

**A COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2013 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gremaux called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Gremaux asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Commissioners Berry, Doney, Gremaux, Hewitt, Putnam and Turk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the minutes for February 4, 2013 as presented and Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**COURTESIES**

Mr. Myhre explained that the Commission has received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Phillips because he has moved outside of the City limits. Chairman Gremaux presented Commissioner Phillips with a plaque and thanking him for his nine years of service.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

There were none.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Turk reported that she attended a Library Board meeting last week. The Chili Bowl fundraiser was a success and the next fundraiser is the author dinner. The Library Board is also working on a SWOT analysis for the Library.

Commissioner Putnam reported that the Park and Recreation Board met the first Wednesday of the month. The board decided on a pool recommendation for improvements. Commissioner Putnam explained that it is a two step phase. The first phase would be to length the dive area, basic bathhouse renovations and the second phase would be the slide and splash park. The estimate cost is \$2.3 million.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that the airport finally got their new snowplow. There was some reporting on the ARF truck and some of the changes to security fencing.

Commissioner Doney reported that there is a Central Montana Health District meeting tomorrow.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Kevin Myhre reported on the following issues:

Representative Bill Harris has introduced a legislative bill to create an act recognizing and commemorating Ed McGivern, designating Lewistown as the official home of the Ed McGivern Museum, and directing the Department of Commerce and Department of Transportation to identify it on State Maps and signs, and requiring the Capital Complex Advisory Council to name a building at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy after Ed McGivern. Ed McGivern was Lewistown resident that held many records for shooting accomplishments in the early 1900's. The City Manager sent a letter to the legislative committee supporting the bill and requesting their support.

A group of citizens have been working on a plan to make improvements at the picnic/recreation area at the Fish Hatchery Park located at Big Spring. They would like to work with a landscape designer to put some of their ideas on paper and have requested a meeting with Recreation Director Jim Daniels and the City Manager. The meeting will be later this month and eventually their plans need to be reviewed by the Park Board and a recommendation brought to the Commission for final approval.

The City has some openings in our Public Works Department for a street worker and wastewater worker. The Police Department has been working to fill openings in the 911 Center.

The East Fork Reservoir continues to fill at a good pace and should be full before spring. The City Manager has been told that ice fisherman are reporting that they are catching fish and some report larger fish but less of them.

The Trails worker attended the annual weed training in Great Falls with Mr. Brady Cannon from the Fergus County Weed District. The two work closely last season and are already making plans for spraying in the spring.

Snowy Mountain Development Corporation has submitted the application to the State for the grant to assist in hiring a consultant firm to complete a feasibility study on the need, support, and financial possibilities of building a convention center in downtown Lewistown.

Mr. Myhre stated that at the last Commission meeting there was some concern of some of the claims that were paid. Mr. Myhre explained that he has reviewed the claims paid to the vendors in question over the last year and did not find any areas of concern.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from February 1, 2013 to February 14, 2013 for a total of \$2,990.00 and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:**

Commissioner Gremaux reported that the Commission has received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Larry Phillips and would like to put it on the agenda to accept. Commissioner Doney made the motion to put accepting the letter of resignation on the agenda and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Myhre clarified for the audience that the City Commission does not typically add items to the agenda at the meeting, but is able to do so if they determine it is not a significant public interest that the public would need to comment on. Mr. Myhre further explained that in this instance he did not feel that the public or the Commission could stop Mr.

Phillips from moving therefore, it is in the best interest in the public that the commission accept the letter of interest and get the vacancy advertised.

1. Commissioner Turk made the motion to accepting the letter of resignation from Commissioner Phillips and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. Commissioner Gremaux asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There were none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and action on approving additional CTEP funding in the amount of \$20,000 from Fergus County for the Save the Barn restoration project sponsored by the City of Lewistown

Mr. Myhre explained that the City of Lewistown has been working with the Save the Barns committee and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation on utilizing a portion of the City's CTEP funds for the barn restoration project. At the last County Commission meeting the County Commissioners approved transferring \$20,000 of their county CTEP funds to put toward the same project. Mr. Myhre further explained that the City has already completed, submitted and received approval on their application and the most effective way to proceed is to accept the transfer of \$20,000 CTEP funds from the County for the Save the Barns restoration project. Ms. Kathie Bailey, Executive Director of Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, explained that the City completed an application and it has been approved by the state CTEP program. Ms. Bailey stated that now Fergus County has stated they will put in \$20,000 in County CTEP funds toward the Save the Barns restoration project and the Department of Transportation suggested that the County funds be transferred into the City's grant application. Commissioner Putnam asked why don't we transfer the City's CTEP funds to the County and they can do all the paperwork. Ms. Bailey answered that yes it could have been done that way, but the City has already completed the lengthy process and if it goes through the County it would be a lengthy project and could take up to a year. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the additional CTEP funding in the amount of \$20,000 from Fergus County for the save the Barns restoration project sponsored by the City of Lewistown and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Gremaux asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none the question was called for and those voting in favor were Commissioners: Berry, Doney, Gremaux, Hewitt and Turk. Commissioner Putnam voted against.

3. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to sign a Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant contract for procurement of professional assistance

Mr. Myhre explained that the professional assistance the City is asking for funds from the Community Development Block Grant program to assist with preparing an Urban Renewal Plan, Tax Increment Finance District and update City Growth Policy. The grant is for \$15,000 and the City of Lewistown and the Lewistown Community Development Corporation will provide matching funds of \$5,000 each. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve authorizing the City Manager to sign a Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant contract for procurement of professional assistance and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. Commissioner Gremaux asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There were none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to sign the 2013 Montana State Parks, A Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks recreational Trails Program Project Agreement

Mr. Myhre commented that the Recreational Trails Program and the Community Transportation Enhancement Program have been very helpful grants to City improvements over the years. Mr. Myhre further commented that to see these two grant opportunities rolled into one competitive grant on the state level is very concerning. Mr. Myhre stated that he feels the city is not politically positioned to be competitive with a lot of other areas of the State of Montana and feels that these grants may become few and far between. Mr. Myhre explained that this is a \$40,500 grant for the Machler stream restoration project which will help us to purchase bridges and help with trail maintenance. Commissioner Putnam made the motion to approve authorizing the City Manager to sign the 2013 Montana State Parks, A Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks recreational Trails Program Project Agreement and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Gremaux asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There were none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

Mr. Richard Battrick stated his concern about not having a local bus service.

**COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE**

Commissioner Doney asked about the status of the Haugen property dispute with the City. Mr. Myhre explained that working with the City's lawyers for the suit several requests have been to either sign a lease agreement.

Commissioner Putnam asked about the change in the Senate District for the State of Montana. There was some discussion on how the districts were determined and how many votes are in the districts.

Commissioner Berry stated there will be an open house for the Lewistown Hoppers on Friday in the old Captain Bobs building.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Gremaux adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Gremaux, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki Brummond, City Clerk