

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor; Steve Zachmann, Councilors; Nancy Strain via telephone, Pat Ehret, Mike Loutzenhiser, Randy Morris, City Attorney; Rich Batterman, Police Chief; Justin LaCroix, City Engineer; Rylan Limesand, Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart, Director of Public Works; Rod Morris.

GUESTS: Vaughn Zenko, Bo Lingle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Zachmann opened the Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 City of Baker Subdivision Regulations Amendment.

NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 7:04 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of January 17, 2024 and Claims for January 2024 as listed. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to approve Resolution #758 a Resolution of the City of Baker Montana Adopting the 2023 Amendments to the Fallon County/City of Baker/Town of Plevna Subdivision Regulations. Ehret, Strain, Morris, Loutzenhiser Voted Aye, Motion Carried.

Vaughn Zenko presented information on a Montana Mainstreet Grant to fund a program for a traffic recording intelligence cell phone locator. This data could then be used to help local businesses as well as city and county to better identify the number of those traveling to and from Baker. The cost is \$10,000.00 for a annual traffic data. The City of Baker would be the sponsor. Motion by Randy Morris, second by Pat Ehret to approve the sponsorship of this grant to be administered by SMART. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Rylan presented Task Order #27 from Brosz Engineering, this is to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report for the city water system in the amount of \$48,000.00. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Nancy Strain to approve this task order. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Zachmann updated the council on the Park Maintenance Agreement. Steve stated he would like to update the contract term to April, 2024 through March 31, 2025. He will also be updating the scope of work prior advertising for a contractor. He will update the scope of work for presentation at the next meeting.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to approve the amended plat for Lorraine Susan Schleder, Savage Addition, Block 15, Lot 12 AP. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Justin LaCroix presented information on the Baker Police Department members wishing to join the Montana Police Protective Association. The dues would be a voluntary deduction for the employees' wages and remitted by the city payroll department. The association has benefits for the department members such as law enforcement training opportunities, scholarships, and life insurance policy for members. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to allow

this deduction of this expense from employee wage per permission of the Police Dept. employees. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Zachmann would like to begin the process for 2023 Citizen of the Year nominations. It was agreed to consider nominations to be presented at the March 6, 2024 meeting.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to re-appoint Tim Robinson to the City Zoning Commission. Motion Carried. All Aye.

There was correspondence from Hardrives Contracting to reduce of the funds retained for 2023 SID schedule I scrub seal from 5% to 2%. It was noted that in order to encourage the contractor to return timely to complete work remaining it would be in the best interest of the city to retain the funds at 5% as per contract. Motion by Randy Morris second by Pat Ehret to keep the retained funds at 5%. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Clerk Dukart presented a draft of a Public Records Request Policy and form that he, Mayor Zachmann, and City Attorney Batterman have drafted. This will include a fee schedule. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve the Public Records Request Policy and form. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Randy Morris, second by Pat Ehret to allow the schedule of city employee/officials in the upcoming Health Fair as a benefit of \$35.00 for those without health insurance to cover this cost. Motion Carried. All Aye.

The notice for the Public Hearing on HB 355 was presented. This is the infrastructure grant that the city must apply for. The will be tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Motion by Randy Morris, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the publication for the hearing.

Councilor Strain asked if this could be published on the city Facebook page? Mayor Zachmann stated that the newspaper is the official notification site and would rather use the Facebook page for emergency announcements rather than standard publications. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Clerk Dukart presented for information purposes the MMIA Employee Benefit Program Membership for 2024-2025. The final rate proposal for the upcoming year will be presented shortly.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Rylan reported that since they will begin work on the Water System PER, they will be finalizing the Street Maintenance Plan in conjunction with that report.

POLICE INPUT:

Justin reported that late on Saturday night, depending on the outcome of Baker girls wrestlers at state, a parade with P.D. and Fire Dept. vehicles will be planned.

CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

Kevin stated that since we received ARPA funds, the city will be subject to a Federal Audit for Fiscal Year 2022. We will be receiving a contract amendment for this audit from Denning, Downey and Associates.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve stated that since we are beginning to record the meetings, he will ask that department heads and those who address the council come forward so that their remarks can be heard. Mayor Zachmann stated that the recent Americanism Program was held earlier this week.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich stated that they have resolved two DUI cases. Rich reported that there was a recent fatality in the oilfield. The safety of those workers should be kept in mind considering this tragedy.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – Pat thank you to the city crews and police for keeping us safe.

Strain – Thank you for allowing her to attend this meeting remotely.

Morris – None

Loutzenhiser – Thanks to all for your hard work.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

3579 Pattie Ehret \$316.68, 3580 MMIA health insurance \$14,594.95, PERD vendor liability \$2,735.76, MPERA vendor liability \$5,198.18, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$800.00, Dept. of Treasury IRS emp w/h \$9,439.45, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$989.99, ACH Deposits: Albert Batterman \$3,032.02, Thomas Bruha \$300.14, Brenda Dietz \$1,899.79, Kevin Dukart \$1,948.65, Blayne Higgins \$2,115.80, Jill Hildebrand \$410.63, Justin LaCroix \$2,201.71, Michael Loutzenhiser \$346.31, Jaramie McLean \$1,674.44, Randy Morris \$346.31, Rodney Morris \$1,733.29, Theresa Myers \$990.68, Bryan Nevers \$1,528.46, Kyle Rogge \$1,840.76, Ashley Rost \$900.90, Nancy Strain \$228.31, Cody Strandbakke \$2,468.95, Anna Straub \$1,603.01, Tyler Travis \$2,109.22, Sheena Veazey \$1,765.56, Steven Zachmann \$841.57.

Total payroll: \$64,361.52

The following claims were approved for payment as listed:

ET: Montana Board of Investments loan pymt excavator \$7,547.23, 15532 Baker Area Hardware supplies \$250.83, 15533 Baker Drug supplies \$40.65, 15534 Baker Metal lagoon wind break panels \$1,900.00, 15535 Batterman Law Office stipend \$2,000.00, 15536 Boss Office Products supplies \$1,170.80, 15537 Brosz Engineering Inc. services – SID #36, watermain \$19,427.50, 15538 City of Baker petty cash – postage dep refunds \$868.53, 15539 CNADA 4th quarter pymt \$279.00, 15540 Crazy Mountain Inc. services – taxes & revenues \$1,250.00, 15541 Dakota Playground McClain park slide \$7,868.25, 15542 Dakota Pump Inc. annual contract SCADA cloud \$4,424.15, 15543 Brenda Dietz reimbursement – online filing taxes fees, supplies \$123.95, 15544 Direct Electric repairs \$416.31, 15545 Kevin Dukart travel allowance \$30.00, 15546 Energy Lab water samples \$66.00, 15547 Fallon County Treasurer building maintenance, tipping fees \$7,475.96, 15548 Fallon County Water District collections \$3,393.05, 15549 Fallon County Weed Dept. 2023 weed spraying \$174.60, 15550 Farmer’s Union Oil Co. tank rental & supplies \$100.00, 15551 Brenda Flint services \$75.00, 15552 Galls LLC supplies \$144.94, 15553 Hawkins Inc. supplies \$5,442.13, 15554 Blayne Higgins subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15555 Justin LaCroix subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15556 Masters Telecom LLC fax lines \$55.56, 15557 MDU utilities \$9,648.05, 15558 Mid-American Research Chemical lagoon supplies \$2,105.41, 15559 Mid-Rivers phone services \$225.51, 15560 Montana Rural Water 2024 membership dues \$400.00, 15561 Randy Morris building demolition \$400.00, 15562 Nelson Auto Center 2023 F-150 SSV pickup – P.D. \$47,589.76, 15563 Bryan Nevers subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15564 North Baker Water District collections \$13,793.44, 15565 Lisa Passmore park maintenance \$1,637.50, 15566 Peaks Planning & Consulting services – subdivision regulations, conditional use permit \$225.00, 15567 PowerPlan repair lift station generator \$13,588.00, 15568 Precision Parts & Supply parts \$727.54, 15569 Reynolds supplies \$365.61, 15570 Runnings supplies \$373.21, 15571 Scout Energy Dec. operating expense \$77.26, 15572 Cody Strandbakke subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15573 The Badlands Patriot publishing & supplies \$324.65, 15574 The Chemnet Consortium annual fee \$100.00, 15575 US Bank Voyager fuel \$2,546.66, 15576 Utilities Underground Location locate requests \$3.64, 15577 Verizon Wireless cellular services \$234.14.

Total claims: \$159,623.14

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 8:20 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer