

THE REGULAR BAKER CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FALLON COUNTY COURTROOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor; Clayton Hornung, Councilors; John Beach, Steve Fradenburgh, Rod Morris and JoDee Pratt, City Judge; Nicole Brown, Parks Director; Scott Rabbitt, Recreation Director; Angie Rabbitt, Public Works Foreman; Mike Lovec and Clerk Treasurer; Kevin Dukart.

ABSENT: City Attorney; Russell Culver, Chief of Police; Randy Ketterling and Director of Public Works; Don Hinman.

GUESTS: Brock Collins, Dylan Hunter, Angel Wyrwas, Jim Hufford, Tina Rost, and Boy Scouts; Aiden Rabbitt, Trent Collins, and Will Rost.

After the reading of the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2010 there was a Motion by Rod Morris, Second by JoDee Pratt to approve as read. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Mayor Hornung declared, by Proclamation, the month of February Boy Scouts of America month and February 8, 2010 as its 100 year anniversary day.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilor Rod Morris reported on his meeting with the Fallon County Commissioners on combining duties and sharing office of City Judge and Justice of Peace. Rod stated that the Commissioners had no objection to the city setting the wage for City Judge. Their objection however remains that the City Judge not perform City duties during the posted hours of Justice of Peace and that the City post separate hours for City Court business. Judge Brown expressed her unwillingness to share the office of the Justice of the Peace for City Judge purposes and requested consideration for other arrangements. It was noted that since both the City and County have invested in the equipment and supplies for the current operation that a separate office would be a substantial expense for both entities. After much discussion on how to settle this issue the Council agreed to meet with the County Commissioners and Judge Brown during the 1st week of February schedule allowing.

Motion by JoDee Pratt, Second by Steve Fradenburgh to approve Second Reading and adoption of Ordinance #344 An Ordinance prescribing the law for curb breaking or replacement. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Rod Morris to approve Resolution #586 A resolution to establish a business credit card account for purchasing for city purposes. Motion Carried. All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by JoDee Pratt, Second by John Beach to approve the Zoning Compliance Permit for Fallon County Road/Park - shop building water and sewer connections. Motion Carried. All Aye.

Clerk Dukart volunteered to serve as the City of Baker appointee to both the Eastern Plain Resource and Conservation Development and the Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation boards. Motion by JoDee Pratt, Second by Rod Morris to approve these appointments. Motion Carried. All Aye.

A report on hours donated by City employees to the City Sick Leave Bank was available.

CITIZENS INPUT:

Angel Wyrwas inquired about the process to hire a mediator for the issue involving the City / County and Justice of the Peace. It was noted that all parties would have to agree to employ a mediator.

Dylan Hunter asked for clarification on the appointment to the boards of Clerk Dukart. The Eastern Plains RC & D serves 16 Eastern Montana Counties and EPEDC serves the Counties of Fallon, Carter, Wibaux, Dawson and Prairie on natural resource and economic development issues.

MAYOR INPUT:

Clayton presented a request by Ryan to attend a safety seminar in March 30 – April 2nd in Helena. Motion by Steve Fradenburgh, Second by Rod Morris to approve this request. Motion Carried. All Aye. Rod noted that Mark Jacobsen of Encore may have safety information that he would be willing to share with the City.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INPUT:

Mike Lovec asked about the purchase of a utility bed for the new pickup. John asked if Don and the crew decided whether to do this. Mike stated that this has been discussed and they have agreed a utility bed would be best. Mike was instructed to see that price quotes for both new and used utility beds are provided.

Discussion occurred on measures to take to improve the condition of the streets, use of more sand and moving more snow from the streets at Longfellow to Lincoln School. It was also suggested that the crew may consider going to work earlier to clean areas before there is too much traffic on the streets.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT INPUT:

Scott reported for Angie the Baker Jam is scheduled for March 27th and 28th.

CLELRK TREASURER INPUT:

Kevin reported on his attendance to the EPEDC Meeting in Wibaux on January 13 and on the Eastern Plains RC & D Meeting earlier today in Sidney. Much of the relevant discussion focused on the North Baker Water and Sewer Project and the potential for Wind Energy Development in the region. Also discussed was the need for improvements to the transmission line capacity to move wind energy out of the region for sale. There was also discussion on the proposed Keystone Oil Pipeline which will pass through 6 Eastern Montana Counties including Fallon.

Clerk Dukart stated that he has not yet completed the December 2009 Financial Report but will have available for the next meeting.

Discussion occurred on the establishment of a bulk water rate. Clerk Dukart reported that he believes by statute the city would have to hold a public hearing to establish a bulk water rate. Kevin stated that this may be an opportunity to study the current water rate. Mayor Hornung appointed John Beach, Rod Morris, Don Hinman and Kevin Dukart on a committee to study the utility rates.

COUNCIL INPUT:

None.

The following payroll approved for payment:

P.E.R.D. vendor liability \$1959.63, Dept Treasury vendor liability \$7034.59, MPERA vendor liability \$2354.09, 311 Michael Loutzenhiser salary \$1405.27, 312 Christina Shepherd salary \$261.38, 313 Kalli Wyrick salary \$365.08, 314 Montana Dept Revenue em w/h \$1198.16, 315 Montana State Fund premium \$2682.75, 316 Nationwide Retirement Solution em w/h + city share \$752.87, 317 Unemployment Insurance qtr premium \$461.29, ACH semi-monthly salary \$18262.73.

Total Payroll: \$36,737.84

There having been no further business to come before the Baker City Council at this time. Motion by Rod Morris, Second by Steve Fradenburgh to adjourn at 8:39 P.M. Motion Carried. All Aye.

_____ Mayor _____

_____ Clerk Treasurer