

March 27, 2007

The Red Lodge City Council met in regular session on March 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roat followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS Present: Mayor Roat, Aldermen Kampfe, Lockman, Stauffer, Scanlin and Reynolds. Absent: Alderman Mahan.

MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2007 A correction was made to the spelling of Chris Mehus's name as it is not spelled Mayhews. Chris is a representative from Beartooth RC&D.

Motion by Stauffer, second by Scanlin to approve the minutes of March 13 as corrected. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE None.

STANDING COMMITTEE – Administration Scanlin said that Kent Young has been asked to stay with his present contract for one more month when a final decision will be made on the prosecuting attorney position. Mayor Roat was asked to get the language to use in the contract regarding this position not receiving benefits.

The labor management committee for the unions will consist of Mayor Roat, Aldermen Kampfe and Scanlin. Brent Moore made the suggestion of having department heads be involved as it is they who have to draw up budgets so they should be aware of the requests of the unions. They need to be kept informed for this reason.

Police and Emergency Services – Police Grievance The Labor Management Committee recommends to the Council that the interpretation of the police contract regarding stipends be that stipends are separate and compounded and payment to Mr. Neibauer be retroactive to the time of him obtaining the advanced certification.

Motion by Scanlin, second by Kampfe to accept the recommendation of the Labor Management Committee regarding the stipends of the police union. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Fire/EMS Job Description Lockman said she has received a job description from the fire/ems department. She would like this to be on the agenda for action at the next meeting. This will hopefully give them permission to go out to find a new hire for this department. The department would like to have someone hired before the start of the busy summer season. Mayor Roat told the committee to have the paperwork regarding this hire and financial information available to the Council before the next meeting.

Land Use and Planning – Formal Dedication of Six Parks Reynolds said the Parks Board recommends the City formally dedicates four parks. These parks are: Pride Park, Finn Park, Field School Park, Lions Club Park, Coal Miners Park and Rotary Park. She would like to review the legal description of these parks and write them into either resolution or ordinance form. She will go the City Attorney for help with this. At the present time the Board is looking at parks that are presently known by the community. Lockman asked if the Skateboard Park could be included in this process. Reynolds said she would bring this to the Parks Board for their discussion. This

process will formally designate these areas as parks as this has never been done and it will then take a vote of the public to take any piece of a park out of this designation. Stauffer said the Board needs to be sure they have a very precise legal description for the parks that are designated. Reynolds said once the Attorney does this process the City will have a template to dedicate parks in the future. All parks will be done individually.

Resolution No. 3228 – Highway 212 North Corridor Project
RESOLUTION NO. 3228

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IDENTIFYING AND SELECTING CERTAIN PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MDT PROJECT #STPP 28-2(2570), KNOWN AS THE CORRIDOR STUDY RED LODGE NORTH.

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has proposed rebuilding Highway 212 that runs through the City of Red Lodge and has requested the City Council’s input and selection of certain preferred alternatives for specific areas and intersections within and/or near the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council appreciates the opportunity to cooperate with MDT to identify preferred alternatives for the 212 Corridor Project prior to when the designs are prepared and finalized; and

WHEREAS, based on the alternatives provided by MDT, the City Council hereby selects and supports the following preferred alternatives:

1. Construction of an urban cross-section consistent with the approved streetscape plan and MDT Urban Design Standards from 8th Street to the Intersection of 78 and 212.
2. Construction of roundabouts at all full access intersections, including that of Highways 78 and 212, to realize the safety advantages that roundabouts provide, capture the cost advantages of roundabouts over time, and provide a distinctive entrance into the City of Red Lodge.
3. Construction of a continuous two-way left turn lane from the intersection of Highways 78 and 212 extending approximately ½ Mile North, inconsideration of current access issues along this portion of the corridor.
4. Construction of a controlled access corridor as proposed along the 212 North Corridor, including a raised median with appropriate lighting. Implementation of a controlled access corridor may require the City and/or County to implement land use planning and regulation legislation supporting the access control corridor. MDT shall have no authority to adopt or implement any land use regulations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby supports the preferred alternatives listed herein and further requests that MDT consider the City’s selection of preferred alternatives when designing the overall project.

In September the Council passed Resolution No. 3223, which spoke to this corridor study. MDT asked the City to remove alternative number one of this resolution, which talked about a one-way design alternative in this corridor. Moore said, previously when MDT was here, the City did not have a streetscape plan. MDT did say if the community came to a consensus on a streetscape plan for the main part of downtown, MDT would be happy to continue it out to the intersection of Highway 212 and 78 if it is consistent with their proven design standards. Mayor Roat asked if the concept of a right hand turn lane north bound at Two Mile Bridge Road has been forgotten. Moore said that Two Mile Bridge Road would be a full access intersection.

Motion by Reynolds, second by Kampf to adopt Resolution No. 3228. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Scanlin had one suggestion. She would like to clarify that there is not a current approved streetscape plan. She would like to have section number one speak to a City approved streetscape plan specifically.

Amendment to motion by Scanlin, second by Stauffer to section one to read "Construction of an urban cross-section consistent with a City approved streetscape plan and MDT Urban Design Standards from 8th Street to the Intersection of 78 and 212." On voice vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Lockman asked about the raised median with the proposed lighting at the north entrance of town. Moore said the two choices would be a depressed median without lighting or the raised median with lighting. The Planning Board recommends the raised median with the lighting and Moore said he feels this would be best with the hospital going into this area of town. The type of lighting is the item that will need to be addressed and the City needs to stay involved with aspect and have input in what is done. Her concern is that the City has a choice in the lighting installed.

Public Works Mayor Roat said that High Country Equipment gave the City a proposal for installing water and sewer to the affordable housing lots on Cooper Ave. The proposal is \$17,000 for every two lots. Boyer does not feel a common trench should be dug between two lots but that each lot should have its own trench. The lots tend to go downhill and common trenches would not work very well. Boyer said he could cut the trenches for \$2000 each with the new piece of equipment he is purchasing. The \$2000 will be recovered with the sale of the lot.

Mayor Roat said the storage sheds owned by Rick Nessian on Cooper Ave. are encroaching on City property. They extend into the City street. Mayor Roat asked the City Attorney to notify Mr. Nessian that the storage sheds would need to be moved back. The setback requirements will also need to be observed when this is done. This will help to clean the area up in this neighborhood.

The meeting set for April 10, 2007 will start at 6:00 p.m. A public meeting on the 2007 Water Project will be held at 6:00 p.m. during this meeting. HKM will be in attendance to help answer any questions that may arise. The water rate increase public hearing will be held during the meeting, as this is something that will also be coming to the Council. HKM will be working the figures for the Council to give them some different options on this increase. If the Council has any concerns they should get their questions to Brent Moore who will give them to Andy Mattie from HKM.

CITIZEN REPORT None

OLD BUSINESS – 2007 Housing Plan This plan will be very beneficial to the City and was well done. It will be helpful when grants are being requested.

Motion by Scanlin, second by Reynolds to approve the 2007 Housing Plan. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Request for Two Parking Spaces – Beartooth Hospital Foundation The Beartooth Hospital Foundation addressed the Council to explain they would like to have two parking spaces blocked off directly in front of the Red Lodge Pizza Company on Friday, April 20

from 5:30-8:00 p.m. They will be having a Bavarian Beer Fest as a pre-function to the Hospital Beartooth Ball. The spaces would allow their musical entertainment room to set up their instruments without blocking any sidewalk or street traffic. The Pizza Company is a co-sponsor of this event. The Council had no problem with blocking these spaces.

Appointment to Parks Board Motion by Reynolds, second by Kampfe to appoint Anna Priest to the Red Lodge Parks Board. On voice vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Reynolds said the Parks Board is moving towards having their membership consist of people who have a vested interest in the various parks in town. They would like to see members of the various organizations such as Rotary or the Garden Club have membership on the Parks Board.

Flower Pots for Lamp Posts The Promotion Committee of Main Street has \$1000 that can be allocated for a project they would like to do this summer. They would like to have two flower baskets on each light post from June to October. The bulk of the cost is maintaining the flowers as they have to be watered daily and when very hot at least twice a day. A grant is being pursued from Pacific Power and Light for \$10,000. If this grant is not received they are requesting the City commit \$6,000 toward the project.

Motion by Reynolds, second by Lockman to allot \$6000 towards the flowerpots for the lampposts. On roll call vote those in favor: None. Those opposed: Aldermen Kampfe, Lockman, Stauffer, Scanlin and Reynolds. Motion failed.

Reynolds said she feels enough money has been spent on the street lights and that the committee needs to start raising the funds they need for the projects they have in mind regarding the street light poles. Lockman feels it is not the City taxpayer’s responsibility to pay for the flowers on Main Street. She feels the flowers would be nice but that the City has higher priorities for these funds.

Brent Moore, president of the EDC, said that the majority of the EDC board believes this is not an appropriate request and was made on behalf of the Main Street Promotion Committee.

Discussion was held on the items that have been going on the lampposts. The thought is that it would be a good idea to have a committee formed that would discuss and screen any ideas regarding the lampposts. This committee could be made up of two Council members, two EDC members and two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. This idea will be discussed with EDC and the Chamber to see what might be able to be done.

CORRESPONDENCE Matt Martin told the Council that he sees an issue with jaywalking on Broadway especially at night. He said with the new streetlights it is harder to see people crossing Broadway when not in the appropriate cross walks. He feels this is a public safety issue. The Police told Mr. Martin they have a problem with no signage regarding jaywalking. Mayor Roat said the City will see if there is an existing ordinance regarding jaywalking. The Mayor will have the Police do a program where they address pedestrian safety and jaywalking.

Moore told the Council of some of the issues that are upcoming in the planning department. In the next three months there will be a major PUD subdivision, an assisted living facility, the High School which requires a conditional use, the Cabins on Cooper which is a different multi-family project on the north end of Cooper and annexation in the White Ave. area where further property will probably be subdivided.

Moore told the Council that the Local Government Center has recommended Miral Gamradt to help the City with budgeting and Capital Improvements. Moore recommends a contract with Mr. Gamradt for his help and advice in these matters. Moore will check further to see what the costs may be for this assistance.

Moore said there is still a chance that the City could receive the TSEP funding. This funding is for \$750,000. If the City received these funds the loan with Rural Development could then be reduced.

Moore said the CREBS is still in the legislature. Moore said he would forward this legislative material to the Council so they will be aware of what is going on with various issues.

Mayor Roat encourages the Council to be active and call their legislatures as Senator Baucus is asking the National Park Service to give \$200,000 to help plow the pass and get it open by Memorial Day.

Kampfe told the Council that a local hockey team has been put together and they are playing games with other communities. One has already been played with Cody and an upcoming one will be played this weekend in Billings. Thanks to the liner that was installed in the skating rink here in Red Lodge this team has come about and is being enjoyed.

Lockman asked Kampfe if he was going to the liaison with the Beartooth RC&D. Mayor Roat said this is something that he would like to do as he will be attending the meetings anyway and is willing to the liaison for the City. The Council thanked the Mayor for doing this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Corrections made at the April 24 meeting.