

A COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 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

There were no minutes to approve.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Byerly reported that there is a Central Montana Health District meeting this next week.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that there is an Airport Board meeting this Wednesday.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The Water Department is chlorinating the water system this week. The reason is in response to some bacterial growth and the water department is working with DEQ and others on this issue.

The interim City Manager has been working with DEQ on the old dump property also known as the central Post and Treatment Facility located at the top of Marcella. This was a fence post treating facility. DEQ has been installing groundwater monitoring wells in the area. The well installation and additional soil sampling for both dioxins and metals has been completed. Preliminary dioxin results from those sampling events have indicated elevated levels of dioxins

may be present. DEQ is currently waiting for additional data to characterize the full extent and determine what work still needs to be done. It may be necessary to apply for additional grant funds.

The Lewistown TIF District has their application out on the City's website. The applications are also available for pickup at the City Office and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation. They will start reviewing applications in January and hope to award fund in March. The News Argus is also doing an article on the kickoff of the TIF program.

Ms. Phelps commented that she has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Ron Moody regarding the communication challenges of the City. We have also reached out to the Local Government Center and next will be looking at some changes to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgement of the claims that have been paid from November 17, 2016 to November 30, 2016 for a total of \$41,393.13.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on awarding a bid for the upgrades to the phone system

Ms. Phelps explained that the City Commission recently approved terminating the maintenance agreement with our current provider for the phone systems. The City advertised for bids and received two bids. Ms. Phelps explained that Industrial Communications was a maintenance provider approved by the State and since the bids have been received they have been removed from the list as a maintenance provider. Ms. Phelps further explained that CenturyLink is the only other provider for airbus maintenance in the State of Montana. The upgrades should improve the functionality of the system, there would be 13 new phones with additional features for the administrative offices, there will be software upgrades and we will be using as much of the existing equipment as possible. Ms. Phelps commented that she recommends approving the bid from CenturyLink for the phone upgrades. Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve awarding the bid to CenturyLink for the upgrades to the phone system and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Mr. Mike Chapman commented that he is very happy to have Mid Rivers in town so we don't have to deal with CenturyLink and as a consumer he has never heard good comments regarding CenturyLink. Mr. Chapman stated that CenturyLink has been less than cooperative to move the lines for the Machler project. Commissioner Poss commented that it is very difficult to get communication services for the emergency services. 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 reappointing two members to the Lewistown Historic Resources Commission

Ms. Phelps explained that the Lewistown Historic Resources Commission has two upcoming vacancies and to stay on top of things we are asking to reappoint two members tonight. There is still one vacancy on the board. Planning Director Duane Ferdinand explained that the City has a seven member Lewistown Historic Resources Commission. The terms of Ms. Shirley Barrick and Mr. Gary Kruger has expressed

their desire to be reappointed to the historic commission. Commissioner Doney made the motion to reappoint Shirley Barrick and Gary Kruger to the Lewistown Historic Resources commission 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 voting in favor were Commissioners: Byerly, Doney, Gremaux, Hewitt, Poss and Turk. Commissioner Putnam abstained.

3. Discussion on City of Lewistown Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Phelps commented that there was a list of all the boards included in the packet and a list of the members and terms. All vacancies are advertised and it is hard to find citizens to volunteer. Ms. Phelps explained that there are some boards that are being utilized and may need to be addressed in the City codes. It was discussed that some of these boards should be reviewed, understand their duties and have the board members come and talk with the Commission. Information outlining the duties, responsibilities and reasons for the boards is in the City Code. Commissioner Doney commented that our City ordinances need to be looked at and updated. Commissioner Doney further commented that she is currently not serving on a board and would be willing to work with Monte and Holly to review and look at the codes. Commissioner Doney stated that she would be willing to do this and report on a regular basis to the Commission. Commissioner Byerly stated that if the other Commissioners are okay with this he would like to appoint Commissioner Doney to this task. Commissioner Putnam asked if we are going to have the boards come before to the Commission at some point. Commissioner Byerly answered yes he would like them to come and report to the Commission and public and maybe even do an annual report on a regular basis. Further discussion followed. Some provisions and duties are set by City Code or State law. There was some discussion on the board of adjustments. Mr. Mike Chapman verified if there was a Design Review Board and Ms. Phelps answered yes. Mr. Chapman asked how it operates. Mr. Ferdinand explained that it is an active board and the only authority it has per City Code is the review of signs.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Mike Chapman asked what the procedure is to select the new City Manager. Commissioner Byerly answered that once the Commission knows the election result is firm because there is a window if someone would like to go to court over the issue and once the window is closed and we know the election result is final. Then we as a commission need to have that conversation and hopefully in two weeks or the first meeting in January the Commission can have some discussion on how to move forward. Mr. Chapman asked if the Commission is obligated to do an extensive search or can you take the bird in the bush. Commissioner Byerly answered the Commission is not required to do anything and the commission feels they are obligated to make the best decision they can make.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Putnam would like the hill on Castle Butte Road to be put on the agenda and some money spent to study that road and see what can be done.

Commissioner Turk made some comments on the letter received from the City Manager regarding questions for the Arts & Entertainment District. Commissioner Turk stated that the painting of curbs on Main is the Department of Transportation, weeds are the responsibility of the county and does not know if Lewistown Disposal will help or not.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 5th day of December 2016

Dave Byerly, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk