

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

PRESENT: Mayor; Steve Zachmann, Councilors; Mike Loutzenhiser, Randy Morris, Nancy Strain, Pat Ehret, City Attorney; Rich Batterman via tele-conference, Fire Chief; Tom Bruha, Police Chief; Justin LaCroix, Director of Public Works; Rod Morris and Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart.

GUESTS: Bo Lingle

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Zachmann asked to add to the agenda, without objection, a request to authorize EPEDC to seek out grant funding services for replacement of the Walt Kreager Park Restroom. No objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Consent Agenda; the Minutes of February 7, 2024, as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Zachmann stated that he has made the changes to the scope of work for the upcoming park maintenance contract and will have the ad placed in the Fallon County Times next week. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to authorize the advertisement for park maintenance. Motion Carried. All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to approve EPEDC to write the grant for HB355 Infrastructure Funding. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to authorize EPEDC to seek grant funding sources for the replacement of the restroom at the Walt Kreager Park. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Randy Morris, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve amendments to the 22 and 23 Fiscal Year Audit Contract due to federal audit requirements. Motion Carried. All Aye.

PLANNING INPUT:

Kevin reported that he is reviewing the draft of the Growth Policy and will send it to city officials and department heads for their review.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Rod stated they are almost complete with snow removal for the city streets.

CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

The MMIA Employee Benefits memorandum was available for review for the 2024-2025 year. The preliminary rate adjustment appears to be about an increase of 8%.

Kevin stated that he would like to begin to compile a list of surplus city equipment so that they may be advertised for bids. This was agreed to.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve stated that for the upcoming budget year he will be working on some park improvements such as maintenance on the skating house warming shed and covering the ceilings in the gazebos, this will be dependent on funding.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich stated that the Police Dept. has been keeping him busy with several cases.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – none

Strain – none

Morris – none

Loutzenhiser – Thank you to the city employees for their hard work.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

MT State Fund work comp \$3,539.06, PERD vendor liability \$2,461.93, MPERA vendor liability \$3,321.32, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$900.00, Dept. of Treasury IRS emp w/h \$6,299.41, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$597.78, ACH Deposit: Brenda Dietz \$1,726.07, Kevin Dukart \$1,622.39, Blayne Higgins \$1,086.96, Justin LaCroix \$2,201.71, Jaramie McLean \$1,548.08, Rodney Morris \$1,733.28, Bryan Nevers \$2,020.42, Kyle Rogge \$1,603.57, Ashley Rost \$821.91, Cody Strandbakke \$2,008.23, Tyler Travis \$1,821.97, Sheena Veazey \$1,695.42.

Total payroll: \$37,009.51

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 7:19 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer