

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
March 15, 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:

Mayor Dan Raemaeker called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, March 1, 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, City Judge Carolyn Berkram and Utility Billing Clerk Cheri Bundy. Councilpersons Curtiss, Wineman, Winchell, and Vermulm attended City Hall to allow the public to join the meeting in person. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Allister Bunch, Nate and Ashley Kavanagh
Brenda Schilling – ZOOM

ABSENT: City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Burley

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ashley Kavanagh spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. There are two interested parties looking at the Public Drug building. She asked the Council if the City would be able to give the new investor support in any way since it is a huge economic investment. City Superintendent Suta stated that there is a tax break over 5 years that is extended to them. They would just need to approach the Council with a request. Ashley also questioned if something could be done about the high water and sewer prices. Superintendent Suta said that the meter could be changed from a 1 inch to a 5/8 inch and that would lower the bill. Councilperson Vermulm added that since it is directly on the main line, it should work fine with a 5/8-inch meter. The City will oversee tearing down the next-door Merc building for parking space.

Brenda Schilling inquired of City Superintendent Suta what the new business is that was mentioned at the last meeting. He said that Family Dollar Store will be building just below Pizza Hut.

CLAIMS:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through March 11, 2021 for \$92,231.87. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the March 1, 2021 minutes, and the payroll from March 4, 2021 for \$85,952.79. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Schultz reported that the testing for new officers is going on and there are some good candidates. The force has been busy wrapping some lingering investigations. He has added two reserve officers and has been keeping them busy: former officers William Harrell, and Josh Simonds. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Chief of Police report and Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Building Inspector Yeagley said that he has received the building plans for the Family Dollar Store. Councilperson Curtiss asked what needs to be done regarding the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code which is effective February 13, 2021. Mr. Yeagley responded that the Mayor just signs the document and announces to the Council that it is done. The only thing the Montana Department of Labor & Industry needs from us is a copy of the minutes from the meeting that it was announced at. City Attorney Smith will draw up the papers for the Mayor to sign. **Councilperson Wineman moved to approve the Building Inspector's report. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION:

Councilperson Winchell announced that there is a 2021 Community Challenge Grant available, and she would like to see us try for it to improve the dog park. There is only four weeks to apply, and with help, she would gladly be the primary contact to put it together.

Mayor Raemaeker spoke with Craig Erikson regarding grants for the fire department's aging equipment. The air system is failing, and the oldest fire truck is unsafe to ride on the back of. There is only room for two people to respond to a fire in this truck. He found just this morning that the City of Cut Bank will be receiving \$741,000 from the American Rescue Plan Government funding to be used for public safety items. We will get half this year and half next year. We need to get the department heads together and plan ways to best utilize the money.

Councilperson Vermulm made the comment that the fire department just finished a good training that opened their eyes to how unsafe and outdated their equipment really is. Their masks and tanks are outdated and becoming more dangerous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Wineman reported that he will be attending the Water Committee meeting on March 23rd.

Police Chief Schultz reported on the Health Board Committee. The Covid cases are down because people are making wise choices.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Cheri Bundy, Utility Billing Clerk

Dan Raemaeker, Mayor