

**A COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 7, 2017 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Byerly asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Commissioners: Byerly, Doney, Gremaux, Hewitt, Poss, Putnam and Turk. Commissioner Turk was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were none.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

There were none.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Hewitt reported on the airport board meeting that she recently attended. Commissioner Hewitt stated that the County Weed department has been spraying for knapweed both inside and outside of the fence. The hay is baled and needs to be hauled and the winter wheat has been harvested. Fish Wildlife & Parks has asked to negotiate the hookup fees for the building they are going to locate up at the airport.

Commissioner Putnam reported that the Central Montana Foundation did not have a meeting in July but did conduct one by phone. The Sea Lions asked for grant funds to purchase an awning that they would take with them to the swim meets. The Park and Recreation Department had a meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> but Commission Putnam was not there. Ms. Phelps stated that they did not have a quorum

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The League of Cities and Towns, MMIA and the Local Government Center held their Regional Training today in Lewistown. There was good conversation and several people in attendance. Several members of Governor Bullocks staff were here to talk with the cities.

Make It Happen is planning a Grand Opening for the Big Spring Skate Park on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The rule sign has been installed and the skate park is now open. If you happen to be out stop by and check it out.

As of midnight on August 4, 2017 Fergus County is under Stage 2 fire restrictions. The County's resolution exempts all land within the City's boundary. There is an action item on the agenda to adopt a resolution for stage 2 fire restrictions inside the City limits.

A meeting for the Riverdale sewer project was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Landowners were given the low bidders bid prices for each lot (which included contingency and loan fees of 18%) and land owners now have 10 days to return a petition to create a special improvement district if they want to connect to the sewer system. If they want to connect to the sewer system. If they do want to connect they can either pay cash up front before construction starts by October 1, 2017, or be included in the Coal severance Tax (CST) loan that will be assessed on their property taxes. The loan is paid over 20 years at 3% interest rate. After the petitions have been received the City Commission will then need to pass a resolution creating the district. There are 26 properties included in the project and each one will have an opportunity to opt out of the project.

The State Swim meet was held this past weekend. The pool will be closed both Saturday and Sunday, but there will be a pool party on Saturday night that is open to the public and the area around Frank Day Park is extremely busy and the meet brought many visitors to the community.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the approval of the claims that had been paid from July 13, 2017 to July 31, 2017 for a total of \$307,910.05.

### **REGULAR AGENDA - Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:**

#### 1. Presentation by the Lewistown Police Department

Ms. Phelps introduced some members of the Lewistown Police Department and then turned the presentation over to Mr. Justin Jenness. Mr. Jenness reviewed some of the pertinent information that would help the Commission understand the information that was used for the union negotiations. Mr. Jenness stated that the union had a meeting and it was determined that in order to get them to the state wage average they would need a 15% wage increase and they know that would be pretty hard to get or even feasible. Mr. Jenness further explained that through the months they have agreed to a 4% plus COLA which is 1.26% this year, the second year a 2.5% plus COLA not to exceed 5% and the third year 1.5% plus COLA not to exceed 5%. Mr. Jenness explained that it was difficult getting to this point and getting the union to understand that it is not a demand it is a negotiation. Mr. Jenness reviewed the rise in crimes over the last couple of years. Mr. Jenness talked about the staff increase at the County and City Attorney's office to help with the case load. Mr. Jenness reviewed the cost of a new officer is approximately \$55,000, which includes going to the academy. There is a minimum staffing of two officers per shift and while the new officer is training we are paying three officers which is an added cost, so retention is crucial. Mr. Jenness commented that currently the police department has eight officers that will be eligible to retire in the next three years which would leave a pretty rookie department. Mr.

Jeness further explained that with this new contract he is hoping this will help with hiring new officers to get quality people. Ms. Dorothy Gremaux explained that the Central Montana 911 Center is the largest call center in the State of Montana per square mile. When the dispatchers answer the call and it is 911 the dispatcher stays on the phone until a responder arrives on scene. Ms. Gremaux explained that to train dispatchers and keep competent dispatchers has been difficult and in a state of influx since 2012. Ms. Gremaux thinks that if there were higher wages we may be able to retain employees. Mr. Jenness talked about what the department is going to do for morale and retention. Mr. Jenness stated that they will be doing assessments of upper management to see what can be done. They also want to get fully staffed so that the work load is less on the veteran officers. Commissioner Putnam asked where the City is on with pay for the dispatchers. Ms. Gremaux answered that it is hard to look at it equally with the City because we are the largest in the state and we are 50% of the wages.

2. Discussion and action on approving the Police bargaining unit agreement for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020

Ms. Phelps stated that this is the full contract and the changes and clarifications are outlined. There is some language regarding holiday time. The holiday time has been capped and there is an option for the employee to buyout the holiday time if they chose to but will only be allowed to accrue one year of holiday time on the books. Some discussion was held regarding the number of staff in the Police Department. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the Police bargaining unit agreement for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. Commissioner Poss asked if they still get \$1.50 per hour for shift differential and feels this is low and would like to add 50 cents. Commissioner Doney stated that she is fine with that but do we have the money. Ms. Phelps explained that it does work this year, but are trying to minimize the increases and that we will be using reserves to fund the budget this next fiscal year. Commissioner Poss made the motion to amend the shift differential to \$2.00 and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Byerly explained that he does not want to argue over 50 cents but these folks and the City Manager have worked hard on the negotiations and does not feel comfortable making a change. Commissioner Poss stated that these guys do a great job and does not want to train people to start here, get trained and then leave the department. Commissioner Gremaux stated that he agrees with Commissioner Byerly that they worked hard to come to agreement and they should work on those changes for the next contract. Commissioner Doney understands we do not want to renegotiate a contract but does not feel that the City Police Department should be paid less than the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Byerly asked for all those in favor of the amendment those in favor were Commissioners: Doney, Hewitt, Putnam and Poss. Commissioners Byerly and Gremaux voted against the amended motion. Commissioner Byerly asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Byerly said the amended motion is the contract as presented to the Commission with the change that in addendum a paragraph 3 it will say \$2.00 instead of \$1.50. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 3935, a ban on open burning extreme fire danger – stage II fire restrictions within the City of Lewistown

Ms. Phelps explained that this is the resolution that has been reviewed by the Fire Department and City Attorney. This is prohibiting recreational fires, smoking in designated areas, barbecuing is okay as long as you have a designated turn off, wood fires are not allowed, and cars must be driven only on designated areas. The City is not going to have restrictions on the hours of construction or mowing of lawns. The reason for this is that the City limits was specifically exempted from the County's resolution. Commissioner Gremaux asked when it would be rescinded. Ms. Phelps answered that the City Commission will have to rescind the restrictions with a resolution.

Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve Resolution No. 3935, a ban on open burning extreme fire danger – stage II fire restrictions within the City of Lewistown and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. Commissioner Byerly asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sub recipient Housing Rehabilitation Agreement between the City of Lewistown and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation

Ms. Phelps the next items are agreements that need to be done for the \$450,000 housing rehabilitation grant that the City was awarded last spring. The agreement outlines the duties of both parties. Commissioner Doney made the motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a sub recipient Housing Rehabilitation Agreement between the City of Lewistown and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Byerly asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sub recipient Housing Rehabilitation Agreement between the City of Lewistown and Neighborworks Montana

Ms. Phelps explained that his agreement also part of the housing grant and outlines the duties of the parties involved in the agreement. Commissioner Putnam made the motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a sub recipient Housing Rehabilitation Agreement between the City of Lewistown and Neighborworks Montana and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Byerly asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to sign a Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program for the Housing Rehabilitation Program

Ms. Phelps explained that this outlines everything that has been discussed over the last few months and lets us proceed with awarding projects one at a time. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program for the Housing Rehabilitation Program and Commissioner Poss seconded the motion. Commissioner Byerly asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

There were none.

### **COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE**

Commissioner Putnam asked how the information regarding fire restrictions would be disseminated to the public. Ms. Phelps answered there will be information in the newspaper, on the radio and on the City's website.

Commissioner Doney commented that we had put together a nominating committee and thought that the information was going to be available on the website. Ms. Phelps answered that she will work on this and get it on the website.

Commissioner Hewitt commented that she has gotten some complaints regarding the throwing of candy at the parades. Ms. Phelps answered that we do have an ordinance in place that restricts throwing of candy and they are reminded at every parade.

Commissioner Gremaux would like to see some crosswalks on the top of the hill. Ms. Phelps answered that she will talk with the Department of Transportation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017.

---

Dave Byerly, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk