

A COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Putnam made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Putnam reported that there was a Park and Recreation Board meeting last Wednesday. It was reported that there will be ice for ice skating by Thanksgiving. An Eagle Scout has chosen the warming hut as a project and should be completed this weekend.

Commissioner Turk reported that the Library Board met last Thursday. The Library staff are continuing to work on the Lewistown on Line software. The Friends of Library are having a party to honor Floss Kettering and Jim Dullenty for all of their work they did on the collectables at the book sales. The Wednesday book sales are declining and they will suspend the Wednesday sales until April. The Chili Bowl will be January 20, 2017 and the author dinner is May 17, 2017.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The preliminary work for the widening of Casino Creek Drive has been completed. The Public Works Department has been working with the Department of Transportation to get Casino Creek Drive paved under their pavement preservation program. This is the same program that will pave 7th Avenue North next year.

Construction season is wrapping up. All of the paving that was included in the City's paving contract has been completed. Also, the highway paving is done west of town, and the street lights are up and running. There is still work to be done on the signage and street lights. The State and their contractor are working very hard to get the portion of Spring Creek Road near Stendal Road paved this fall. Additional concrete sidewalks, curb and gutter and chip sealing will be done in the spring. The paving of the trails will also occur next spring.

The Commission and audience were encouraged to drive through the Riverdale area off of North Daws Street. Things are getting cleaned up and the area looks better. The sewer project for the area is being designed and will be submitted to DEQ. Once the plans are approved the project will go out to bid. The plan is to construct the project in 2017. Prior to construction the right of ways will need to be cleaned up further. Trees will need to be trimmed or removed to facilitate installation of the sewer mains.

The proposed location of the soccer fields at Brewery Flats has been discussed at the Big Spring Creek Watershed meeting and the Trails meeting. The Soccer Association is working with the Big Spring Water Shed Counsel to explore different locations for the soccer fields. Several locations have been proposed and the group is weighing the pros and cons of each location. The group will present to the City Commission once the options have been explored further.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from November 1, 2016 to November 16, 2016 for a total of \$101,727.40.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 3923, a resolution to re-designate the Lewistown Improvement District Board as the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing Board

Ms. Phelps explained that this resolution needs to be approved to rename the tax increment financing (TIF) board. The TIF Board hired Ms. Janet Cornish to come and work with them and to help set up the board. Ms. Cornish has some concerns with using the Lewistown Improvement District as the name for the TIF Board. According to state law it is an urban renewal district and improvement district is more directly related to special improvement district and felt if it wasn't changed there would be confusion if a project needed to be financed. Ms. Phelps explained that the TIF Board decided to the name from the Lewistown Improvement District to the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing District and Board. The resolution restates the same powers and duties and adds the definition of what the board does and what the district is. Mr. Mike Chapman commented that he is a member of the TIF Board and does think this will help clear up some of the confusion. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve Resolution

No. 3923, a resolution to re-designate the Lewistown Improvement District Board as the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing Board 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.

2. Discussion and action on approving the 2016-2017 annual plan for the Tax Increment Finance District

Ms. Phelps explained that the TIF Board members have been meeting bi-monthly up to this point to establish programs, applications for the district and at this point they are ready to present their annual plan, and briefly talk about their proposals, application and timeline for projects. Mr. Charlie Pfau, Vice Chairman of the TIF Board, explained how the TIF Board has determined how they would like to spend the money. Mr. Pfau explained the breakdown of the budget. There is \$40,000 budgeted for private development incentives, \$30,000 for basic infrastructure improvements, \$15,000 for discretionary opportunities and \$15,000 for a reserve fund. Mr. Pfau explained that the intention to not spend everything every year and to build a fund that could maybe continue on once the district is done. The application process is completed and it will be on the City's website. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the 2016-2017 annual plan for the Tax Increment Finance District 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.

Commissioner Byerly explained that we would allow anyone wishing to make comment on the soccer fields or Brewery Flats could do so at this time, however, this is not on the agenda tonight so it will just be an opportunity for citizens to make comment. Mr. Mike Chapman stated that he is speaking on behalf of the Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited and it is the consensus of their board of directors that brewery flats is an unacceptable location for the soccer fields. Mr. Chapman further commented that it is also the consensus of the watershed council. Mr. Chapman stated that it was the understanding of many that Brewery Flats would remain natural after it was reclaimed. Mr. Chapman commented that an alternative needs to be found. Ms. Andre Zollars explained that she was here on behalf of her son Elias Morris who has played soccer in Lewistown since he was 5 years old. Ms. Zollars stated that he enjoys the sport and has been on the traveling team and this year is going to be representing the State of Montana in the Olympic soccer program. Ms. Zollars commented that soccer gives kids a great opportunity and understand the concerns regarding Brewery flats and hope to put the resources together to get some soccer fields. Ms. Diane Blythe commented that she has lived near Brewery Flats since 1964 and there are so many different birds that come down there. Ms. Blythe is concerned about the traffic to the and from Brewery Flats if soccer fields are located there. Ms. Blythe further expressed her concern regarding the dangerous areas in brewery flats. Ms. Terry Piper Daniels commented that she feels there is a better opportunity for a soccer venue in our community and does see that the community could develop a program and it would be an asset to the community. Ms. Daniels further stated that she is opposed of the soccer fields being located at Brewery Flats. Ms. Daniels commented that it was planned to be a natural space. Ms. Daniels explained some of her concerns regarding safety and contaminates that were removed out of the area. Ms. Daniels stated that she is opposed to soccer at Brewery Flats but is willing to help find an alternative location. Ms. Laura Flugge, president of the Lewistown Soccer Association, wanted to explain that the Lewistown Soccer Association Board will be doing a public meeting and would encourage everyone to bring their ideas, suggestions and facts to put together a plan and hope to better explain their reasoning for Brewery Flats. Ms. Flugge explained that the Lewistown Soccer Association is trying to follow the process. They were told that they had to present the idea to the Park and Recreation Board and then the City Commission. Mr. Tim Harrell addressed the Commission stating that he lives

above Brewery Flats and agrees with leaving the grass and natural habitat alone. Mr. Harrell stated you can hear people walking and talking on Brewery Flats where he lives and that he could not imagine the noise if a soccer field was located at Brewery Flats. Mr. Harrell commented that he is not against a soccer field but would like it located elsewhere. Mr. Ron Moody commented that maybe in our minds we need to segregate Brewery Flats from soccer fields. Mr. Moody stated that Lewistown is going to have a soccer program regardless. Mr. Moody stated that the effort that has been made by the Soccer Association should be recognized and that the City of Lewistown and Brewery Flats is a unique and valuable amenity for the present and the future.

3. Discussion and action on awarding the 2016-2017 gravel bids

Ms. Phelps explained that this is an annual item that is done by the Public Works Department. The bid is for sanding materials, wash gravel used for water digs or road mix and this covers the gravel for the season. The prices are the same as what was offered last year. Commissioner Putnam made the motion to approve the 2016-2017 gravel bid from Casino Creek Concrete 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 those Commissioners voting in favor were: Byerly, Doney Hewitt, Poss, Putnam and Turk. Commissioner Gremaux abstained.

4. Discussion on the election and where do we go from here.

Commissioner Byerly made the following comments. We need to understand that the election may not be fully settled, we know we can expect a recount and we know some other individuals are pondering some other actions which may change or delay finalizing the result. The Commission has been frozen on some issues because of the ballot issue and we may have to wait a bit longer. The one example is moving forward on the City Manager position and he thanked Ms. Phelps for her patience, understanding and willingness to be the interim City Manager. Mr. Byerly stated that tonight he would like the Commission to look at what the election tells us and what the Commission should take from the experience the last couple of years and what directions we might head in the years to come. Mr. Byerly commented that there were a number of headwinds that were blowing against the current form of government in this election. Mr. Byerly further commented that regardless of the outcome or the margin there are some issues that the City Commission need to discuss and if we can agree on some direction we need to move forward with them. Mr. Byerly stated that he feels the City needs to do a better job of information and engaging the community. Mr. Byerly commented that he knows that we as a City Commission have operated openly and operated transparently and operated legally. Mr. Byerly explained that getting input, informing and engaging the community is a bigger challenge today for any government entity. People access information countless different ways and just reaching the public about what is happening in the City and our willingness to hear from them is more difficult than it has ever been. Some of the ideas that have been discussed are updating and changing the city website, invite public to come in and talk with the Commission how we are doing, establish a Facebook page, establish an email list, neighborhood councils, subcommittee of the Commission to oversee some of the ideas. Commissioner Gremaux really liked it when the three citizens came and talked with the Commission and would like to see it continue and really we need to get citizens interested in what is happening in the City. Commissioner Gremaux explained that a lot of the information is mind boggling and there is a lot that goes on in the City regardless if it is a mayor manager working for the City. Commissioner Putnam commented that when discussing the Facebook page and websites there are grants out there to help the City be more technologically visible. Commissioner Putnam commented that she does identify with what Commissioner Byerly has said regarding asking for what we are doing right or wrong and how to make people comfortable or uncomfortable. Commissioner Putnam commented how much she appreciated that citizens in attendance

and that government takes participated and without participation it appears that everything is one way. Commissioner Doney commented that she is really in favor of the neighborhood councils and it would allow individuals to come forward and bring the concerns to the Commissioner. Commissioner Doney commented that neighborhood councils would open lines of communication and Facebook is a great idea. Commissioner Doney stated that she does like the email idea and it depends on the Commission reaching out to the citizens. Commissioner Turk commented that we should educate the people and it was discussed at one time to put information in the newspaper. Commissioner Turk further commented that we need to educate citizens on the board, weeds and plowing. Further discussion followed on the boards. Commissioner Poss commented that some of the City projects entail a lot of detail and maybe we need to slow down some of the projects to better understand the details and processes. Commissioner Poss agreed that the email idea is outstanding. Ms. Blanche Chapman commented that she has complained forever that the audience cannot hear and would have a better turnout if citizens could hear. Mr. Clint Loomis commented that he likes the consolidation of the ideas being discussed. Mr. Loomis stated that the Art Center and Library have a box in the newspaper and maybe if the Commission had there an area in the newspaper it might help inform the citizens. Commissioner Hewitt commented that she agreed with the neighborhood councils. Mr. Brett Thackery commented that he likes all of the ideas and agrees that the world is ran by those that show up. Mr. Ron Moody commented that he is a professional communication advisor. Mr. Moody explained some of the situation he has dealt with and some suggestions of how the Commission could move forward. Ms. Suzanne Westhoff commented that hopefully we will end the election process on the mayor form or existing form of government and the vote was very close and is wondering what message each individual Commissioner got from the close vote. Commissioner Hewitt answered that no one really knew what they really wanted and one comment she heard adamantly that they wanted a qualified mayor and not CAO. Commissioner Putnam commented that 50% of the citizens that voted that they did not like the current form of government and it is upsetting and it behooves the Commission and community to look at what displeased those citizens. Commissioner Poss commented that the vote being that close speaks to the fact that there is a significant portion of the population does not like how we are operating and if we continue this form of government we as the Commission need to address that. Commissioner Byerly commented that he agrees with everything that has been said but would caution that not everyone that did voted for the current government thinks it is wonderful and not everyone that voted for a mayor thinks the current government is terrible. Commissioner Byerly commented that like any election there is countless threads that had an impact on the election. Commissioner Gremaux commented that when he saw the election results came and was surprised and question what we are doing wrong. Commissioner Doney commented that this is obviously an election of change and we are headed in the right direction and there is a lot of ways to communicate and improving communication is the key. Commissioner Turk commented that she heard a lot of comments regarding the study commission and it was apparent that a lot of people were misinformed. Commissioner Turk commented that she thought the current form of government would win by a landslide and agrees with everyone's opinion that we need to inform the public, be there for the public and listen to the public. Mr. Frank Westhoff addressed the Commission that the short notice of the agenda should be addressed. Further discussion was held regarding the setting and posting of the agenda. Ms. Flugge commented that with regards to the election she heard a lot of comments including herself had no idea what was going on with the election. Commissioner Byerly asked how the Commission would like to move ahead with what was discussed tonight. Commissioner Doney commented that she would like to prioritize tonight. Commissioner Putnam commented that maybe the City needs a communication officer to determine how to educate the public. There was discussion regarding the communication officer. Further discussion followed regarding a Facebook page. Commissioner Byerly asked that Ms. Phelps and Ms. Brummond look into the email list and Facebook page. Commissioner Doney would like

to add the newspaper corner as the third priority and will look at bring information regarding neighborhood councils.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Mike Chapman commented that he is concerned with the preservation of the mill building and worried that effort will get in the way of funding the Creekside Park. Mr. Chapman extremely concerned that the Creekside Park not be delayed and the efforts of the historic commission are trying to do an end run around the City Commission and get the building declared historic.

Ms. Kimberly Fend suggested maybe you should be in parades to get the names and faces out there.

Several individuals expressed their concerns of being unable to find any information regarding the soccer fields at Brewery Flats. Ms. Flugge answered that this is just a proposal and we were told to follow the process and that is why there was no information available regarding the project.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Hewitt asked about the letter received from Mr. Miller. Ms. Phelps stated that letter was information only for the Commission and she will be working with Monte on how to answer the letter.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2016.

Dave Byerly, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk