

January 13, 2015

The Red Lodge City Council met in regular session on January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Williams gave the Oath of Office to Michael Schoenike – Ward One, Bill Larson – Ward Two and Bill Foisy – Ward Three, before roll call was taken at this meeting. This was done very nicely and afterwards the three newly elected officials took their seats at the Council table.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS Present: Mayor Williams, Aldermen Foisy, Mahan, Larson, Labrie, Schoenike and Brown. Absent: None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD ATTENDANCE: Police Chief- Steve Hibler, City Clerk – Loni Hanson, and Public Works – Jim Bushnell.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9 Motion by Mahan, second by Labrie to approve the minutes of December 9, 2014 as submitted. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY Motion by Labrie, second by Larson that claims against the City totaling \$135,124.64 approved by the Auditing Committee, be paid and warrants drawn on their respective funds in payment. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Labrie pointed out some specific claims that were submitted to the City this month. One was to Prothman for \$7,005.42 for the advertising for the Community Development Director. Industrial Automation submitted a claim for the work being done on the water telemetry they are doing for the City for \$10,914.00 and Ford Motor Credit Company submitted a claim for \$35,666.10 for the annual lease payment on the three new police cruisers.

Williams said through the end of December, the City has spent 44% of the general fund budget. He said the City has been annually spending \$42,000 on new police vehicles plus equipping them. The new lease agreement will save the City between \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year, so over the next four years it should save the City around \$40,000 to \$50,000.

OFFICERS REPORTS The officer’s reports were presented to the Council for their review.

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

STANDING COMMITTEES Elect Council President Motion by Mahan, second by Brown to nominate Michael Schoenike as Council President. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Council Committee Assignments Motion by Schoenike, second by Mahan to leave the

committee assignments as they have been in the previous year. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Schoenike said that each committee should look at revisiting who they want as chairperson and then let the rest of the Council know who the presiding chair will be.

Department Head Appointments Motion by Mahan, second by Schoenike to concur with the Mayor’s appointment of Steve Hibler as Police Chief, Loni Hanson as City Clerk, Jim Bushnell as Public Works Director and Jodie Moore as Librarian. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Advertising for City Engineer Motion by Foisy, second by Larson to extend the Great West Engineering contract until June 1, 2016 with the understanding that we will negotiate the rates. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Capital Improvement Plan Williams said they received the draft Capital Improvements Plan yesterday and the electronic version will be made available to the public tomorrow morning on-line. There will be a public hearing before the Council meeting on January 27, 2015.

Schoenike said they met with Interstate Engineering last month to discuss the changes in the last draft and this is the first draft available to the public.

Williams encouraged the public to give their input.

Amendment to Standard Audit Contract Motion by Larson, second by Labrie to approve the amendment to the Standard Audit Contract. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Larson said this is to audit the grant that was used by the Fire department to purchase radios.

Williams said the grant was a Federal grant for the Fire department to purchase radios for our department and other departments throughout the county. The City was used as a pass through for the money. The amount the audit will cost will come out of the Fire department’s budget.

Schoenike wanted to clarify that this grant was done before the Fire district was created.

EMERGENCY SERVICES Appoint Prosecuting Attorney Motion by Mahan, second by Schoenike to appoint Joel Todd as the City of Red Lodge Prosecuting Attorney. On roll call vote those in favor: Aldermen Mahan, Labrie, Schoenike and Brown. Those abstained Aldermen Foisy and Larson. Motion carried.

Williams said the two year contract for the current Prosecuting Attorney expired in July of last year. The City advertised for those who were interested in becoming the next Prosecuting Attorney. They received two applicants. Williams said at the last council meeting he asked council members to volunteer to be involved in the interview process.

Williams said the interview process went very well. The two candidates were very qualified for the position.

Brown said she appreciated being involved in the process. She learned a lot about the role of the Prosecuting Attorney. She said they had two very qualified applicants and felt it was a good process.

Mahan felt Mr. Todd's connection with the community, his outreach to a number of organizations, his commitment is huge and that played a large role in her decision in recommending him for the position. She said Mr. Todd has done a great job of outreaching and doing pro-bono work in the community. He has made himself available to the community and they know who he is. Mahan said those things make him a viable candidate.

Schoenike agreed with Martha and Glory. He felt they had two very qualified candidates and it was a hard decision to make.

Other Emergency Service Items Larson stated at the Emergency Services committee meeting they discussed the fire ordinance. He said Chief Hibler is working on the police report and is getting closer to having one done. They also discussed the new police vehicles and discussed working on the cleanup of some of the ordinances.

Chief Hibler said they received three new vehicles which brings the total number of police vehicles to seven. He said they have seven police officers and now each officer will be equipped with their own vehicle. He said it is based on the Lexington Plan, which has been around since the early seventies. The Plan supports the Community Policing and it does a number of things for the department. Crime prevention will be more visible in the community as the officers go to and from their destinations. Increase patrolling and in some cases, they are cost free because they will not be on an overtime status because they will be going to and from places. Each vehicle is equipped with kits where our officers can assist the public in a number of different ways. Hibler said under the Plan the vehicles last longer because of the individual assignment. Each car will not be running 24/7 and each officer has a sense of ownership and responsibility for the upkeep of their vehicle. He said with the officer having their own vehicle all of the time, response time can be quicker.

Mahan thought the response time was a huge issue. She thought it was wonderful that the response time would be a lot quicker.

LAND USE AND PLANNING Schoenike said the meet and greet with the candidates for the Community Development Director is Wednesday the 14th at 5:00 p.m. at the Elks Club. The interviews for the Community Development Director would be this Thursday the 15th at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall.

Schoenike said the Land Use and Planning committee discussed the Trail Plan and looking at the ordinance that was written last year regarding the building codes.

PUBLIC WORKS Resolution #3381, Rules and Regulations for the Red Lodge Cemetery

Fosiy said he took recommendations from the last council meeting regarding Resolution #3381 and red lined those changes in the copy that he presented to the council. Some changes were some small spelling errors, defining the actual charge of the committee per the ordinance and the pricing structure. The Mausoleum crypts are not for sale and were removed, but the cost of opening and closing of the crypts are still included. He said the last major issue that was discussed at the last meeting was including the Red Lodge High School district as the boundary for the pricing for residents. Foisy said further discussion with other council members concluded that the District needed to be removed from the resolution and have it put back within the City of Red Lodge for the pricing for residents.

Williams said Resolution #3381 will be put on the agenda for the next council meeting for action.

Other Public Works items Foisy said the Public Works committee discussed the Capital Improvements Plan which has some very important short term water and sewer capital projects and from that stand point they have been looking at the revised water and sewer rates. He said he distributed to the Council the second draft of a report from Great West Engineering regarding the water and sewer rates. He said the engineers will be meeting with the Public Works committee on January 27 and incorporate the projects in the Capital Improvements Plan and discuss how that will impact the water and sewer rates.

Schoenike said it has been almost eight years since the City did a rate study on the water and almost eighteen years since there was a rate study done on the sewer. He said it will probably be a rather substantial increase in the rates, due to the fact it has been so long since the rates have been increased.

Mahan said the City and State would be clearing Main Street tomorrow morning. Williams said if anyone has a car parked on Broadway, it needs to be removed by 3:00 a.m. or it will be towed.

Jim Bushnell said he checked on the new plow trucks and they are coming along nicely and is looking forward to using them for plowing.

Appointment of Civil Attorney Motion by Schoenike, second by Mahan to appoint Sam Painter as the City’s Civil Attorney. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

CITIZEN REPORT Susan Foisy had some concerns regarding the new police vehicle that was unmarked. Her concern was it being used as a regular police vehicle and the issues in larger cities that have people impersonating police officers in unmarked cars with lights and attempting to pull over women. She wanted to know if the procedures or precautions would be different with this vehicle than the others. Chief Hibler assured her that the vehicle meets Montana State Law the way they are operating it. When they do traffic stops the officer will be in uniform and they now have ID’s. The vehicle will blend in better for investigations and for using in locations where there are issues with speeding locations.

CORRESPONDENCE none

MISCELLANEOUS Williams said he had talked to Governor Bullock about some of the issues with the highway construction in town. He said they will be having a meeting in near term with the head of the Montana Department of Transportation to try and resolve some of those issues we experienced this past year, so we don’t have them reoccur this year.

Foisy said with Judge Muth retiring in December if we should have a retirement party for him. Williams said he would work on it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

