

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 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, Police Chief; Justin LaCroix, Fire Chief; Tom Bruha, City Engineer; Rylan Limesand, Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart.

GUESTS: Trish Rost, Brenda Dietz, Sheena Veazey, Bo Lingle, Tod Passmore & Jason Griffith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trish Rost stated that when the culvert was installed on the road to the cemetery it did not direct the flow of water to the creek but rather to her property. Could this be corrected? Trish also stated that when the bridge was installed on that road by Fallon County, her property pins were removed and not replaced. Trish also inquired as to why the City Council has no contact information on the website so the public can contact them.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2024, as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Zachmann opened two bid proposals for Park Maintenance. Only one of the bids was not totaled so there will be a recess later to address this matter.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to approve the general records destruction list as presented. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Nancy Strain to renew the Water and Wastewater Services Agreement with North Baker Water and Sewer District for a term to end November 30, 2028. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to declare the prepared list as surplus property and call for bids, destroy or donate, as necessary. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Randy Morris, second by Nancy Strain to approve Change Order #3F for Diamond J Construction 2023 SID Street Improvement Project Schedule III. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve Pay Application #4F for Diamond J Construction 2023 SID Street Improvement Schedule III, Road Reconstruction. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Randy Morris to recall Sheena Veazey as Mosquito Control Operator for the 2024 mosquito control season. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Mike Loutzenhiser, second by Pat Ehret to approve the draft ad for the Baker Clean Up Days to be scheduled from April 27-May 5. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Tod Passmore stated that last year they did not receive \$70,000, which is what the bid was for. He asked the City Council to consider this when awarding the park contract.

Recessed at 7:26 p.m. Mayor, Clerk and City Attorney left room to total the bid submitted by Tod Passmore.

Back in session at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Zachmann stated that tabulation for the bid from Tod & Lisa Passmore was \$67,750.00 and the bid from Bo Lingle was \$59,525.00. Motion by Pat Ehret, second by Mike Loutzenhiser to accept the bid from Bo Lingle for Seasonal Park Maintenance. Randy asked Bo if his proposal would include care of the base paths. Bo stated yes, he would care for the field. Discussed insurance coverage for snow removal and a lock for the vehicle gate to enter the baseball field. Motion Carried. All Aye.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Rylan stated Diamond J's part of the SID is complete. They have been working with Hardrives to finish the punch list for the chip seal and a plan for the area east of Highway 7 for repair. The PER should be ready for public comment in late April or early May. This should be complete if the city is going to apply for grand funds for the next phase of the water project. The Street Maintenance Plan is being prepared with the PER. The HB355 Valve Project Grant application is underway as well.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT:

Sheena stated they have begun maintenance on the water system leak detection vehicle and taking delivery of materials to begin work on the alleys.

POLICE DEPT. INPUT:

Justin stated there were no major law enforcement incidents for the St. Patrick's Day celebration and prom weekend. The department is planning for a Bike Safety Week Program at the local schools.

CLERK TREASURER INPUT:

The February 2024 Financial Report was available for review.

MAYOR INPUT:

Steve reminded those listening to call the City Office if they have a question or concerns.

CITY ATTORNEY INPUT:

Rich stated that he has been working on a proposed zone code revision to go before the Zoning Commission next month. He also prosecuted two DUIs last week as well. Rich stated his niece is playing in the NAIA Tournament for Mayville State this season.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Ehret – Thank you to Sheena for mosquito spraying and thank you to Tom & Rylan for their hard work.

Strain – Spoke about the matter of council contact information on the website. Rich advised that rather than publishing personal contact information it may be better to direct inquiries to the City Office to forward to the appropriate public official.

Morris – None

Loutzenhiser – Thanked all for their hard work.

The following payroll was approved for payment:

PERD vendor liability \$2,416.10, MPERA vendor liability \$3,335.54, Nationwide Retirement emp w/h \$900.00, Dept. of Treasury emp W/H \$6,325.23, MT Dept. of Revenue emp w/h \$614.64, MT State Fund vendor liability \$3,539.06, ACH Deposits: Brenda Dietz \$1,726.07, Kevin Dukart \$1,685.23, Blayne Higgins \$1,772.92, Justin LaCroix \$2,181.89, Jaramie McLean \$1,548.08, Rodney Morris \$1,733.28, Bryan Nevers \$1,801.35, Kyle Rogge \$1,660.48, Ashley Rost \$821.91, Cody Strandbakke \$1,489.82, Tyler Travis \$1,821.97, Sheena Veazey \$1,695.42.

Total payroll: \$37,068.99

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 8:25 p.m. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk Treasurer