

**CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 5, 2019  
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Dan Raemaeker called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, August 5, 2019. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Raemaeker, Councilpersons Timothy Curtiss, Donovan Grubb, Tim Kipp and Erik Nelson. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, and City Attorney Robert Smith, Police Chief Schultz and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ABSENT:** None**VISITORS:** City Judge Carolyn Berkram, Josh and Amber Simonds, LeAnne Kavanaugh and Tanya Harper**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:** None**CLAIMS:**

**Councilperson Kipp moved to approve the payment of claims through August 1, 2019 for \$151,903.55; Warrants 57628-67667. Councilperson Curtiss seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Councilperson Curtiss made the motion to approve the minutes from July 22, 2019 meeting, payroll for July 25, 2019 - \$88,886.78. Councilperson Grubb seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

City Superintendent Suta presented his report to the Council. He has added 2 items to his preliminary budget. These are to buy materials to repair streets where the damage was caused by the water project, and to meet state requirements in the Gas Tax Fund. Everything is going fine. When asked about the repair of Main Street by the State, Jim responded that he has been working on it with the State. **Councilperson Grubb motioned to accept the City Superintendent's Report and Councilperson Kipp seconded. The motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None****NEW BUSINESS:**

Tanya Harper addressed the Council about the past due utility bill of the Big Sky Café, that was transferred into her name. She would like the bill forgiven. She was not contacted about the bill being past due and feels that the City did not follow policy by continuing service with a large delinquency. She stated that she acted as the bank in the sale of the property. She feels that service should have been disconnected when they first became delinquent and she doesn't feel she should be responsible for the bill. Clerk-Treasurer Burley explained that Montana law dictates that utility bills always follow the property. If a property goes back to the bank, the bank then pays the delinquent utility bills. More detailed information will be prepared for the next meeting so the Council has all the details before taking any action. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to table the discussion to the next regular meeting and Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Councilperson Grubb moved to approve Water Draw SRF #6 for \$133,580.00. Councilperson Nelson seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.**

**WORK SESSION:**

The budget was discussed with several suggestions for ways to cut expenditures in the General Fund. The General Fund still needs some trimming to be in balance. Department Heads were asked to meet with Mayer Raemaeker and prepare a budget that could be presented to the Council at a special meeting. Councilperson Kipp would like to see Department Heads present a budget with confidence that it will be balanced. There will be a special meeting on August 15, 2019, at 6:30 pm, at which the budget will be once again presented.

The SRO Mill Levy election failed by 52 votes. Chief Schultz asked the Council to allow him to hire a seventh officer. He has 6 interviews scheduled for tomorrow, August 6, 2019. He believes he can raise the funds to support the seventh officer and wishes to hire tomorrow from his qualified applicants. While this is not an action item on tonight's agenda, Council was in agreement to go ahead and hire the officer. Chief Schultz plans to try for another mill levy in 2 years and will attempt to raise the funds needed to support the seventh officer for the next 2 years until such election can be held.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.** The next special meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

**Attest:**

**Approve:**

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Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

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Dan Raemaeker, Mayor