

**CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Raemaeker called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, September 18, 2017. The following Council members answered roll call: Councilpersons Timothy Curtiss, Donovan Grubb, Tim Kipp, and Tyson Michaels. Also present were City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Burley, City Superintendent Jim Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Police Chief Schultz and Building Inspector Kevin Quinlan. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: From Ideal Options: Geoffrey Godfrey, Wendy Manthy, Larry Nye, Tom White and local employees Bryce Flammond and Jessica Solberg. See attached sign-in sheet for other visitors.

Mayor Raemaeker explained that the public hearing on the 2017-2018 budgets would begin after a question and answer period with the visitors representing Ideal Options.

Geoffrey Godfrey explained that suboxone is used to treat many drug addictions. Not every addict is a good candidate for this type of treatment. It is determined on a case by case basis. There are no meds on site at the clinic and there is a 24-hour process between the clinic visit and the actual prescription. The frequency of visits varies from patient to patient and ranges from daily visits to up to 3 weeks between visits. It was also explained that suboxone does not make a person "high".

Cheri Taylor, Northern Rockies Medical Center, asked if there is a practitioner on site all the time. The answer was given that yes, there is a practitioner on site every day. She also asked about the long-term plan to get patients to graduate. It was explained that every patient has a goal set with the doctor, and the completion of "Level 7" was an ultimate goal. Some patients can meet this goal and be weaned off suboxone while others continue to take it.

Other questions raised were what percentage of clients live in Cut Bank and if some patients are on suboxone for a lifetime. Approximately one third of their clients live in Cut Bank. Representatives of Ideal Options said that some patients will be on suboxone for their lifetime.

Renee Paulson gave a personal testimony regarding her success in the suboxone program. She began her recovery by going to the Great Falls location and is thankful that she can now receive treatment here in Cut Bank.

Jeff Billman asked the representatives if they would want a suboxone facility to be located a block from their children's school. He stated that the location is not a good location and he believes that the money they are spending on the police officer could go toward securing another location.

Doug Norman pointed out that none of the medical professionals are from Cut Bank. He said that if they are so concerned about our community, maybe they should move here and live here.

Keith McDivitt asked what hours the clinic is open. They are open from 7:30 am until 5:00 pm on Monday through Thursday and they are closed to patients on Fridays. He asked where each medical professional was living and pointed out that none of them live in this community. He asked if they would provide objective data showing their success. They agreed to provide the data. Mr. McDivitt also asked why, if two thirds of their patients are from somewhere else, they didn't locate their clinic closer to this majority of their clients.

Jennifer Bird gave a personal testimonial about how she had been drug-free after an addiction, only to become addicted again after surgery. She recounted the struggle to get clean again and how little help she found with treatment. She did not use a suboxone program but was glad to see the program available now.

Gail Wagner told the Council of hitchhiking to the Great Falls location when she first became a patient. She appreciates having the clinic closer.

Ray Christiaens believes that the unsuccessful patients are the ones who are bringing an undesirable element to town. He understands addiction, but believes it would be best if the clinic was outside of city limits.

Lori Gerstenberger asked if the urine sampling is observed and if the meds prescribed are strips or tabs. It was explained that patients are observed while giving urine. The prescriptions are usually for the strips, but there are some instances where the tabs are prescribed.

Kim Norman questioned the crime report statistics. She asked if the figures for years previous to 2017 were full years and if so, were they being compared to only 9 months of 2017. Chief Schultz said yes, it was comparing a partial year (2017) to previous full years. He showed more detailed records to Mrs. Norman.

Brandi McDonough asked if counseling is required, then is a follow-up done to assure that the counseling has been done. Mr. Godfrey stated that no follow up is done.

Several residents raised the question of why the community is not concerned about alcohol abuse but is concerned about suboxone treatment.

Keith McDivitt told everyone that these types of meetings are very good because it gets everyone talking about these problems and solutions. He is happy that we have a respectful community that can disagree and still be respectful.

Mayor Raemaeker thanked the public, as well as the Ideal Options representatives, for attending the meeting. There was a 10 minute break before the 2017-2017 Budgets Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MILLS LEVIED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET MAINTENANCE, STREET LIGHTING AND MILLS LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2017-2018

City Attorney Smith swore in Clerk-Treasurer Burley. City Attorney Smith asked Clerk-Treasurer Burley if she had responsibilities in her position of Clerk-Treasurer regarding the advertising of public hearings. Clerk-Treasurer Burley answered yes and explained that she must advertise for two weeks in the local newspaper. City Attorney Smith asked Clerk-Treasurer Burley if she had done so and if she had the affidavit of publication for this advertising. Clerk-Treasurer Burley responded yes. City Attorney Smith then asked her if she had received any public comment concerning the mill levy for street lighting and she responded that no comments have been received.

City Attorney Smith then swore in City Superintendent Suta. City Attorney Smith asked Superintendent Suta if he had responsibilities regarding the budgeting of the Street Maintenance Districts. Superintendent Suta explained that he was charged with deciding on the financial needs of each street district and those needs would be the same as last year. City Attorney Smith asked Superintendent Suta if he also had responsibilities regarding the budgeting of the Street Lighting. Superintendent Suta responded that he also was in charge of figuring the financial needs of the Street Lighting and they were also the same as last year.

City Attorney Smith said it was time for public comment. Having asked twice for public comment and hearing no comment, City Attorney Smith closed the public hearing.

CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through September 13, 2017 for \$154,777.62. Councilperson Grubb seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Michaels moved to approve the City Council Minutes from September 5, 2017 and the September 7, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$80,757.05. Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Schultz presented his report to the Council. Councilperson Kipp moved to approve the Police Chief's report. Councilperson Michaels seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Building Inspector's Report: Building Inspector Quinlan presented his monthly report. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the Building Inspector's Report. Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Michaels moved to approve the contract with Ideal Options for the police officer. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. It was explained that Cavin Fields' employment depends on this contract. If it is not approved, then Officer Fields will no longer be employed. His continued employment, if the contract is approved, is dependent on the continuation of the contract. We have a 30 option to break the contract and if broken, Officer Fields' employment will end. Ideal Options agrees to pay for Officer Field's academy training and all associated costs. Councilperson Curtiss requested that Chief Schultz address this issue in his monthly reports and Chief Schultz agreed. **The vote was called and the motion carried 3-1 with Councilperson Michaels voting against the approval of the contract.**

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve Resolution 17-10 Levy for Street Lighting. Councilperson Grubb seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Councilperson Curtiss made a motion to approve Resolution 17-11 Levy for Street Maintenance Districts 1-4. Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilperson Grubb moved to approve Resolution 17-13 to Approve the Final 2017-2018 Budget. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Curtiss and carried 4-0.

Correspondence: None

WORK SESSION: Further discussion was held on how to work to resolve any problems that may arise with Ideal Options in the future.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 9:26 PM.**

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Dan Raemaeker, Mayor