

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

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

GUESTS: Randy Morris and Nancy Strain.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of November 15, 2023 with one correction and the Claims for November 2023 with one addition. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Pat Ehret to approve the Management Discussion and Analysis Report for Fiscal Year 2023. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Tracey Goerndt to declare to continue with city wide water system improvements as the infrastructure priority list for the City of Baker regarding application for HB355 Infrastructure Funds. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Discussed a request from property owner, Erica Vaughn for payment by the city for whole or part of the current year her assessment of SID #36 under Code 7-12-4162 (1) (b). City Attorney Batterman advised this code refers to the actual creation of the SID, not to any particular assessment. The city did use taxpayer funds available, limited the square footage, and negotiated with Fallon County Commissioners for funding to reduce the cost to property owners following creation of SID # 36.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve a request for relief from Erica Vaughn for the current assessment. Ehret voted Aye, Hoversland, Goerndt, Loutzenhiser voted Nay. Motion Failed.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Brittany Hoversland to re-appoint Dennis Twedt for a three-year term to the Airport Zoning Commission, term to expire 12-31-2026. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to recommend to re-appoint Vaughn Zenko Jr. as a City Representative to the Fallon County Planning Board for a two-year term to expire 12-31-2025. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to set a fee for labor to install Baker High School Senior Class banners.

Hoversland explained that this was originally to be done during the year of COVID when graduation and other ceremonies were canceled, and the fee should be enough to cover our labor and equipment. Last year \$1,037 was paid by the 2023 Senior Class. It was noted that it takes 4 employees to install and remove and there is cost if brackets need to be replaced.

Motion by Brittany Hoversland, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to amend the motion to set the fee at \$1,500 to install and remove the Senior Banners. Amendment passed, All Aye. Main Motion as amended passed. All Aye.

Motion by Tracey Goerndt, Mike Loutzenhiser to approve Pay Application #3 for Hardrives Construction, SID #36 Project in the amount of \$124,736.53. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Zachmann read correspondence from Shannon Hewson, City Engineer on the condition of Prairie Avenue East and 1st Street NE which was improved with a gravel surface per SID #36. With heavy snow moisture this street was saturated and caused travel problems and tracking for the residents and businesses near that location. The gravel surface was to specifications per testing. Shannon further explained the plan to improve and maintain this section to help prevent this from occurring in the future. Mayor Zachmann stated that chips were placed on this street to help with the immediate problem of tracking, if we do get a large amount of moisture again prior to spring when further maintenance and improvements can be made if necessary.

There was also discussion on the condition of 2nd Street SW north of the tennis courts. Rylan stated that the maintenance for that area will be included in the upcoming Street Maintenance Plan to be presented to the city in January.

Mayor Zachmann asked if a plan for a city employee and officials Holiday Party for January 6th would be acceptable. Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to approve to plan for a January 6, 2024 Holiday Party to be finalized at the December 20th meeting. Motion Carried. All Aye.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Rylan reported that Diamond J will be completing punch lists for the Water Main to Wells and Tank Hill Water Project soon. They also have provided a sample to replace the rock slope by the Fire Hall for Fire District board approval.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Rod reported that aside from the area by Prairie Avenue East, the crew will be putting chips on 4 of 5 more blocks of gravel to improve the surface.

CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

Clerk Dukart reported that a question had arisen on the length of the term for Nancy Strain who was appointed by the City Council. Attorney Batterman clarified it will be a two-year term then after that Ms. Strain would need to file to be elected for the remaining two years of that term should she desire to continue to serve.

MAYOR INPUT:

Mayor Zachmann stated that he has begun working with Rod on preparation to plan for winter maintenance on sidewalks along the Baker Lake dam and in the downtown area. He will be contacting downtown businesses on snow removal of sidewalks and work with the State Highway Dept. to better assure that the snow from sidewalks may be cleared in a timely manner from Highway 12 & 7.

Councilor Goerndt noted that if snow is left to close to the intersection of 7 & 12 it hampers semi-truck traffic.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich reported that there is a continued load of DUI's & family assault charges. He has received the bid for the Police Dept. vehicle and will meet with Chief LaCroix when he is back on duty.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – none

Hoversland – Support the Spartans. Basketball season begins this weekend.

Goerndt – Thank you to Brosz Engineering for beginning work on the Street Maintenance Plan. Thank you to the City Crew.

Loutzenhiser – Stated he is calling in from Gillette Wyoming tonight.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

3573 Pattie Ehret, 3574 Britany Hoversland \$346.31, PERD vendor liability \$2m951.93, MPERA vendor liability \$5,352.76, Nationwide Retirement \$800.00, Dept. of Treasury emp w/h \$10,085.35, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$1,932.40, ACH Deposits: Albert Batterman \$2,962.84, Thomas Bruha \$294.29, Brenda Dietz \$1,772.00, Kevin Dukart \$1,794.65, Tracey Goerndt \$260.46, Blayne Higgins \$1,913.02, Jill Hildebrand \$707.26, Justin LaCroix \$2,121.15, Michael Loutzenhiser \$339.56, Jaramie McLean \$1,601.63, Rodney Morris \$1,966.97, Theresa Myers \$1,035.07, Bryan Nevers \$1,941.57, Kyle Rogge \$1,996.06, Ashley Rost \$872.73, Cody Strandbakke \$2,839.02, Anna Straub \$1,521.09, Tyler Travis \$1,747.08, Sheena Veazey \$1,788.32, Steven Zachmann \$818.95.

Total payroll: \$65,822.03

The following claims were approved as listed:

15397 ABC Plus windshield \$509.00, 15398 All About Tanks 35 garbage tubs \$12,008.50, Baker Area Hardware supplies \$266.30, 15400 Baker Metal supplies \$156.55, 15401 Baker Volunteer Fire Dept. donation \$650.00, 15402 Baker Volunteer Fire Dept. training & call hrs. \$7,996.27, 15403 Bank of Baker Baker bucks \$2,600.00, 15404 Batterman Law Office stipend \$2,000.00, 15405 Boss Office Products supplies \$960.83, 15406 Brosz Engineering services SID #36 \$27,525.00, 15407 City of Baker petty cash postage, dep refunds \$1,019.44, 15408 Classy Cactus Floral plant \$85.00, 15409 Denning Downey & Associates services \$10,200.00, 15410 Diamond J Redi-Mix concrete \$367.00, 15411 Direct Electric park outlet \$116.23, 15412 DNOW supplies \$77.73, Kevin Dukart travel subsistence, travel per diem \$174.10, 15414 Emergency Apparatus services & repair fire #460 \$3,262.58, 15415 Energy Lab water samples \$66.00, 15416 Fallon County Treasurer building maint., tipping fees \$5,436.65, 15417 Fallon County Water Dist. Collections \$3,403.02, 15418 Brenda Flint services \$75.00, 15419 Hardrives Construction SID #36 pay app #3 \$123,489.16, 15420 Hawkins Inc. supplies \$2,564.63, 15421 Blayne Higgins subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15422 Blayne Higgins travel per diem \$238.34, KLJ Engineering zoning edits \$32.00, 15424 Justin LaCroix subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15425 MDU utilities \$7,346.84, 15426 Mid-Rivers phone services \$972.24, 15427 MT Dept. of Administration filing fee AFR \$1,300.00, 15428 Municipal Emergency Services supplies & services \$3,783.82, 15429 Bryan Nevers subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15430 North Baker Water District collections \$18,093.59, 15431 Lisa Passmore park maintenance \$1,350.00, 15432 Peaks Planning & Consulting subdivision regulations update \$600.00, 15433 Prairie Fuels fuel \$37.50, 15434 Precision Parts & Supply parts \$1,130.48, 15435 Railroad Management Co. sewer line easement fee \$379.14, 15436 Rolling Rubber repairs \$112.00, 15437 Runnings supplies \$1,134.86, 15438 Safeguard Business tax forms \$188.61, 15439 Scout Energy Management Oct. operating expense \$83.01, 15440 Cody Strandbakke subsistence/animal control \$183.33, Cody Strandbakke travel per diem \$315.96, 15442 the Badlands Patriot publishing & supplies \$1,075.36, 15443 The Chemnet Consortium random testing services \$140.00, 15444 Tyler Travis reimbursement CDL physical \$95.00, 15445 US Bank Voyager fuel \$4,320.06, 15446 USPS stamps \$481.80, 15447 Utilities Underground Locations locate requests \$20.02, 15448 Verizon Wireless cellular services \$874.93, 15449 VISA police postage \$10.20, 15450 VISA shop postage & supplies \$69.84.

Total claims: \$251,175.28

There having been no further business to come before the Baker City Council at this time, Motion by Tracey Goerndt, second by Brittany Hoversland to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor

Clerk Treasurer