm attended the Port Authority meeting. The lawsuit is still ongoing but other business is being done as usual.

Mayor Winchell reported that she attended the Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting. She met with Chamber President Stephanie Eney after the meeting and discussed the Main Street Montana Program. The City will be taking over the reporting and administration of the Program. The Mayor and Chamber President will be meeting often to work together of upcoming projects.

In another work session, it was reported by Mayor Winchell, that a letter had been sent by the City Superintendent to the property owners of 10 South Central. The letter gave them 30 days to clean up the alley behind the building. If it is not remediated in that time, the City will clean it up and will charge the property owners. If unpaid, the charges will be placed on the property's taxes. It stressed that it is ultimately the responsibility of the owner to assure that tenants do not litter in the alley.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Kimberly Winchell, Mayor

