

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

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

GUESTS: Jackie Lytton, Jason Griffith and Brenda Uecker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jackie Lytton asked the city officials to consider lifting the restriction and allow chickens in the city. She agreed there should be certain restrictions if allowed.

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Tracey Goerndt to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of September 20, 2023 and Claims for September 2023 as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brenda Uecker of Thee Garage Bar & Steakhouse presented an Event & Facilities Use Agreement for a Bacon and Beverage Event scheduled for October 14, 2023. She requested to lift the open container ordinance from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the area from 2nd St NW near Baker Bowling Center to the alley east of Old Skool Brew Pub between Montana Ave. and Railroad Ave. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Tracey Goerndt to approve the request for this event and lift open container for the time and area described. No glass containers, proof of insurance, and wrist bands for participants will be required. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve an update to the City of Baker official Zone Map. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Pat Ehret to approve the Amended Platt for Scott and Debra Veroye, Milwaukee 1st Addition, Block 13, Lot 1AP. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve the request by Diamond J Construction for a 5-day extension of the completion date for Schedule III, 6th St. Reconstruction. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Tracey Goerndt to elect by acclamation, Randy Morris to the Baker City Council representing Ward I. Loutzenhiser, Goerndt, Hoversland, Ehret voted aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tracey, second by Mike to approve the Notice of Vacancy advertising for the soon to be vacant City Council Ward II position. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Rylan Limesand presented the written engineer's report on the Water Main & Tank Hill Water Project that is waiting for completion of punch list items.

Schedule I Scrub Seal – The scrub seal and concrete seal is complete. Striping to be done next week. Post construction meeting will be scheduled soon.

Schedule III 6th St Reconstruction – Paving complete, concrete and incidentals to be next week, this includes reinstalling of rock slopes next to Fire District lot.

Rylan stated that Brosz Engineering has opened an office in Miles City and invites all to an Open House on November 2nd at 3:30, the office is on Main Street.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve stated that upcoming, he will work on a press release to notify those residents who clear snow from driveways, etc. to be cautious when using equipment on or near city streets and right of ways to minimize damage.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich gave a report on recent caseload involving DUI's, assaults and shoplifting offenses.

Rich also reported on the recent tax dispute between several Montana counties and the Governor's office regarding the levy of 95 mills for school equalization. Rich stated he brings this up as a matter of concern on how the increase in taxes may wrongly affect public perception of city tax levy increases.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – Pat thanked Rylan and Brosz Engineering for their work as well as Justin and the Police Department.

Hoversland – Thank you to Pat Ehret for serving as Homecoming Parade Marshall, the police for the assistance and the Fire Dept. members for help with the bonfire and car bash.

Goerndt – Commented that the streets look good but would like to see a street maintenance plan for the future.

Loutzenhiser – Mike agreed with Tracey on the outcome of the street project.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

3567 Pattie Ehret \$310.46, 3568 Brittany Hoversland \$346.31, PERD vendor liability \$2,254.40, MPERA vendor liability \$5,275.80, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$800.00, Dept. of Treasury emp w/h \$9,271.97, MT Dept of Revenue emp w/h \$1,761.00, MMIA health insurance \$14,598.25, ACH Deposits: Albert Batterman \$3,125.74, Thomas Bruha \$294.29, Brenda Dietz \$1,431.16, Larry Donnelly \$1,342.94, Kevin Dukart \$1,403.49, Tracey Goerndt \$260.46, Blayne Higgins \$1,517.13, Jill Hildebrand \$751.47, Justin LaCroix \$2,121.15, Michael Loutzenhiser \$339.56, Jaramie McLean \$1,353.28, Rodney Morris \$1,966.97, Theresa Myers \$998.75, Bryan Nevers \$1,820.58, Kyle Rogge \$1,587.79, Ashley Rost \$717.49, Cody Strandbakke \$1,910.32, Anna Straub \$1,521.09, Tyler Travis \$1,622.13, Sheena Veazey \$1,751.24, Steven Zachmann \$818.95.

Total payroll: \$63,274.17

The following claims were approved for payment as listed:

15297 B & B Septic Services pump lift station \$480.00, 15298 Baker Area Hardware supplies \$39.26, 15299 Baker Metal supplies \$972.30, 15300 Batterman Law Office stipend \$2,000.00, 15301 Black Mountain Software annual support \$5,520.00, 15302 Boss Office Products supplies \$999.13, 15303 Brosz Engineering services SID, 6th St. \$88,625.00, 15304 City of Baker petty cash postage, dep refunds \$852.50, 15305 CivicPlus online code hosting annual fee \$900.00, 15306 CNADA 3rd quarter collections \$250.00, 15307 Dakota Pump Inc. phone support \$260.00, 15308 Denning, Downey & Associates 2022 & 2023 Audit \$3,470.00, 15309 Diamond J Construction SID #36 pay app #1 \$998,199.48, 15310 direct Electric repairs well #7 \$5,137.79, 15311 Kevin Dukart vehicle subsistence \$30.00, 15312 Energy Lab water samples \$66.00, 15313 Fallon County Treasure building, tipping fees \$8,809.15, 15314 Fallon County Water District collections \$3,190.53, 15315 Fireman's Co. annual service \$1,231.10, 15316 Fireside Office Products repairs \$243.36, 15317 Brenda Flint services \$75.00, 15318 Galls LLC boots PD \$120.98, 15319 Hardrives Construction SID #36 pay app #1 \$1,302,508.59, 15320 Hawkins Inc. supplies \$2,189.53, 15321 Blayne Higgins subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15322 IworQ Systems annual support \$2,555.00, 15323 JP Cooke Co. dog tags \$80.35, 15324 Jackson Murdo & Grant SID #36 bond counsel \$30,000.00, 15325 JK Construction 6th St water main project pay app #4 \$12,242.97,

15326 KLJ Engineering zone map revisions \$1,034.12, 15327 Justin LaCroix subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15328 MDU utilities \$6,953.35, 15329 Mid-American Research Chemical supplies \$1,841.72, 15330 Mid-Rivers phone services \$1,079.98, 15331 Bryan Nevers subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15332 North Baker Water District collections \$9,019.07, 15333 Lisa Passmore park maintenance \$6,439.04, 15334 Prairie Fuels supplies insect control \$1,434.90, 15335 Precision Parts & Supply parts \$520.80, 15336 Reynolds supplies \$26.34, 15337 Rocky Mountain Info Network 23-24 membership fees \$50.00, 15338 Scout Energy Management August operating expenses \$76.82, 15339 Spiffy's services \$497.07, 15340 Cody Strandbakke subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15341 Time W Olson Construction re-coat hydro-vac tank \$3,534.50, 15342 US Bank Voyager fuel \$3,531.84, 15343 Utilities Underground Locations locate requests \$54.60, 15344 Verizon Wireless cell services \$209.40, 15345 VISA shop – postage supplies \$272.07, 15346 Wyrick Construction SID #36 scoria & gravel.

Total for claims: \$2,550,836.10

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 7:35 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer