

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

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

GUEST: Karol Zachmann

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Zachmann opened the Public Hearing on House Bill 355, Infrastructure Funding Priority List for the City of Baker allocation.

Clerk Dukart reported to the City Council in December a proposal to use the funds for replacement of deficient water main valves and fire hydrants was approved.

No public comment

Hearing Closed at 7:02 p.m.

Regular meeting continued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karol Zachmann announced that Fallon Medical Complex is hosting a Lunch & Learn event March 19, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the FMC dining room. The Sheriff's Department will speak on fentanyl and other dangerous drugs. The Health Fair will be April 24th from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the high school gym.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the Consent Agenda; the Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2024, and Claims for February 2024 as listed. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Zachmann reported that the ad to solicit a contractor for city park maintenance will be published for the next 2 weeks and applicants for the contract will be considered at the March 20th City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Dukart reported that we no longer have teleconference service with Mid-Rivers, Kevin asked for suggestions. Attorney Batterman stated that in addition to the use of cell phones, the city may consider Zoom applications for meetings. The council agreed to have Clerk Dukart check these options.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Nancy Strain to adopt Resolution #759, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Baker, Montana recommending a funding priority list for State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act to the Montana Department of Commerce. Loutzenhiser, Strain, Ehret, Morris Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Rylan presented a cost estimate for the HB 355 Water Valve Replacement Project as well as a task order to engineer the project. Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve Task Order #28 from Brosz Engineering for HB 355, Water Valve Replacement design, engineering and survey in the amount of \$19,000.00. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Zachmann read a nomination for the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award recommending Brenda Uecker and 2 nominations recommending Vaughn Zenko Jr. Councilor Morris requested a

ballot for the 2023 Citizen of the Year, 4 votes for Vaughn Zenko Jr. Mayor Zachmann will order the plaque to be presented to Vaughn at a later meeting.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve the Event and Facilities Use Agreement for Friends of FMC fundraiser, St. Patrick's Leapin Leprechaun Pub Crawl to be held March 15, 2024, and to lift open contain on Railroad and Montana Ave. between 1st St. West and 2nd St. East from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve the Events and Facilities Use Agreement for O'Fallon Museum June 1, 2024, for Heritage Fest and to close South Main St. from Fallon Ave. to Lincoln Ave. until 6:00 p.m. that day. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Randy Morris, second by Nancy Strain to approve the Records Destruction List for Utility and Common Records as dated 2-28-24. Motion Carried. All Aye.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Rylan reported they have begun work on the Water PER update and are continuing with the Street Maintenance Plan.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Rod stated that Montana Rural Water will host a training on cyber security and fire hydrant operation tomorrow at the city shop. Public Work's Departments from Wibaux and Ekalaka as well as local fire fighters are scheduled to attend as well as city employees.

CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

Clerk Dukart presented a copy of the notice of the Flood Plain Permit application for Montana Dept of Transportation to replace the Sandstone Creek bridge just north of Baker for informational purposes.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve reported that he will present information on schedule for 2024 Clean Up Days at the next meeting.

Mayor Zachmann also reported that due to the frost conditions, Public Works and City Engineers are looking into the damages of some streets that were chip sealed last summer. They will look at options to best repair these streets.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich reported that he is working to get property value of city owned land that hosts the airport and golf course. There is an interest by Fallon County Commissioners for the city to convey the property to the county for a write down of water system debt.

Attorney Batterman stated that due to the increase in DUI incidents he is working on drafting a notice with Chief LaCroix to liquor establishments to mutually address this matter to help to prevent impaired driving.

Rich stated he will be at a state-wide school boards association meeting next week and a topic of discussion will be the bidding regulations.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – Reminded all, of the time change this weekend.

Strain – Nancy is appreciative of the efforts of the City Attorney and law enforcement to address the DUI issue, as this is a community concern for all.

Morris – None

Loutzenhiser – Thank you to all for their hard work.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

3581 Pattie Ehret, 3582 MMIA health insurance \$14,594.95, PERD vendor liability \$2,702.33, MPERA vendor liability \$4,803.74, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$900.00, Dept. of Treasury emp w/h \$8,807.54, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$894.49, ACH Deposits: Albert Batterman \$3,032.02, Thomas Bruha \$300.14, Brenda Dietz \$1,726.07, Kevin Dukart \$1,622.40, Blayne Higgins \$1,932.86, Justin LaCroix \$2,201.71, Michael Loutzenhiser \$346.31, Jaramie McLean \$1,548.08, Randy Morris \$346.31, Rodney Morris \$1,733.29, Theresa Myers \$900.54, Bryan Nevers \$2,008.46, Kyle Rogge \$1,745.88, Ashley Rost \$821.90, Nancy Strain \$228.31, Cody Strandbakke \$2,093.69, Anna Straub \$1,603.01, Tyler Travis \$1,710.79, Sheena Veazey \$1,645.93, Steven Zachmann \$841.57.

Total payroll: \$61,409.00

The following claims have been approved for payment as listed:

15578 American Welding & Gas Inc. supplies \$39.73, 15579 Baker Area Hardware supplies \$53.27, 15580 Baker Metal services & supplies \$1,315.85, Batterman Law Office stipend \$2,000.00, 15582 Boss Office Products supplies \$317.92, 15583 Brosz Engineering services SID #36 & W & S Mapping \$12,160.00, City of Baker petty cash postage & deposit refunds \$690.53, 15585 Brenda Dietz reimbursement tax filing fee \$39.95, 15586 Direct Electric services \$807.85, 15587 DIS Technologies IT services police \$829.34, 15588 Kevin Dukart travel subsistence \$30.00, 15589 Energy Lab water samples \$66.00, Fallon County Treasurer building maintenance, tipping fees \$3,978.86, 15591 Fallon County Water District collections \$4,427.17, 15592 Fallon Medical Complex services \$227.00, 15593 Brenda Flint services \$75.00, 15594 Hawkins Inc. supplies \$2,774.09, 15595 Blayne Higgins subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15596 Insurance Store treasurer's bond renewal \$160.00, 15597 Justin LaCroix subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15598 Masters Telecom LLC services – fax lines \$55.56, 15599 MDU utilities \$8,214.28, 15600 Mid-Rivers phone services \$230.42, 15601 MT Legislative Services supplies – 2023 code books \$1,400.00, 15602 Naxin Safety supplies \$127.82, 15603 Bryan Nevers subsistence/animal control \$183.33, North Baker Water District collections \$13,496.41, 15605 Lisa Passmore park maintenance \$920.00, 15606 Precision Parts & Supply parts \$72.64, 15607 Reynolds bottled water \$23.94, 15608 Runnings supplies \$601.51, 15609 Scout Energy Jan. operating expenses \$87.13, 15610 Victor Short hotshot services – garbage tubs \$2,500.00, 15611 Cody Strandbakke subsistence/animal control \$183.33, 15612 The Badlands Patriot publishing & supplies \$1,333.77, 15613 US Bank Voyager fuel \$2,845.33, 15614 Utilities Underground Location locate requests \$7.88, 15615 Verizon Wireless cell phone services \$332.80, 15616 VISA police – lights & tint pickup \$469.48, VISA shop – parts & registration \$1,018.07, 15618 Steve Zachmann travel per diem \$273.99.

Total claims: 64,736.91

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 7:47 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer