

February 25, 2014

The Red Lodge City Council met in regular session on February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** Present: Mayor Williams, Aldermen Foisy, Mahan, Larson, Labrie, and Schoenike. Absent: Alderman Brown.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD ATTENDANCE:** Community Development Director – Forrest Sanderson, City Clerk – Debbie Tomicich, Public Works – Jim Bushnell and Assistant Police Chief – Scott Cope.

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11** Motion by Mahan, second by Schoenike to approve the minutes of February 11 as submitted. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC REGARDING MATTERS WITHIN CITY JURISDICTION THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA** None

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES – Beartooth Resource and Development Council** Foisy reported to the council that he and Mayor Williams attended a meeting of this Council on January 30, 2014. The Red Lodge Mountain Transit Feasibility Study was discussed and this topic is regarding the parking in town and being bused to the Mountain. The Council also discussed a Red Lodge Airport Tech Park Plan which is the potential for City property to be developed in this area as a business park.

**West Fork Road Reconstruction** Foisy attended this meeting on February 13, 2014 even though it is a county project. He gave a recommendation to the county regarding the consideration of painted crosswalks.

**Elected Officials Training** Foisy attended an elected official training in Laurel on February 6, 2014. MMIA was in attendance to discuss risk coverage and MSU spoke to the principles of good governance.

**Parks Board** Foisy attended the Parks Board meeting on February 19, 2014. He said the Parks Board will be having a special meeting that was noticed on February 27 to review the preliminary park improvements that will be evaluated. The consultant will be in attendance at this meeting also. There will be a public meeting held on March 19, 2014 for future parks visioning to identify what type of parks are most needed, including locations and uses. The needed park maintenances were discussed that hopefully will be taken care of this spring.

Foisy said that as the Chairman of the Council Public Works Committee he put together an annual work program. This will include the Capital Improvements Plan, the water and sewer rate study, the impact fee structure, the agreement with the Library Board, the pool endowment, the Parks Board Ordinance Update, the Carbon County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Implementation and the watershed protection/surface water rights. This will keep the committee very busy for this calendar year.

**Library Board** Larson said the Board is discussing the building issues, especially the leaks in the walls. The Board is looking at a three year, long range, development plan. They are doing by-laws review.

**TBID** Larson said that Ski Joring asked for help in funding their event. The TBID Committee agreed to give them financial help.

**Planning Board** Schoenike reported that the Board has fallen behind a little due to extensive discussion on a variety of issues. He said the Planning Board is moving forward on the first draft of the Cemetery Ordinance.

**Technology Committee** Schoenike gave the Council the annual plan for the Technology Committee. He said the first priority is getting the website up to speed. He said a lot of progress has been made in getting good information onto the website. A computer and printer needs assessment/replacement schedule will be done on the City departments to see what needs to be updated. Some of the other items that are currently on the list of things that need to be accomplished are a wireless network/internet access at City Hall, camera in the Council Chambers, have the ability to pay water/sewer bills online, the assessment of how technology can improve efficiency and productivity, have the ability to pay resort tax, business registration, dog licenses, TBID payments and such electronically and to review the optimization of the new phone system.

**STANDING COMMITTEES – ADMINISTRATION – Appointments to City Planning Board – Mayor/Council** Mayor Williams said the City, at this time, has the opportunity to make three appointments to the Planning Board. The Mayor has two appointments to make and the Council has one. Mayor Williams said that his two appointments will be Dan Gainer, returning Board member and Al Bloomer. The Council said they felt these two appointments are good ones.

Motion by Labrie, second by Foisy to appoint Polly Richter to the Planning Board. On roll call vote those in favor: Aldermen Foisy, Larson, Labrie and Schoenike. Those opposed: Alderman Mahan. Motion carried.

**Letter of Support - BRTA Recreational Trails Grant Application** Motion by Foisy, second by Labrie that the City provides a letter of support to the Beartooth Recreation Trails Association in support of a Recreational Trails Program Grant. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Foisy said the BRTA is applying for a \$12,000 grant for new grooming equipment and to help with the grooming operations at the Nordic Center. He said the City has a MOU with BRTA specifically for trails maintenance.

**Revised Weapons Ordinance No.** Labrie said the City currently has a weapons ordinance but she said it is a bit outdated and is in violation of State laws. She said that what can be done is to re-write the ordinance and use the wording from State law or the current ordinance can be repealed. She said the Administration Committee will be recommending the City repeal the current ordinance.

Sanderson said that the legislature is telling local governments they no longer have the power to regulate firearms within the corporate limits. Sanderson said he is also in agreement to repeal the ordinance. Many of the items in the City ordinance are also regulated by State law so there is no reason to duplicate but to let State law step in.

**Police Chief Search – Meeting with Prothman Consulting** Mayor Williams said that Chief Pringle will retire on February 28, 2014. Prothman Consulting has been hired to help the City find a new chief. Many community members met with the representative of the Prothman Consulting to give their thoughts on what is needed and wanted for this position. Mayor Williams said these meetings were very beneficial for the Prothman representative to hear and talk about. The overriding thought was that the person be involved in the community and have community outreach. This search is now underway and hopefully the best person for Red Lodge will be found. The Mayor said he feels the process will take at least eight to ten weeks.

