

A COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2014 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY 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: Byerly, Doney, Gremaux, Hewitt, Poss, Putnam and Turk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve the October 6, 2014 minutes and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Turk was unable to attend the most recent Library Board meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Kevin Myhre reported on the following issues:

The Street Department is working on sweeping the streets to clean up the accumulating leave. They typically post a schedule for sweeping in neighborhoods.

Ms. Holly Phelps has been appointed as the City's Public Works Director. Ms. Phelps has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Montana State University and is certified in both water and wastewater operations. Ms. Phelps has worked for the City for several years and was most recently the Superintendent of Operations for the Public Works Department.

The City Manager and Public Works Director recently met with representatives from the Montana Department of Transportation (MTDOT) and Stahly Engineering on 7th Ave North to

view the areas where ADA improvements are being planned through the Transportation Alternatives Program. 7th Ave North is designated as an Urban Route in the MTDOT system and is eligible for some federal funding. As an Urban Route, any improvements on the street must be approved by the Department of Transportation.

On October 3rd, the City Manager and Public Works Director met with MTDOT officials to discuss possible pedestrian improvements in the downtown area. Specifically they were discussing changes on Main Street at 1st, 2nd and 4th Avenues due to pedestrian accident data from those locations. The City Manager asked them to include 5th Avenue because of the difficulties of navigating that intersection by both pedestrians and vehicles. MTDOT are considering bulb-out structures and or crossing timers primarily but are looking at other possibilities.

The Water Department responded to and repaired a major water line break on Crystal Ave on October 10th. A portion of the main pipe had broken between two services. We hope to get the street patched prior to winter.

Mr. Myhre explained that there have been some concerns from individuals about how long people can camp at the Kiwanis Rest Area. Mr. Myhre further explained that he met with a representative from Kiwanis today and that they are working to implement new policies and procedures and will work to strictly enforce the length of stay at the rest area.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from October 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014 for a total of \$124,707.94.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on approving the 2014-2015 agreement with School District No. 1

Mr. Myhre explained that the City of Lewistown and School District No. 1 have had this agreement for many years. The agreement basically offers up the City's facilities and the schools facilities for each others use. Since the school actually uses the City's facilities more than the City uses the school facilities the school pays the City an amount of funds to offset the cost. The amount for this year is \$4,976.95 and each year a cpi increase is included in the agreement. Mr. Myhre stated he has not gotten any indication from the Parks Department that a larger increase is necessary. Commissioner Putnam asked if who employs the buildings and ground supervisor. Mr. Myhre answered the school and will work on making that change if the Commission would like it changed. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the 2014-2015 agreement with School District No. 1 and that item #3 state that the buildings and grounds supervisor is employed by the school and Commissioner Hewitt 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.

2. Discussion and action on approving the purchase of starting blocks for the swimming pool from Kiefer

Mr. Myhre explained that the City of Lewistown and the Friends of the Pool applied for a grant from a private foundation to purchase starting blocks for the swimming pool. These are replacement blocks and will be able to be used if there are any changes to the pool in the future. This is a pass through purchase and because the City is purchasing the items the procurement process must be followed. Commissioner Turk asked if the money was coming from the City. Mr. Myhre answered that a grant was obtained for half of the purchase and the other half will be paid for by the Friends of the Pool. Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve the purchase of starting blocks for the swimming pool from Kiefer 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.

3. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to purchase a pickup for the Public Works Street Department

Mr. Myhre explained that the Public Works Department has been working to find a heavy duty pickup for the street department that can be used with a flatbed for sanding the deicing the streets in the winter months. Mr. Myhre stated that three bids were received and recommends purchasing the 2008 Ford F450 Diesel Crew Cab for \$28,311. If the Commission prefers a new truck could be purchase or something different but feels this will suit the needs of the street department. Commissioner Gremaux made the motion to authorize the City Manager to purchase a pickup and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and those Commissioners voting in favor were: Byerly, Doney, Gremaux, Poss, Putnam and Turk. Commissioner Hewitt voted against the motion.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Richard Battrick expressed his concern regarding the condition of the sidewalk on Main Street. Mr. Myhre answered that by City ordinance it is the business owners responsibility for maintaining the sidewalk.

Mr. Brandon Beriault stated that he would like to see the City ordinance on chickens be changed. Mr. Beriault commented that they were here to find out the process to change the City code to allow chickens in the City limits as pets. Mr. Beriault stated that many communities around the state are allowing chickens. Further discussion followed. It is his understanding the East Helena does allow chickens but no roosters and there are requirements on where the coops can be located. Mr. Beriault stated his daughter participates in 4H and would like to be able to continue to show her chickens. Mr. Myhre explained that there are a couple of ways to change City ordinance. One is through City staff working on a problem that needs to be addressed or can be fixed by ordinance. Another way is for the City Commission wanting a change to the ordinance and then direct staff to draft changes to the ordinance and then bring back for approval. Mr.

Myhre stated in order to make a change to allow chickens it would have to be directed by a City Commissioner to look at the possibility of allowing chickens in the City. Commissioner Putnam explained that she would like staff to look at the code. Commissioner Doney asked if they talked to their neighbors and if any letters of support could be provided would be great.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Doney adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 20th day of October, 2014.

Gayle Doney, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk