

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor; Steve Zachmann, Councilors; Mike Loutzenhiser, Tracey Goerndt, Brittany Hoversland, City Attorney; Rich Batterman, City Judge; Anna Straub, Police Chief; Justin LaCroix, Fire Chief; Tom Bruha, Director of Public Works; Rod Morris, Planning & Zoning; Mary Grube, City Engineer; Shannon Hewson and Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart.

ABSENT: Councilor; Pat Ehret

GUESTS: Trish Rost and CB Heiser

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trish Rost stated that she was present to hear any updates on the SID #36 project.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of February 1, 2023, as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Zachmann reported that Rich Menger was unable to attend but stated that Rich is still working with DEQ on the Operation & Maintenance Manual for the golf course irrigation. This document will not need city approval, as it is a county plan, and this is for informational purposes only.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve Resolution #742, a Resolution regarding the petition of Baker Group LLC and Jennifer Rae Zeiler excluding land from the incorporated limits of the City of Baker. Goerndt, Hoversland, Loutzenhiser voted Aye. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Amended Plat of Lots 2-6 of Block 1, Hitch Addition, Baker Montana for Generational Properties LLC. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve schedule and cost of \$35 per employee and city official, to participate in the Fallon Medical Complex Health Fair for those who do not have medical insurance coverage to provide this service. Loutzenhiser, Hoversland voted Aye, Goerndt voted Nay. Motion Carried.

Mayor Zachmann presented a draft of a street improvement plan that he is working on. He will get more input from Shannon and Rod to finalize the plan.

Shannon Hewson presented the cost estimate update for SID #36:

Schedule I is \$3,355,754.00 for scrub and chip seal.

Schedule II is \$3,604,833.00 for chip seal with crack seal.

Schedule III is \$3,319,598.00 with 6<sup>th</sup> ST reconstruction & gravel surfacing.

The 6<sup>th</sup> ST water main replacement will be a separate bid item, estimated at \$774,305.00 to be paid from water funds.

Baker Rural Fire and Fallon County will be completing work on a waterline and bridge repair at their cost, should the projects proceed.

Shannon had prepared a bid solicitation for the schedules and projects as discussed. Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to authorize bid solicitation for the SID #36 and projects as presented above. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve a Joint Powers Agreement with Fallon County on the 2023 Street Improvement Project for the county's share of bridge replacement on 6<sup>th</sup> ST West. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve a Joint Powers Agreement with Baker Rural Fire District on the 6<sup>th</sup> ST water main replacement project for the Fire District's share of improvements. Motion Carried. All Aye.

City Judge, Anna Straub stated that in consulting with Mayor Zachmann and members of the Hiring Committee, she would like to recommend offering the City Judge Clerk position to Jill Hildebrand, this is a 9 hour per week position. Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve this recommendation. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Events and Facilities Use Agreement for O'Fallon Historical Museum pending receipt of event insurance for Heritage Fest on June 3, 2023, and for road closure adjacent to the museum from Lincoln to Fallon Ave. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Zachmann requested to advertise for a Request for Proposal for city park maintenance. Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve this request. Motion Carried. All Aye.

#### PLANNING INPUT:

Mary reported that she met with Baker High School students on growth policy listening session. She was impressed with the ideas and comments that they had on the policy. She will meet with High School staff and Plevna High School students and staff as well on the Growth Policy. Mary stated that she has approximately 30 more interviews to conduct before the Final Draft of the policy.

#### PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Rod reported that Jaramie McLean has started this week and believes he will be a good fit for the city crew.

#### CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

The January 2023 Financial Report was available for review.

Royce Hammer had reported to Kevin that the seismograph tests are complete just east of Baker Lake. There is an area there they will come back to reclaim as the equipment did leave ruts in the soil.

#### MAYOR INPUT:

Steve thanked all those who participated in the planning process for the SID #36 project.

#### CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich reported that he was in Helena at the Legislature recently. Most of the Legislation being proposed appears to have effects on the more populated areas of the state whether positive or negative.

The court has been busy of late. Rich noted that there seems to be a lack of civility among several people in the community in the past few weeks as seen by the cases in the courts.

#### COUNCIL INPUT:

Hoversland – District Basketball Tournaments begin. Go Spartans.

Goerndt – None

Loutzenhiser – Good Luck to the Baker teams and hope the weather improves.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

PERD vendor liability \$2,330.75, MPERA vendor liability \$3,186.67, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$600.00, Dept. of Treasury IRS emp w/h \$6,265.05, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$1,203.39, Montana State Fund vendor liability \$3,679.71, ACH deposits: Brenda Dietz \$1,606.08, Larry Donnelly \$1,425.73, Kevin Dukart \$1,722.15, Blayne Higgins \$997.98, Justin LaCroix \$2,151.61, Rodney Morris \$2,001.51, Bryan Nevers \$1,751.73, Kyle Rogge \$1,676.82, Ashley Rost \$888.48, Cody Strandbakke \$1,905.62, Tyler Travis \$1,560.89, Sheena Veazey \$1,490.65.

Total payroll: \$36,444.82

There having been no further business to come before the Baker City Council at this time, Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Tracey Goerndt to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk Treasurer