

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on August 16, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pattie Berg
Ron Coleman
Rick Ellison
Lee Blanchard

A. Call Regular Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

D. Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted on public matters not listed on this agenda and are within the jurisdiction of the City Council and having a significant interest to the public. During a regular session, there will be time after each agenda item for comment about that item.

1. Step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record.
2. Please limit your comments to THREE (3) minutes.

The Mayor asked if there was any public comment. Vickie West had a question on the ordinance code chapter 8.1.15

E. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Resolution # 2022-8 Pit Meters

Discussion and/or Action

Per discussion at 8/1/ meeting, consider Resolution of the City Council to effect the replacement of identified water meters housed in below-ground chambers or pits to finish the exchange of old water meters for the new system meters: purchase the pit chambers and supplying the new meters for owners of each identified property to install

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Motion to approve Resolution 2022-8 as presented or as amended.

The Mayor read out loud Resolution #2022-8 Pit Meters, a Resolution of the City of White Sulphur Springs, Montana, to order and replace incompatible pit meters at partial City expense and authorizing expenditure for such replacement. It was suggested to clarify the language on, “the City has determined the cost for each pit, or chamber, is approximately \$1250.00, which does not include the cost of installation and connection, and for which the City will not assume responsibility and requires a licensed plumber (to include language), “ for connection to the service lines”. It was suggested to strike out parts of the City will work with the affected property owners to provide the pit chamber at no cost to the property owner, along with the City-owned Neptune meter, (“when proper arrangements are made for installation of the pit or meter chamber”) and strike out “The property owners will, in accordance with Title 8, Chapter 1 of the White Sulphur Springs City Code, be responsible for the installation of the pit chamber and the meter in accordance with the Code, which

includes the cost of removal of the old pit chamber and installation of the new, together with any plumbing costs associated with the installation”, and add the language, “The City will provide the pit and meter without cost to the property owner, but installation costs, including removal of the old pit and meter, are the responsibility of the property owner. Installation requires a licensed plumber to complete all connections to the service lines”, strike out (“all installation”) and add language, “The location of the new pit and meter” shall, and strike out (“ occur in such a manner that”) and add the language “be such that” the City can gain access to the Neptune meter as needed for maintenance or other issues, including reading the meter should the electronic signal be disrupted or otherwise affected, and add “the property owners shall consult with City staff as to the location of the new pit and meter”. The old Mastermeter meters will be returned to the City. Susan Wordal make the language changes. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve Resolution 2022-8 as amended.

Public Comment, Vickie West asked if there was a way to know who 8-10 owners are on this pit meter list so that those whom this applies to could possibly get together and have a contractor install them at a lower rate, how long they had to do this, what are the guideline specs and what is expected of them. The Mayor said that the list is at the City Office and she could have a list of the residents affected.

It was suggested to table this. There was not a second on the motion. Motion died. This will be tabled until the September meeting. Susan Wordal will review this and make the necessary language.

2. Freedom Days LLC Labor Day Rodeo Alcohol Waiver

Discussion and/or Action

Presentation as to Freedom Day’s Rodeo event and the street closure/alcohol waiver request for the 4th of September.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to approve Freedom Day’s Rodeo’s Open Container Waiver for September 4th

Kate Daily, Cassie Coburn, and Josh Manning approached the Council to request an Open Container Waiver for the Freedom Days LLC Labor Day Rodeo. The street closure application permits have already been submitted. Lee Blanchard motioned to approve the Open Container Waiver for September 4th. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

3. Hospital Annexation – Rob Brandt or representative

Discussion and/or Action

On-going issue pending before City/County Planning Board. Mr. Brandt has requested time to bring the Council up to speed on the pending application for annexation before the Planning Board and discuss any concerns of the Council regarding the application which were conveyed to the Planning Board when the Amended Petition was forwarded.

Accept Public Comment

Any formal action on this item must await a formal recommendation from the City/County Planning Board as to the annexation petition.

The Hospital Administrator, Rob Brandt, and many supporters of the new hospital were in attendance. Rob Brandt approached the Council to request the City's support for the new hospital project. Rob Brandt said that the board is of support of the new Hospital Project, they are not asking for any tax dollars, or any fund raising, they already have the funding locked in, for two years now, and are ready to proceed. Rob Brandt said that they will be taking the nursing home residents/facilities with them to the new Hospital. The letter that the City sent in July to the Planning Board questioning the emergency route and the progress on the water line caused the USDA funding agency to stop on the environmental assessment process. Rob Brandt said that they in the process of doing a needs assessment impact traffic study on the two emergency Hospital routes, 5th Street and Garfield Street. The Mayor discussed Garfield Street's width and parking along it. Rob Brandt said that the project process will need to continue on moving forward. The City Council agreed to withdraw the previous letter from July and send another letter supporting the new Hospital project. Pattie Berg motioned to withdraw the July letter and send another letter supporting the Hospital project. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. The Mayor asked if there was any public comment. Susan Wordal will write up the support letter and have it ready for Rob Brandt to pick up on Thursday. Rob Brandt thanked the Mayor and Council for the City's support of the Hospital project and being able to move forward. Rob Brandt handed out to the some CDBG grant information for the Council.

F. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Actions

G. Motion/Vote to Adjourn Business Meeting

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Ron Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

WORK SESSION (Starts directly after Business Meeting adjourns)

A. Call Work Session Meeting to Order

B. Council Discussion:

1. 2022-2023 Budget Final Discussion

Discussion

Continued from Work Session of July 19th and Regular Meeting on August 1st. Finalize all budget items for consideration of final budget at budget hearing scheduled for August 23, 2022. Obtain consensus from Council on final budget.

Accept Public Comment

No formal action to be taken until public hearing on budget on August 23, 2022.

The Mayor, Council, and City Clerk-Treasurer went through the proposed budget document.

Law Enforcement Services Contract Payment to County – Special Police District this year is 46.920 mills x \$1,565.663 (a mill City) = \$73,460.77. One Deputy at \$75,000 minus the \$73,460.77 = \$1,539.23 to budget for this year. The City had budgeted for \$20,000, so the difference is \$18,461 more. The \$18,461 will be divided into three (\$6,153 each) and be

transferred from the General fund and placed in the three Capital Projects 4005 fund accounts. The City Shop shell building and concrete (the electrical and insulation would be later) approximately \$100,000 will be funded by 1/3 General Facilities, 1/3 Water, and 1/3 Sewer. The Mayor said he met with a couple of ladies from the State of Montana that were going to the smaller communities and letting them know that there is ARPA Allocation funds available that have not been allocated yet. The City had applied for ARPA funds for the Water Main Transmission Phase 4 but the name on the application was not the City of White Sulphur Springs, it was Innovative Engineering so it was kicked back. The ladies helped for 2 ½ hours to transfer all of the information on the application. The Mayor then called Craig Erickson resubmit the application by the deadline on August 31st. The GIS Mapping, approximately costing (\$8,000), could possibly use some of the Rock Hard Impact funds, because it is for planning, along with water funds and sewer funds. Approximately \$12, 000 of the HB473 Gas tax funds will need to be spent on a street project this year before it is set to expire. It would be good if another street project of approximately \$27,000 could be spent also. There will be a paving contractor here in 3 weeks to pave over the Lincoln Street project and by where Tintina's two houses hooked up services and then graveled the streets; possibly they might have time to pave over some other streets if they asked. The City Crew could get on the paving contractor's schedule for next July and grind/roll/pack other streets and get ready to use more street HB473 Gas Tax funds on chip sealing. The Mayor said that there is a company Hwy North that said that the City could have the chips from that project, but have not heard back from them, that would save money from transport from Helena or Billings, going up and picking the chips up. The Park donations should be broken out with Tennis Court/Parks/Spike's Happy Trail. The white truck will need to be replaced with a different decent older truck soon as the rear axles are about shot. The Mayor said that current cost of living is 5.9%.

The Mayor handed out to the Council the recommended the proposed raises to be more of a cost of living almost 5% for most employees not a performance based raise. Matt Swett was hired as a temporary position, but would like to have him stay as he is a very good hand to have and do the GIS Mapping for a year and then start back up again summertime to help with the City Crew. The Council discussed the situation on being able to have a City Crew Employee with a CDL. Rocky Vinton is working on his driving part of the CDL but has been difficulties with the different language for the same test at different DMV Stations. Ron Coleman is going to write a letter to the DMV station as the verbal/language testing is different at every Town for the same test and iron it out to have it be a consistent test. The Council discussed City Public Work's water and sewer certifications. Rocky Vinton has all of his certifications. Jake Gregory has one water certification and is studying for the sewer exam.

Pattie Berg motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

It was suggested to do some sort of a lump sum raise so that the rate per hour would not be compounded. There was further discussions on raises, with one employee not having a required CDL (that person is working on getting the CDL and when they were hired it was not a requirement) and driving, an employee that received a raise in April (.50 cent raise after the six month period) and then getting then a .30 cent raise also, and employees that have only been on the job less than six months. Rick Ellison said that a cost of living raise should not matter how long they have been employed. Ron Coleman and Lee Blanchard said he was fine with the Mayor's proposal of raises handed out to the Council. The next meeting will be to vote on the Preliminary Budget and it will be on August 23rd at 6:00 pm because there will be a Department

of Revenue/County/School (Property Tax mistake) hearing at the school at 7:00 pm. There was a discussion on Annexations, Subdivisions, and the role of the Planning Board has in order to move along the processes more smoothly. Susan Wordal will visit with the Planning Board and review the process with them so that in the future it will not take so long like it did with the Hospital.

C. Comments/Discussion

1. Future Business
2. Mayor's Comments—Rick Nelson
3. Council Comments/Discussion
 - a. President of the Council—Pattie Berg
 - b. Council Member—Ron Coleman
 - c. Council Member—Rick Ellison
 - d. Council Member—Lee Blanchard

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D. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.


Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor – Rick Nelson