

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 16, 2021
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL & ZOOM

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM & AT CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilperson Curtiss called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, February 16, 2021. The following persons answered roll call: Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Mike Wineman, Doug Vermulm, and Kim Winchell. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Police Chief Mike Schultz, Building Inspector Jim Yeagley, City Judge Carolyn Berkram and Utility Billing Clerk Cheri Bundy. Councilpersons Curtiss, Wineman, Vermulm and Winchell attended City Hall to allow the public to join the meeting in person. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Allister Bunch

ABSENT: Mayor Raemaeker and City Clerk-Treasurer Lina Burley

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLAIMS: Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the claims through February 11, 2021 for \$84,546.85. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes, and the payroll from February 4, 2021 for \$80,874.06. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Schultz reported that January had slowed down a bit, so they were able to use the time to catch up on active cases and investigations; during the recent cold snap, all the vehicles had no issues; and there are no openings for COPS grants at this time. He will be down two officers at the end of the month and is starting the hiring process. There are a lot of good applicant's so far. He would like to put together an interview panel for March 24th and 25th, consisting of Mayor Raemaeker, City Attorney Smith, a Councilperson, and two officers from the P.D. Councilperson Curtiss volunteered for the position. Chief Schultz gave a shout out to Jim and his Crew for their speedy response to help when needed. **Councilperson Vermulm moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Building Inspector Yeagley reported that there have been no new permits issued and he will be attending a training in two weeks. **Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the Building Inspector's report. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

There was no Clerk Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Yolanda Himley was not present to voice her BNSF complaints.

Police Chief Schultz made a proposal to the Council regarding the need for more officers to help with the workload. The crime in Cut Bank is comparable to that of cities with ten to fifteen officers. He knows that the SRO is important to have in the school, but the school agreed that it is a position no longer needed as before. The administrative assistant position has opened, and he has decided not to fill it but to distribute the duties amongst the officers. He has been doing it currently with no problems. Katie said that she would work on a contract basis when needed, as the interviewer and transcriber should not be the same person. With these two changes, it would free up the funds to have a full-time officer who is not tied to another entity. No budget amendment would be needed for this year. If passed, he would be full staffed by mid-April. **Councilperson Wineman made the motion to approve the Police Chief's Proposal to eliminate the SRO officer and add a 7th officer on the force. Councilperson Winchell made the second. Motion carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Councilperson Curtiss adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Cheri Bundy, Utility Billing Clerk

Timothy Curtiss, Councilperson