**Resolution No. 3366 – Chamber of Commerce Designation as CVB**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3366**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RED LODGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITORS CENTER AS THE LOCAL NON-PROFIT CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IN RED LODGE, MONTANA.**

**WHEREAS**, M.C.A. 15-65-121 and M.C.A. 15-65-122. Known as the Montana Tourism Development Act, impose a 4% accommodation tax on hotel, motel and campground occupancy, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Act provides that a portion of the revenues raised be allocated back to the communities and regions where such revenues are generated, i.e. to regional tourism organizations and to non-profit convention and visitors bureaus, for projects and programs which are locally directed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center, a non-profit corporation under Montana law and tax exempt under Section 501c(6) of the Internal Revenue Tax codes, has performed such non-profit convention and visitors bureau functions for many years, and enjoys the support of local hotels, motels and campgrounds collecting the accommodations tax; and

**WHEREAS**, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, organized within the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center, will coordinate various already existing tourism promotion activities directed at local history, local attractions, community activities and events, community marketing and the creation of promotional literature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center is in the best position to develop and coordinate a marketing plan which is necessary and which must be approved by the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, in order to qualify for state funding. The Chamber is requested to develop and timely submit to the Montana Tourism Advisory Council, prior to May 1, 2014, a marketing plan that conforms to the “Regulations and Procedures for Regional /CVB Tourism Organizations Use of Lodging Facility use Tax Revenue”; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** By the City Council of the City of Red Lodge, Montana, that the City recognizes the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center as operating the local non-profit Convention and Visitors Bureau in Red Lodge, which is eligible to receive funds from the 4% accommodations tax effective July 1, 2014.

Motion by Larson, second by Labrie to approve Resolution No. 3366, a resolution recognizing the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center as the local non-profit Convention and Visitors Bureau in Red Lodge, Montana. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Mayor Williams said this designation will make about an \$18,000 per year difference in the amount of money available for marketing Red Lodge.

Patty Davis, Chamber Director, said this is a huge honor for Red Lodge and that it will help to increase tourism and business for all. She wanted to thank the TBID Committee for their help. She said it was a coordinated effort that definitely worked.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES – Appoint Assistant Chief Scott Cope as Interim Police Chief** Mayor Williams announced his appointment of Assistant Chief Scott Cope as the interim Police Chief during the process of hiring a new Chief.

Larson reported that the Emergency Services Committee is working on the appearance and nuisance ordinance and the animal control ordinance which the committee hopes to have as a discussion item at the next meeting.

Larson said that Foisy has completed the MDT grant application that is being done for the purchase of body cameras, new car cameras for the police and mobile data terminals for each car. This application is being reviewed and then will be submitted.

The snow removal ordinance will be discussed by the committee at a later date.

**Seasonal No Parking Broadway Avenue – Ordinance** Larson said the City is working with the State to help them when they are plowing Broadway Avenue. The City is revising an ordinance that will have seasonal restrictions for parking on Broadway Avenue. It will state that there will be no parking on Broadway Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. from October 1 to May 1. Larson said that also in the ordinance they will address the side streets on Broadway Avenue from alley to alley so it will be a nice clean ordinance to help with the cleaning of Broadway.

Mayor Williams thanked Bushnell and his crew for the work that is being done on snow plowing and removal this year. Budget is getting very low for this but it will be done when needed.

**LAND USE AND PLANNING** Schoenike said there is nothing currently on the agenda but he wanted to touch on the annual plan for this committee. He said the Zoning Regulations are currently with the Planning Board. The Subdivision Regulations and the Flood Plain Regulations will be going to the

Planning Board when the other documents are completed. The committee started talking today about the disposal and lease of City owned lands as they would like to take some of the current resolutions and put them in the Development Codes. They will also look at potential updates to the Growth Policy to incorporate the Parks Plan and the CIP as they are completed.

**PUBLIC WORKS – CIP Update** Sanderson said the deadline for responses on the CIP is February 28 at 5:00 p.m. Hopefully the Public Works Committee will be able to open the responses and get them certified and distributed to everyone who needs them. It is hoped to have them rated by March 11 with interviews then being held. The Administration Committee will then negotiate a contract with the most qualified respondent.

**Highway 212 Construction – Meeting with MDT** MDT will be in attendance at the meeting on March 25. They will also be available to speak with the public regarding any questions on the Highway 212 Project. They will do this on March 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. This is the construction on Highway 212 from Robinson Lane to 8<sup>th</sup> Street which will be under construction including the roundabout at the Fire Station. It needs to be emphasized that good signage is very important to get people back to the downtown area. The milling will also be done on Highway 212 from 8<sup>th</sup> Street through town this season. This should only have a minimal impact on the town. What will have a larger impact will be making all the walks ADA compliant which means fixing the corners. Patty Davis said the Chamber of Commerce is willing to partner with the City to make this project go well for the business community.

Foisy said the Public Works Committee also spoke about the impact fee structure. They will have the City Engineers meet with the committee in April to discuss what constitutes a rate study. Foisy said that he and Larson will be meeting with the Librarian regarding the agreement with the Library Board to firm up responsibilities between the two. They also talked about a lot of the smaller projects that still need to be done for the Parks Board and he commented that most of them had the budget to be done.

**CITIZEN REPORT** Patty Davis told the Council that the Chamber of Commerce also wrote a letter of support for the BRTA grant application. She also thanked the Council for their efforts in communication and the striving they do to help the business community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Sanderson reported that a deed is being drawn up by the City Attorney on the Siragusa property so the proposed project on Airport Road can go forward.

A letter was sent by the City to the Director of Fish, Wildlife and Parks telling them that they need to take care of the turkey population if this falls under their domain or if not then let the City take care of the problem. One way or the other something needs to be done. The turkey population is growing way to fast and needs to be diminished somehow.

**MISCELLANEOUS** Motion by Mahan, second by Schoenike to allow Alderman Larson to be out of the country from February 26 to March 7. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Schoenike, second by Mahan to allow Alderman Foisy to be absent from the City from February 26 to March 9. On voice vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk