

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

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

GUESTS: Brenda Dietz, Jason Griffith, Nancy Strain-Ravage & Elias Ravage.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Bruha expressed concern of the debris left at the old Jackson Village cabin site on 1st ST NE.

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Tracey Goerndt to approve the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

An interview was conducted with Nancy Strain-Ravage who submitted a Letter of Interest to serve as City Councilor for Ward II.

- Nancy would like to be more involved in the community and looks forward to representing the younger citizens and that viewpoint. Nancy stated that she is a quick learner and would bring a new perspective to the position. Road infrastructure and plowing for snow removal and an increase in public outreach are important and needs she would like to see addressed. Nancy has experience in customer service and believes in listening to customers to understand their concerns to be able to offer solutions or compromises. Nancy stated she has no conflict of interests inhibit her from serving in this position.

It was noted the appointment will be for 2 years until the next general election.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to appoint Nancy Strain-Ravage to serve as Baker City Councilor Ward II. Ehret, Hoversland, Loutzenhiser, Goerndt Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the modification of Interlocal Agreement for Planning Board and Professional Staff entered on January 5, 2015. Ehret, Hoversland, Loutzenhiser and Goerndt voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Pat Ehret to approve Resolution #756 a Resolution of the City of Baker adopting a Policy Concerning Compliance with IRS Requirements for Tax Exempt Bonds issued by the City. Ehret, Hoversland, Loutzenhiser, Goerndt Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Clerk Dukart presented a quote from Verizon to change telephone services in the City Office, the City Judge Office and a quote for cell service for the Police Department. Kevin asked for permission to negotiate with Verizon and Fallon County to be included on the county plan for courthouse phones as there may be cost savings on a monthly basis. Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the request to negotiate and accept quote for phone services from Verizon. Motion Carried. All Aye.

The list of the amount of Baker Bucks and funds for the Baker Volunteer Fire Dept. for Christmas gifts was presented. Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve these requests. Motion Carried. All Aye.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Mayor Zachmann stated that he has spoken to Rylan earlier this week and they plan to have pay applications from Diamond J and Hardrives for SID # 36 at the next meeting. The draft of the Street Maintenance Plan should be completed by the next meeting as well.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

The east water tank is drained and is undergoing maintenance. Rod reported that the applicant for the open position did not accept the job offer.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve reported that he will follow up with the issue of the cleanup of the Jackson Village property.

Rod stated he has been in contact with the realtor and the contractor on this clean up. Steve stated he will get this information from Rod to resolve this issue.

Mayor Zachman reported on the many comments and questions in the past few weeks on the SID tax. It is understood this is a financial burden on some property owners. Steve stated every effort was made by city officials to keep the costs as low as possible. This includes the generous donation of funds and labor by Fallon County. Steve also noted it should be recognized that this project was a long overdue project and severely needed to save the paved city streets.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich reported on the criminal cases that he has been working on for the past several weeks. Rich also stated that the cleanup of the Jackson Village property can be achieved through the nuisance ordinance. Rich wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – Offered her condolences to Steve and his family on the death of his father. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Hoversland – Noted that the Wild Game Feed was well attended and is for a very good cause. Congratulations to Nancy on her appointment.

Goerndt- Thank you to the County for the cash and labor for the SID. Welcome Nancy. Happy Thanksgiving.

Loutzenhiser – Thank you to the police for their service, also noted all of the city Police Officers are service veterans. Welcome to the City Council Nancy.

The following payroll approved for payment:

PERD vendor liability \$2,567.69, MPERA vendor liability \$4,455.24, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$800.00, Dept. of Treasury emp w/h \$9,228.72, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$1,704.77, MT State Fund work comp vendor liability \$104.57, ACH Deposits: Brenda Dietz \$1,601.88, Larry Donnelly \$4,183.92, Kevin Dukart \$1,599.07, Blayne Higgins \$1,972.70, Justin LaCroix \$2,121.15, Jaramie McLean \$1,477.46, Rodney Morris \$1,966.97, Bryan Nevers \$2,367.06, Kyle Rogge \$1,540.43, Ashley Rost \$795.12, Cody Strandbakke \$1,845.13, Tyler Travis \$1,818.49, Sheena Veazey \$1,561.71.

Total payroll: \$43,712.08

There having been no further business to come before the Baker City Council at this time, Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer