

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

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

GUESTS: John & Mary Ann Hecker, Patricia Rost, Teresa Christensen and Jason Griffith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

7:00 p.m. Mayor Zachmann opened the Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget and the Permissive Medical Mill Levy.

Clerk Dukart spoke on an adjustment to the General Fund Revenues and Reserves to be included in the Preliminary Budget Estimate and discussed the Permissive Medical Mill Levy.

No Comment

7:04 p.m. Hearing Closed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Theresa Christensen voiced a concern of the condition of the street near the tennis courts, 2nd ST SW, as it appears the chip machine damaged it near the curb in two areas.

Patricia Rost stated that there is a pothole near her driveway on Prairie Avenue and is concerned about the amount of chips and bare spots with holes exposed and not covered. She stated she spoke with Rod Morris who assured her they would need to continue to fix areas in the streets such as hers next spring as not all areas were complete prior to chip and seal. Patricia stated she believes that the chip and seal crew have a lack of pride in their work.

Mary Ann Hecker would like city officials to be aware of the problems they have had at their residence with flooding during the most recent rainstorm. The water flows from Wabasha Ave. then down the alley to their yard. Mary Ann shared pictures of the flooding with city officials.

Patricia Rost invited the City Council to drive on Prairie Ave. to see the condition of the street after the chip seal and inquired who are the councilors for her ward. They are Brittany and Pat.

Theresa Christensen reiterated that the street near her residence will need to be repaired prior to winter for snow removal.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of August 16, 2023 and Claims for August 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by ~~Tracey~~ Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to amend the Events and Facility Use Agreement for the Baker Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival to extend the street closing on September 30th from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Pat Ehret to approve Change Order #1 for SID #36 Schedule I, Hardrives Construction, a deduction of \$11,331.18. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to adopt Resolution #750, a Resolution Ratifying the Assessments of Maintenance costs for Special Improvement District #36, fixing debt service costs for the Year 2023-2024 and Amending Resolution #745. Hoversland, Loutzenhiser, Goerndt, Ehret voted aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Tracey Goerndt to adopt Resolution #751 a Resolution Ratifying the Assessments for Maintenance for Special Improvement District #32, Lighting District and fixing the electric costs for year 2023-2024. Loutzenhiser, Goerndt, Hoversland, Ehret voted aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Tracey Goerndt to adopt Resolution #752 a Resolution Adopting the Final Operating Budget and Setting the Mill Levy for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year for the City of Baker, Montana. Hoversland, Goerndt, Ehret, Loutzenhiser vote aye. Motion Carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Shannon stated that despite the heavy rain, the 6th Street paving is still on schedule. They had a few repairs to make along the curb lines but expect to pave the week of September 20th.

Shannon stated in response to the area where the chip machine broke through the street, he is working with the contractor on a plan to get these areas repaired. The contractor will also be doing handwork on areas where there are no chips and will work on the radius areas as well. They will continue the chip seal and are on schedule to begin the fog seal the last week of September.

Pay Applications for SID # 36 will be prepared for approval at the September 20th meeting.

Shannon stated in response to the potholes that were not repaired prior, it is the plan for the City Crew to repair these either this fall or next spring as ongoing maintenance.

PLANNING INPUT

Clerk Dukart reported that the County Commission does not intend to hire a Planning Assistant but rather contract for a consultant.

Attorney Batterman stated that he has been in contact with Forrest Sanderson who is interested in presenting a proposal to the city for planning and zoning services.

FIRE DEPT. INPUT:

Tom reported they responded to two structure fire and assisted Plevna with a grass fire by mutual aid. The department responded to a downed powerline on Highway 12 near Runnings as well.

The department will delay fire hydrant testing so as not to conflict with the street repair work.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Rod reported they had mechanical problems with the generator at the lagoon which has been sent for repairs. A replacement however may be needed. Rodents are responsible for the damage to this generator.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve stated he appreciates the public's patience with the street project and recognizes there are areas that will need to be addressed in the upcoming season for maintenance. The notices for the construction are posted in the Fallon County Times and on the city's Facebook page.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich stated he has been completing several DUI court cases and would like to recognize the work of the police officers on these cases. Rich will be at the State Bar Trustee meeting next week.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – None

Hoversland – Apologized for missing the last meeting.

Goerndt – None

Loutzenhiser – Thank you to the police for their work during the ~~far~~ fair. Mike stated he will be working out of town in the upcoming weeks.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

3564 Pattie Ehret \$310.46, 3565 Bittany Hoversland \$346.31, MPERA vendor liability \$5,671.89, PERD vendor liability \$2,538.01, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$1,997.19, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$600.00, Dept. of Treasury IRS emp w/h \$10,501.23, MMIA health ins. \$14,598.25, ACH Deposits: Albert Batterman \$2,881.39, Thomas Bruha \$294.29, Brenda Dietz \$1,776.40, Larry Donnelly \$1,747.42, Kevin Dukart \$1,890.89, Tracey Goerndt \$260.46, Blayne Higgins \$2,221.89, Jill Hildebrand \$574.30, Justin LaCroix \$2,060.20, Michael Loutzenhiser \$339.56, Jaramie McLean \$1,558.00, Rodney Morris \$1,919.69, Theresa Myers \$886.02, Brayan Nevers \$2,066.63, Kyle Rogge \$1,821.38, Ashley Rost \$845.44, Cody Strandbakke \$2,047.06, Anna Straub \$1,521.09, Tyler Travis \$1,748.90, Sheena Veazey \$2,107.28, Steven Zachmann \$818.95.

Total payroll: \$67,950.58

The following claims were approved for payment as listed:

15247 Baker Area Hardware supplies \$692.96, 15248 Baker Rural Fire Dist. Fire hall rent \$10,000.00, 15249 Banyon Data Systems software annual support fee \$1,680.00, 15250 Batterman Law Office stipend \$2,000.00, 15251 Black Mtn Software cass certification \$100.00, 15252 Boss Office Products supplies \$350.01, 15253 Brosz Engineering SID #36, 6th ST water main project \$108,020.00, 15254 Carquest Auto parts \$298.65, 15255 City of Baker petty cash – postage/dep refunds \$938.65, 15256 Diamond J Redi-Mix concrete \$367.00, 15257 Direct Electric repair lagoon frog & hook up \$155.00, 15258 Kevin Dukart travel subsistence \$30.00, 15259 Emergency Apparatus repairs & testing \$2,168.17, 15260 Energy Laboratories samples \$439.00, 15261 Fallon County Water District collections \$4,126.54, 15262 Brenda Flint submit report \$75.00, 15263 Galls supplies \$400.09, 15264 Hawkins supplies \$3,133.25, 15265 Blayne Higgins subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15266 Jackson Group Peterbilt services \$401.98, 15267 Justin LaCroix subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15268 MDU utilities \$7,444.65, 15269 Mid-American Meter Inc. supplies \$1,841.72, 15270 Mid-Rivers Telephone phone services \$1,070.82, 15271 Mitchell's Crane and Truck haul garbage truck \$1,760.00, 15272 Bryan Nevers subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15273 Newman Traffic Signs supplies \$44.68, 15274 North Baker Water District collections \$13,219.63, 15275 Northside Truck & Auto parts \$106.78, 15276 Northwest Pipe Fittings parts \$335.98, 15277 Lisa Passmore park maintenance \$8,293.08, 15278 Prairie Fuels supplies insect control \$1,384.90, 15279 Prairie MTN Electric Motor parts \$154.72, 15280 Precision Parts & Supply parts \$243.83, 15281 Reynolds supplies \$11.97, 15282 Rolling Rubber repairs \$165.85, 15283 Runnings supplies \$249.68, 15284 Safeguard Business System billing cards \$1,796.45, 15285 Scout Energy operating expense \$74.31, 15286 Sew What supplies, fire caps \$1,512.54, 02054 Spiffy's services \$200.95, 15288 Cody Strandbakke subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15289 T & S Mobile Hearing Express services \$396.00, 15290 The Badlands Patriot publishing \$299.15, 15291 US Bank Voyager fuel \$4,104.88, 15292 Utilities Underground Locations locate requests \$30.94, 15293 Verizon Wireless cellular service \$209.08, 15294 VISA shop – postage & supplies \$40.54, 15295 Wyrick Construction hot mix & material \$117,263.04, 15296 Wyrick Construction repair & patch streets \$80,608.30.

Total claims: 378,974.09

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 7:46 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer