

A COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2014 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doney called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Berry, Doney, Gremaux, Poss, Putnam and Turk. Commissioner Hewitt was absent because of the change of date for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gremaux made the motion to approve the minutes for February 3, 2014 and Commissioner Turk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY
COMMISSION DECLARING APRIL 1ST, 2014 AS A DAY OF
RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's cities and towns are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet municipal needs; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to preserving the environment and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is America's largest volunteer network for people 55 and over, with nearly 300,000 volunteers across the country who are stepping up to answer the call to help their communities, including Lewistown and Central Montana; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national service participants serve in more than 70,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members as well as Senior Corps and RSVP volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with cities nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with cities across the country to support the a Day of Recognition for National Service on April 1, 2014.

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Lewistown City Commission that April 1, 2014 is declared to be National Service Recognition Day, and do hereby encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city, to thank those who serve, and to find ways to give back to their communities.

BOARD AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Poss reported that Fergus County Park District committee is meeting weekly until the end of March. It is hoped to have something on the ballot in November. Commissioner Poss reported that there is a lot of good discussion and a fair amount of public attendance.

Commissioner Turk reported that the Library Chili Bowl made approximately \$2,700 and over double the amount of teams from previous years. Tomorrow the Library is hosting a Night in Italy from 6 to 7:30 pm and is open to the public. The author dinner is 5/14/14 the author is Peter Fromm. Commissioner Turk reported that the Friends of the Library made \$1,200 on the book sale during the winter fair and \$1,500 has been raised from selling the train books online. The Friends of the Library are planning to help upgrade the upstairs windows at the Library.

Commissioner Putnam reported that she missed the last Park and Recreation Board meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Kevin Myhre reported on the following issues:

As a result of the recent cold weather, public works is responding to several residences to assist with frozen services. There are two problem areas in the water system where the main lines are shallow and prone to freezing. The areas are on Brassey Street and Spring Street. Public Works has been aside to put together options for long term solutions in both areas.

During the extreme cold weather on February 4, 5 and 6th, ice buildup on one of the wastewater facility clarifiers caused considerable damage to the sweep arm and motor system. The unit is currently out of service and staff is working to get parts repaired and/or replaced. The tank has been difficult to drain because icing and a full inspection of the unit cannot be completed until it is drained. The damage has been reported to MMIA for review for loss coverage. Staff has reported the issue to MDEQ and we anticipate a reduction in our testing results due to lower efficiency.

The contractor is planning to begin work on the women's restroom at the Civic Center during the week of February 17th.

The Police Department employees have gone through the process of selecting the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to represent them. The Police Department's current contract expires June 30th of this year and they have requested to begin negotiations on a replacement contract. A preliminary meeting with the unit representatives on February 18th has been scheduled.

The decision was made by representatives from the stakeholders in the Convention Center Feasibility Center project to move ahead with the second phase of the study to get more details on possible locations and operational structures for more conference and hotel space in Lewistown.

The City Manager is continuing to work to see if they can get MDOT to reconsider minor changes in the design to keep the bulk of the passenger vehicles coming into Main Street.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Turk made the motion to the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from January 31, 2014 to February 13, 2014 for a total of \$122,604.20 and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances and Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on a request by LaVonne Limpus for the City to join the Humane Society of America to help with the animal control facility.

Mr. Myhre explained that he was contacted by Ms. Limpus regarding the animal control facility that the City currently operates. Mr. Myhre further explained that Ms. Limpus would like to assist with writing grants and to help facilitate the City to work with the Humane Society for improvements to the City's animal shelter. Ms. Limpus explained that the Humane Society has a lot to offer and any City can look at its current shelter and determine what their needs are. Ms. Limpus commented that currently the Pet Assistant League (PAL) takes on the burden of caring for the animals. Unfortunately, there is only a \$1,000 worth of funding from the City of Lewistown. Ms. Limpus commented that the current ultimate need is to address the feral cat population. Ms. Limpus stated there are funds out there for this and is a professional grant writer and would like to help in some way. Ms. Limpus stated that she has met with the Humane Society over the last couple of weeks and one of the suggestions was to use the City's facility as a pass through to Great Falls shelter. Ms. Debbie Kern stated that PAL currently has something in the works for the animal shelter but has signed a confidential agreement. Those representing PAL was Ann Hauser, Animal Control Code Enforcement Officer, Debbie Kern and Shannon Maxwell. Further discussion followed. Mr. Myhre asked what types of grants are available. Ms. Limpus answered that the majority of grants are matching grants; however, there are some grants for feed that could be applied for. Ms. Limpus explained that long term sustainability grants are harder to find because the grants are typically for specific items or upgrades and not for general operating. Commissioner Gremaux asked how

many people are involved in PAL. Ms. Kern answered that there are just four people involved. Further discussion followed. Mr. Myhre explained that long term sustainability is going to be a struggle. No action was taken because this is an information item.

2. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 3837, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Lewistown, Montana calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so

Mr. Myhre explained that the State of Montana requires that every local government put on the ballot a question for the public to vote to study the current form of government. The two main items to determine are the number of members on the study commission and how many mills to fund the committee. Mr. Myhre explained that we are setting it at 5 members and one mill to fund the committee. Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve Resolution No. 3837, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Lewistown, Montana calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so and Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 3838, a resolution declaring a blighted area exists within the City Lewistown, Montana and that the redevelopment of that area is necessary in the interest of public health, safety or welfare of the residents of Lewistown

Mr. Myhre explained that this is the start of the process to create a tax increment finance district (TIF). In order to move ahead the City Commission must recognize an area where blight exists. Mr. Myhre further explained that this urban renewal district was created however, it was stricted that unincorporated areas were not included and at the previous meeting there were a few properties that were annexed. This resolution will include the newly annexed property. Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve Resolution No. 3838, a resolution declaring a blighted area exists within the City Lewistown, Montana and that the redevelopment of that area is necessary in the interest of public health, safety or welfare of the residents of Lewistown and Commissioner Berry seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Doney explained that the City Manager has an item that he would like to add to the agenda but a motion has to be made and approved prior to adding an item to the agenda. Commissioner Turk made the motion to add the following item onto the agenda: discussion and action on authorizing the Public Works Department to place bids on a 2011 Fair Snocrete Large Industrial Driven Snowblower utilizing the Municibid Online Auction Service up to the amount of \$60,000 and Commissioner Gremaux seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

Add-on Agenda Item:

Discussion and action on authorizing the Public Works Department to place bids on a 2011 Fair Snocrete Large Industrial Driven Snowblower utilizing the Municibid Online Auction Service up to the amount of \$60,000

Mr. Myhre explained that the City's Street Department currently has a snow blower that is a 1960s model and beyond its serviceable life. The Street Department was unable to use it this season. Mr. Myhre explained that a new one would not be available for this season. As a result the Public Works Director has located some snow blowers that are going to be auctioned off in the next 9 days. Further discussion

followed. Commissioner Gremaux made the motion to approve authorizing the Public Works Department to place bids on a 2011 Fair Snocrete Large Industrial Driven Snowblower utilizing the Municibid Online Auction Service up to the amount of \$60,000 and Commissioner Turk seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Doney reported that Mr. LaFountain made his first payment on his fines.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Doney adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2014.

Gayle Doney, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk