

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 18, 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 Raemaeker called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, October 18, 2021. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Raemaeker, Councilpersons Mike Wineman, Kim Winchell, Tim Curtiss and Doug Vermulm. Also present were City Superintendent James Suta, City Attorney Robert Smith, Building Inspector Yeagley, Police Chief Schultz and Clerk-Treasurer Burley. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Matt Connors, Kim Stoltz, Helen McConnaughey, Chrissy Grimm, Mike Henry, and Vernon Thomas. Sarah Converse of Sweetgrass Development attended via Zoom.

ABSENT: None

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**CLAIMS: Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the claims through October 14, 2021, for \$319,585.03, including warrants 723-59769. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.**

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

**Councilperson Winchell moved to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2021, meeting, payroll from September 16, 2021, for \$76,197.25, July financials for \$7,811,859.15, August financials for \$7,748,175.10 and the September financials for \$7,901,050.81. Councilperson Curtiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Schultz reported that during August the Police Department responded to 308 calls for service, investigated 37 cases with 12 felonies, made 29 arrests and issued 41 citations. They are currently 2 officers short, but they have testing and interviews next Wednesday. Officer Page completed his LEQ course and is now POST certified.

**Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the Police Chief's report and Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

Building Inspector Yeagley presented his report.

**Councilperson Wineman moved to accept the report. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported to the Council

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

**Growth Policy Update:** Great West Engineering sent us 3 growth policies that were completed recently so that the Council can review them and make suggestions to Great West of items they would like to see included or excluded. Great West applied for a CDBG grant for 75% of the cost of the updated policy.

**Mike Henry**, owner of Springhill Apartments, addressed the Council about a variance which would allow him to place containers on his property. With the current shortage and high prices on these containers, he is considering building a wooden storage shed instead. This would not require a variance, so Mr. Henry will not at this time need a variance.

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve the variance request of Vernon Thomas. Councilperson Winchell seconded the motion. Councilperson Curtiss told the Council that the City County Planning Board had met, and they recommended that the variance be granted. A vote was called and passed 4-0.**

Approval of the Drug Testing Contract with Mobile Testing with Integrity: **Councilperson Winchell moved to approve the contract and Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion.** Councilperson Curtiss asked City Attorney Smith if he recommends signing it and he stated that he had not reviewed it. **Councilperson Curtiss moved to amend the motion to table the approval until next meeting when Mr. Smith would have a recommendation. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.**

**Councilperson Curtiss moved to approve Resolution 21-21 to request BaRSAA funds. Councilperson Wineman seconded the motion. A vote was called, and motion carried 4-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

## WORK SESSION:

**Glacier Motel Update:** City Attorney Smith told the Council that Mr. Burlingame had changed his mind and had called City Superintendent Suta and told him that no one from the City had his permission to be on his property. Mr. Burlingame has plans for his property and the City is not to be involved. City Attorney Smith also reported that the back taxes on the property had been paid last week. There has been no communication between the owner and City Attorney Smith. Chrissy Grimm stated that there is aluminum hanging at the property and when it is being blown by the wind it is a hazard to people in the area. Council directed City Attorney Smith to write the owner a letter giving him a time period in which he must have the property cleaned up. If he does not comply, then Police Chief Schultz was asked to start writing tickets for the ordinance violation.

**Review of Ordinances:** Councilperson Winchell is concerned about some of the City's ordinances not being enforced. She has noticed several signs that are still hanging after the businesses have been closed for a long time. She cited Ronix Electronics, High Wynn's Grocery and the Hobby shop that was beside the bowling alley. She would like to see the ordinance enforced and these owners required to remove the signs. This will improve the appearance of the City and will help when attracting new businesses. City Superintendent Suta stated that he has not had the time to write the letters but will put it on his to-do list.

**Cargo Containers:** Kim Stoltz asked the Council why some residents are allowed to have cargo containers on their property and others need to request a variance to have them. She cited containers belonging to Mike Burns and the Glacier Mist trailer park. Superintendent Suta stated that when it comes to these containers being put on people's properties, he doesn't always know. He is happy to address it if he receives a complaint. City Attorney Smith will write letters to the owners of the forementioned properties and tell them to go through the variance process or remove the containers.

City Attorney Smith stated that he had been asked by Julie Troy, Royal Real Estate, for a letter explaining that our zoning ordinance allowed a single-family dwelling side a commercial district. He supplied her with the letter, but it is also written into the ordinance.

Discussion was held on the updating of the City's website. Clerk-Treasurer Burley stated that she updated the website in the past, but its format was changed so she is no longer able to do it. She has contacted Preferred IT and she will be receiving training, along with Councilperson Winchell, on Wednesday.

Along with the growth policy update, it is also time to update the City Codes. Council would like to work on one section at a time to keep the process moving along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Law Enforcement Expansion Committee: Clerk-Treasurer Burley reported that the Law Enforcement Expansion Committee had held its first meeting and would meet again on October 27, 2021, at 6:00 PM at the City Hall. She encouraged the public to attend and join the committee.

Councilperson Curtiss reported that the Tri-City Interlocal had held its annual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Raemaeker adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Attest:

Approve:

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Linda Burley, Clerk-Treasurer

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Dan Raemaeker, Mayor