

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 16, 2020
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA TELEPHONE

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 16, 2020. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Raemaeker, Councilpersons Tim Curtiss, Doug Vermulm, Tim Kipp and Erik Nelson. Also present, via phone, were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Police Chief Schultz, Building Inspector Jim Yeagley and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: Asked to identify themselves, others in attendance on the call were: Carolyn Berkram, LeAnne Kavanagh, Senator Butch Gillespie and Pat Thronson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through March 12, 2020 for \$128,319.12, which includes warrants 58310-58344 and electronic warrants -99882 to -99883. Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0. Roll Call votes were taken throughout the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the March 2, 2020 minutes and the payroll from March 5, 2020 for \$79,434.72. Councilperson Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Schultz presented his report. They experienced an average number of calls last month. The partnership with the FBI is paying off. They were able, teamed up with the GCSO, FBI and Border Patrol, to serve a search warrant for a woman selling drugs out of her home. The search was fruitful and charges of distribution of dangerous drugs will be made shortly. They were also successful in indicting a man who was caught with 120 grams of methamphetamine. He was federally indicted and will now face a life in prison. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Building Inspector Yeagley reported that he has 4 permits that are ongoing and 3 new permits. Ongoing permits include 131 5th Ave SW, 314 East Main, and 20 9th Ave. SE, while the new permits are for 411 Circle Drive, 126 2nd Ave SE, and 601 West Main. The 601 West Main is McDonalds and they will be doing a \$200,000 remodel. **Councilperson Nelson moved to approve the Building Inspector's report. Councilperson Kipp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Nelson asked Senator Butch Gillespie spoke to the Council regarding possible actions that the State can take in helping Glacier County

citizens with problems the Airport Authority is having getting funding from the County. Senator Gillespie told the Council that the State doesn't want to jump in the middle of things before it's their time to get involved. At the moment nothing can be done by the State. There may be some emergency money available to the Airport Authority and he is looking into possible channels.

City Attorney Smith doesn't believe that a loan situation will work since the County has to funds to repay loans and it appears that they will not have funds for that in the near future. There is no law that would keep the City from giving money to the Airport Authority as a gift. City Attorney Smith is looking for donations to the Airport Authority. He has no firm commitments but has spoken with potential donors. He discussed the possibility of having the County Commissioners charged with Dereliction of Duties, whereas the Commissioners would be removed from office. The County has not given any money to the Airport Authority despite their promise to fund it with general fund monies.

Councilperson Nelson reported that he spoke with Senator Llew Jones and the Senator felt we should declare this as a medical emergency. We could draft a letter explaining the emergency and there may be funds available, either from the State or some other source. This letter would be submitted to the Montana Attorney General. A complaint has already been filed by the Glacier Country Library regarding the Commissioners misappropriating dedicated funds.

Councilperson Curtiss would like to see the Commissioners charged. He asked if the City could grant funds to the Airport Authority. City Attorney Smith stated the State of Montana does not prohibit the gifting of funds from the City to another entity. Councilperson Curtiss suggested that City Attorney Smith draft a letter to be sent to the Attorney General. City Attorney Smith stated he is pretty jammed up right now. Councilperson Nelson said that he would attend the meeting with the Airport Authority tomorrow and would draft the letter himself for the Council to review and sign. City Attorney Smith stated he would appreciate it.

Councilperson Nelson asked the Council if they would want to continue to support an entity that will eventually have to close due to lack of funding from the County. Or would it be better to let the closure happen. City Attorney Smith stated that the loans made by the FFA would then become due and the City would have a huge financial obligation. Closure of the airport would likely mean UPS moving out of town, as well as a loss of Mercy Flight and other medical people being flown in.

Councilperson Kipp is also concerned about not recouping any money we use to help them out. City Attorney Smith said it would be unlikely that we would ever recoup the funds.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 6:00 PM at the Airport.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

WORK SESSION: Mayor Raemaeker talked about the union negotiation process to the Council. He explained the handout he emailed to the Council. It shows the trend of taxes being paid to the general fund and the wage increases in the past few years. Mayor Raemaeker would like to have the Council review the handout and we will discuss it again next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilperson Kipp reported that the Chamber is talking about cancelling the Chamber Banquet in April. Nothing has been finalized yet but he will let us know if it is cancelled or postponed. The next Chamber meeting will be April 8th.

City Superintendent Suta attended the Garbage District meeting. The only problems they have is getting reports from the County so they can balance their books.

Police Chief Schultz reported that the Port Authority met. The Museum applied for a \$10,000 grant to work on their bathroom for their B & B experience. They also wanted funds for an ice cream truck.

Chief Schultz also met with the Health Task Force about the Coronavirus social distancing. He will update the Council by email when they are done.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

Dan Raemaeker, Mayor