

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 AT 7:00 PM IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

PRESENT: Mayor; JoDee Pratt, Councilors; Steve Fradenburgh, Leigh Ann LaCroix and Steve Zachmann, City Attorney; Rich Batterman, Police Chief; Mike Reddick, Fire Chief; Tom Bruha, Director of Public Works; Luke Holestine, Planning and Zoning; Mary Grube and Deputy Clerk; Brenda Dietz.

ABSENT: Councilor; Pat Ehret and Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart

GUESTS: Darlene Hornung, LaRita Huether, Ellen Dockter, Sheena Veazey, Kyle Shear, Shannon Hewson, Rich Menger, Deb Ranum, Carla and Jerry Brown, Katie Hanson, Jerry Losing, Tyler Travis and Dustin Davis.

Motion by Leigh Ann LaCroix, Second by Steve Fradenburgh to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 2, 2019 as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Pratt presented Carla Brown with the Citizen of the Year Award.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Mrs. Ellen Dockter inquired about the state of her street in front of her house. She stated that it is in poor shape with holes and questioned why the city removed the pavement. Mayor Pratt explained that with the lack of a base on these streets in the area east of Lake Street and west of the Baker Lake, no material would hold.

Luke explained of the hazard of the crumbled areas and stated that the Public Work's Dept. had dug out these areas and replaced it with new material with a crown. Luke will meet with Tyler Travis and take a look at this area again.

Steve Fradenburgh explained that with the lack of a SID in this area no material will hold and there was not much else the city could do for maintenance.

Jerry Losing asked for an explanation of what a SID is. Mayor Pratt explained that each landowner is charged in an area for curb and payment. The cost would be split among all property owners. A plan would need to be presented with options for maintenance or a SID.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Pratt called for the vote on the utility services allowance.

Steve Zachmann brought forth information for the council including an ordinance section 13.06.010 regarding property owner's liability. He would like all employees to be treated equally. Rich Batterman noted that the charging the tenants was at the discretion of the City Clerk per ordinance. Motion by Steve Zachmann, Second by Steve Fradenburgh to allow city employees to put utilities in their name as tenants therefore qualifying all employees for the utility service allowance. Motion Carried. Leigh Ann abstained, Zachmann and Fradenburgh Aye.

Steve Zachmann would also like a letter sent out by the office to the landlords of city employees stating the change in policy for employees only.

Shannon Hewson with Brosz Engineering discussed the pay application and change order for well #8 and the cost reduction of \$23,000 by Diamond J Construction. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Steve Zachmann to approve the final pay application for well #8 to Diamond J Construction. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Pratt asked Shannon if well #8 is up and running. Shannon reported that there is some warranty work to be completed by Dakota Pump and chlorinator tested prior to operation. Luke stated that everything is testing good.

Mayor Pratt brought up that some of the City Ordinances need to be updated. She asked if the Council would go through the ordinances and note changes that need to be made with the current operations of the city. Rich Batterman suggested the Council go through the ordinances chapter by chapter.

Luke requested permission to order garbage tubs in the amount of approximately \$13,500. He will order 25 300-gal tubs, 15 90-gal tubs and 10 grass tubs. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Steve Zachmann to grant Luke's request to order these garbage tubs. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Steve Zachmann thanked Luke and Sheena for all their work creating maps and gathering information regarding garbage and snow removal routes. He also thanked the office for their input and information. Steve Zachmann would also like the garbage maps to be placed on the agenda for the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Steve Fradenburgh stated that he would like to see a penalty assessed to customers that abuse the use of the garbage tubs.

Deb Ranum asked if the Council felt that the county should advertise the container site more. Mayor Pratt felt it could be advertised more. Deb inquired as to the possibility of the city putting 2 containers at the city shop. Mayor Pratt stated it would be too much of an expense for the city. Luke stated that we have clean up days twice a year and that should be sufficient.

Mayor Pratt stated that there are two applicants for the Safety Coordinator for the city shop. Luke would like to recommend Kyle Rogge for the Safety Coordinator position, grade 11, step 3 at \$21.74 a \$1.26/hr. increase. This position is for the Public Works Dept. only, effective January 17, 2019. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Steve Zachmann to approve this recommendation. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Rich Batterman explained the interlocal agreement to the council regarding the maintenance of the courthouse. They are requesting an increase from \$15,000 to \$19,140 per year. Included is a renewal date change from March 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, stating the interest of both the county and the city. This agreement is for 5 years with an automatic renewal. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Leigh Ann LaCroix to present draft to the county. Motion Carried. All Aye.

**PLANNING INPUT:**

Officers were elected for the Planning Board. There is still 1 position open, ads have been placed in the paper. The Board of Adjustment had no quorum present to elect officers. This board needs several members. Zoning Board meeting will be held the last Monday in January to elect officers.

**FIRE DEPT. INPUT:**

Tom reported on a dumpster fire caused by cigarettes. There was no damage done to the dumpster.

**MAYOR INPUT:**

None

**PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:**

Luke reported that the emergency pump at the lift station has been set and come in at a lower cost than expected and it is working well.

Public works assisted Plevna with a water leak by taking our listening device over to help locate the issue and also giving employees valuable training.

Well #8 is 98% done and is a good producing well. Luke thanked Shannon for a great job on the well.

Shannon reported to the council regarding the NRC Tsep Grant application hearing in Helena, January 28-30. He felt it would be beneficial to have the City of Baker represented to testify about the condition of the water system. This grant is for \$600,000. Steve Fradenburgh stated that he felt someone should attend. Mayor Pratt is unable to attend, but Luke is willing to go. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Steve Zachmann to allow Luke to attend this session in Helena. Motion Carried. All Aye.

**POLICE DEPT. INPUT:**

Mike reported that the bars are really busy. This will increase with the influx of people to Baker.

**REDIRECT:**

Deb Ranum stated that Shannon Johnson, Fallon County Times, was going to interview the county and parks dept. about the interlocal agreement.

JoDee asked Deb if the county was going to use the aerators on the lake this year. Deb could not say if the county was or not at this time.

**ATTORNEY INPUT:**

Rich presented Mayor Pratt with a working draft of the parks interlocal agreement

Mayor Pratt discussed the issue of snow and ice removal at the courthouse. She wanted to know if the Park Dept. is still in charge of this. Deb Ranum will check into this and get back to Mayor Pratt.

**CLERK'S INPUT:**

The December Financial report and quarterly investment report were available for review.

**REDIRECT:**

Rich stated that the draft for interlocal for parks will be presented at next meeting. Rich complimented the new police officers and felt they are doing a good job. If the council wishes they can go through the ordinance by chapter and get the changes to him to prepare.

LaCroix – none

Zachmann – The speed limit on the west edge of Baker by the new Runnings store will undergo a study from the MDOT; they then will make the determination of a speed limit.

Fradenburgh – Apologized for missing the last meeting. He also complimented Luke and crew the effort of cleaning up downtown now that the sweeper is back.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

2924 Kent Ehret \$1,505.78, 2925 MT CSED SDU emp w/h \$195.28, 296 Mt Dept of Revenue emp w/h \$2,144.71, 2927 Montana State Fund work comp \$3,200.81, 2928 Nationwide emp w/h \$191.00, 2929 Unemployment Ins. Quarterly \$1,358.02, PERD vendor liability \$3,263.10, Dept of Treasury vendor liability \$10,335.51, MPERA vendor liability \$4,600.81, ACH Dustin Bachelor \$1,625.51, Robert Christiaens \$1,213.07, Brenda Dietz \$1,482.50, Kevin Dukart \$1,700.66, Cory Efta \$1,311.15, James Heaton \$1,511.51, Heidi Heid \$852.80, Lucas Holestine \$1,433.77, Justin LaCroix \$2,93.25, Angie Rabbitt \$1,934.72, Scott Rabbitt \$1,655.52, Michael Reddick \$2,208.66, Daylon Richard \$1,522.08, Kyle Rogge \$1,123.54, Kyle Shear \$1,065.29, Raney Spethman \$282.33, Cody Strandbakke \$1,945.62, Sheena Veazey \$1,414.65

Total payroll \$54,051.65

There having been no further business to come before the Baker City Council at this time, Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Steve Zachmann to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Motion Carried. All Aye.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Clerk