

A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2021 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Nikki Brummond called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Clerk Nikki Brummond asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Day, Doney, Dunnington, Oldenburg and Turk. Commissioners Hewitt and Loomis participated via zoom.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

City Clerk Nikki Brummond opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Doney nominated Commissioner Turk for Chairman. Commissioner Day nominated Commissioner Oldenburg for Chairman. City Clerk Brummond asked for any more nominations. There being none, the nominations were closed. City Clerk Brummond asked for all those in favor of Commissioner Turk as Chairman, Commissioners: Doney, Dunnington, Loomis, Hewitt and Turk voted in favor. City Clerk Brummond asked for all those in favor of Commissioner Oldenburg as Chairman, Commissioners: Day and Oldenburg voted in favor. City Clerk Brummond announced that Commissioner Turk had been nominated to the position of Chairman for 2021. City Clerk Brummond opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Doney nominated Commissioner Oldenburg for Vice Chairman. City Clerk Brummond asked for any more nominations. There being none, the nominations were closed. City Clerk Brummond asked for all those in favor of Commissioner Oldenburg as Vice Chairman, Commissioners Day, Doney, Dunnington, Hewitt, Loomis Oldenburg, and Turk voted in favor. City Clerk Brummond announced that Commissioner Oldenburg has been nominated to the position of Vice Chairman for 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Turk stated that without objection and based on the corrections the December 21, 2020 minutes are approved.

COURTESIES

There were none,

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Oldenburg reported that the Central Montana Foundation Board met virtually on December 22 2020. Commissioner Oldenburg stated that it was regular business and one grant was awarded in the amount of \$4,620 to the Winnett Volunteer Fire Department for self-contained breathing apparatus.

Commissioner Loomis reported that the Park and Recreation Board will meet on January 6, 2021.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that the Airport Board will meet on January 6, 2021.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

This year's winter fair has been cancelled. Several of the fair events that can be held virtually or can be easily social distanced will be picked up by other organizations for the 2021 year. The fair is typically scheduled for the third weekend in January. The winter fair is scheduled to resume next year.

The Lewistown Ice Skating Association (LISA) will be hosting their open-air hockey tournament this weekend and the next at the ice rink. The public can rent ice skates from the Civic Center and a complete schedule for the rink is available on the Lewistown Ice Skating Association Facebook page.

Just a reminder to everyone that fireworks area allowed on New Year's Eve from 10 pm on December 31st to 12:30 am on January 1st.

Each year the Commission holds a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments on the City's overall community development needs. These needs include public facilities, economic development and housing needs of the community. This is a requirement for many grants that the City has obtained or may apply for over the next year. We will be holding the meeting in the next month or so.

City Manager Phelps stated that the Finance Officer applied for an InterCap Loan for the purchase of the SCBA units for the Fire Department. The City was approved for the loan and the final documentation will be coming before the Commission in the upcoming meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT – on non-agenda items

Mr. Robert Snyder stated that his item of interest in on the agenda for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Oldenburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from December 17, 2020 to December 29, 2020 for a total of \$104, 262.88 and approval of the RM88 records destruction document in accordance with Schedule 8, Municipal Records Schedule.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinance & Other Action Items:

Commissioner Doney asked the City Manager to wait a minute before proceeding. A citizen had entered the meeting and did not have a mask. Commissioner Doney stated that masks are required to attend the meeting publicly, otherwise the citizen can participate via zoom or by phoning into the meeting. Commissioner Doney asked the citizen to please put on a mask. The citizen was provided a mask and Commissioner Turk asked them to put on the mask to attend the meeting. The citizen asked to be able to exercise his freedom of speech, and practice civil disobedience against the mask rule. The citizen further stated that he would like to peacefully protest the mask rule and quietly observe the meeting while social distancing. Commissioner Doney explained that the Commission has passed rules that masks must be worn to attend Commission meetings in person and does offer other ways to participate in the meeting if one doesn't want to abide by the rules. Commissioner Doney further explained that if the citizen chooses not to put on the mask then the Commission will adjourn the meeting and resume the meeting virtually from the homes. The citizen stated it is not his intent to have the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Turk adjourned the meeting. The Commission meeting reconvened virtually. Chairman Turk explained that due to a citizen choosing not to follow the Commissioners rules with masks the meeting was adjourned and is now being called to order.

1. Discussion on mandating City employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

City Manager Phelps explained that she had a request from Mr. Robert Snyder to put this on the agenda. City Manager Phelps further explained that Mr. Snyder emailed the City Manager and the Commissioners regarding a request to oppose mandatory vaccinations for City employees particularly the COVID-19 vaccination. City Manager Phelps stated that the City has bargaining agreements with all City employees and we cannot mandate something like this without the employees input. Therefore, this is not something the City would do to require their employees to get this particular vaccination. Commissioner Turk stated that the item is open for discussion and it not an action item. Mr. Robert Snyder, 1307 W Broadway, addressed the Commission stating that this item should be a matter for discussion, motion, second and approval. Mr. Snyder commented that you are forbidding a duly elected Commissioner to make a motion is in your realm. Mr. Snyder is asking the Commission to pass a proclamation and explained his reasoning. Commissioner Doney explained that at the last meeting she asked that this item be put on the agenda as a discussion item and any Commissioner at any time can request an item on the agenda and refer it for discussion or action. Commissioner Doney further commented that she does not any authority as chair or as the chair does now to tell any Commission on how to vote. Commissioner Doney stated that she does oppose the proclamation. Commissioner Loomis stated he does not support a proclamation and respect the community to promote the health and wellbeing of the citizens. Commissioner Hewitt stated that she agrees with Commissioner Loomis and that it is the employee's personal choice. Commissioner Oldenburg stated that she agrees with the other Commissioners and does not support a proclamation but like Commissioner Loomis stated she will too do whatever she can to keep people safe by wearing a mask and social distancing. Commissioner Oldenburg further stated that she does not support a proclamation and feels it is up to each individual. City Manager Phelps explained that the City has opportunity to vaccinate employees in both police and fire departments and the decision is up to the individuals. This is the intention of the City moving forward with regards to vaccinations. Commissioner Turk asked Mr. Snyder if he had spoke to any of the City's Police Officers or Fire Fighters regarding the vaccination. Mr. Snyder answered that he has not spoke to anyone just looking at the information and the facts. Commissioner Dunnington stated that she doesn't feel she should be telling people whether or not they should get vaccinated or not. Mr. Snyder thanked the Commission for the discussion and it was stated by the City Manager that the City will not be mandating the vaccine. Commissioner Day stated that she agrees with everything the other Commissioners have said regarding this issue and does not feel she should be able to tell people what they should do with regard to vaccines.

2. Discussion and action on how City Commission meetings will be conducted in 2021

City Manager Phelps explained that the current platform for the Commission meetings is an in person meeting the first meeting of the month and the second meeting is virtual. City Manager Phelps explained that it is the plan to continue both platforms going forward. Commissioner Doney stated that we should stick with the rules that have been set that masks are required and hold citizens to that standard. Commissioner Oldenburg stated that she agrees we should stick with our rules that have been set regarding masks because there is the option to phone in or to log in through a computer. Commissioner Oldenburg stated that when individuals attend the meetings and refuse to wear masks it is very disruptive. Commissioner Oldenburg further stated that in her personal opinion it is disrespectful to the Commissioners because the constituents elected us to do this job and she feels they do a much better job and more thorough discussion when meeting in person. Commissioner Oldenburg stated it is also disrespectful to the Council on Aging that requires masks to be worn in the building from everyone that works there or anyone that enters the building. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve moving forward with the current platform of the first meeting is in person and the second meet virtual for the next two months and Commissioner Oldenburg seconded the motion. Commissioner Turk asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action on reappointing Commissioners to the following boards: Airport, Library, Park and Recreation, Central Montana Health District, City County Planning, Central Montana Foundation, Central Montana 911 and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation

City Clerk Brummond read the following as to what Commissioners served on which board. Commissioner Hewitt serves on the Airport Board, Commissioner Doney serves on the Library Board, Commissioner Loomis on the Park and Recreation Board, Commissioner Day serves on the Central Montana Health District Board, Commissioner Dunnington serves on the City County Planning Board, Commissioner Oldenburg serves on the Central Montana Foundation Board, Commissioner Doney serves on the 911 Board and City Manager Phelps serves on the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation board. Commissioner Turk asked if there were any Commissioners that would like to serve on a different board. There was a brief discussion and all Commissioners are satisfied with the boards they currently serve on. Commissioner Doney stated that she is no longer on the 911 Board and the Patty was appointed some time ago. Commissioner Day commented that she is willing to help the City Manager with the SMDC Board. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve reappointing the Commissioners to the following boards: Commissioner Hewitt serves on the Airport Board, Commissioner Doney serves on the Library Board, Commissioner Loomis on the Park and Recreation Board, Commissioner Day serves on the Central Montana Health District Board, Commissioner Dunnington serves on the City County Planning Board, Commissioner Oldenburg serves on the Central Montana Foundation Board, Commissioner Turk serves on the 911 Board and City Manager Phelps serves on the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation board and Commissioner Loomis seconded the motion. Commissioner Turk asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Richard Battrick asked for clarification on the upcoming meetings. City Manager Phelps explained that the first meeting of the month will be in person and the second meeting of the month will be virtual.

Mr. Snyder stated that he was at the Capital today and the restrooms had paper towel dispenser and he recalls that was the reason that the Creekside Restroom was not open. Mr. Snyder would like the Commission to give permission to unlock the restroom. City Manager Phelps explained that it will be hand dryers and we are waiting for the contractor to get in there and get it done.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Turk asked for clarification as to why there are two opportunities for citizens requests. City Manager explained that the intent was to allow comment on non-agenda items and then they can leave and by no means limiting input.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Turk adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2021.

Patty Turk, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk