

A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 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, and Turk. Commissioner Putnam was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the September 18, 2017 and October 2, 2107 minutes. Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Poss abstaining.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Hewitt reported that there was an Airport Board meeting on October 4th and a special meeting on October 6th. The meeting on October 6th was to talk about a targeted economic development district (TEDD). Commissioner Hewitt reported that mechanically everything is up and running at the airport. The Rimby Hangar needs the roof insulation replaced.

Commissioner Byerly reported that he is currently serving on the Fergus County Port Authority Board and they hosted a meeting in August here in Lewistown and the CEO and Chairman of the Big Sky Economic Development Association from Billings. Commissioner Byerly reported that they toured them around the City and then had a Community meeting. Commissioner Byerly commented that they had a lot of good input and suggestions. The two things that they were really excited about for the City of Lewistown is the possibility of a business park at the airport. Commissioner Byerly further commented that even though it is Billings and there is a lot going on there, but their employers have some of the same issues as in Lewistown. Those being the need for skilled workers and affordable housing for families. The other thing that really impressed them was the Spring Creek Marketplace and Pavilion and what it could mean economically for Lewistown. Commissioner Byerly reported that the Lewistown Port Authority was invited to attend one of the Big Sky Economic Development Association board meetings in Billings. Several of the Port Authority members attended. Commissioner Byerly explained that one of the items discussed was that in order for them to build their economy, to attract the next generation young skilled worker with a family they would need significantly to improve their amenities specifically their parks. They need more and need to develop them better and Commissioner Byerly feels that we have done well in that area.

Commissioner Turk reported that the Library Board meeting is this Thursday.

Commissioner Doney reported that the trailer ordinance is going to be discussed again this evening.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The finalized easement for the water and sewer mains at the fairgrounds was included in the Commissioner's packets. The City Attorney continues to work with the County on an agreement to maintain the water and sewer main on the other portions of the project. The City will need to have adequate access to inspect, operate, maintain and repair these mainlines prior to accepting this infrastructure. Currently, Fergus County has the necessary easements in place to do these items, not the City of Lewistown.

There have been a lot of questions and concerns regarding the burn pile at the Marcella lot. The City Manager is aware of what can and cannot be burned and will make sure to adhere to DEQ requirements. The City Manager has spoken to DEQ enforcement on the issue. Up until very recently Fergus County was under fire restrictions that prohibited open burning. As time allows, we will remove items that cannot be burned and dispose of them properly. In the past this area has seen a lot of illegal dumping. This area is posted no trespassing and dumping. The last time the City Manager was up there she reported seeing grass clippings and a bag of trash.

The current value of the building activities inside the City limits is over 9.3 million dollars this calendar year. The building and planning department, are currently working with many owners and contractors on upcoming projects. Many of these are commercial projects, but we have had several large residential projects done this year in our community.

Staffing update, the City has recently made several good hires but has a couple of openings. The Public Works Director, Planning Director, Bookkeeper and Water Worker positions have not been filled. Recently, a Police Officer resigned as well as a Fireman.

The sweepers have been out working on cleaning up the streets and the leaves. The formal leaf pickup schedule starts next week.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Gremaux 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 October 1, 2017 to October 11, 2017 for a total of \$4,400.07.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 3948, a resolution providing for the annexation by petition of a parcel of property owned by Russell L. Dunnington and James W. Dunnington, into the City of Lewistown

City Manager Phelps explained that the petition for annexation and the resolution for annexation has been included in the packet. Ms. Phelps explained that this piece of property is adjacent to the Dunnington addition and not part of the addition. Ms. Phelps further explained that it was always assumed to be incorporated under the same action as the Dunnington addition, but until recently it was determined that it was not annexed. Ms. Phelps explained that they have been paying property taxes as if they were in the City limits and state statute allows that if a property owner is paying taxes for a period of 7 years then it is

to be considered incorporated. Ms. Phelps stated that this is just a cleanup issue from many years ago. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve Resolution No. 3948, a resolution providing for the annexation by petition of a parcel of property owned by Russell L. Dunnington and James W. Dunnington, into the City of Lewistown 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.

2. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 3949, a resolution lifting Stage 1 and II fire restrictions within the City of Lewistown

Ms. Phelps explained that in August the City Commission passed a resolution putting the City of Lewistown under Stage II fire restrictions and as part of the resolution the Commission needs to lift the fire restrictions. Ms. Phelps stated that the County has lifted their fire restrictions, and it is still very dry. Ms. Phelps further stated that the Fire Chief feels that the fire restrictions can be lifted. Commissioner Poss made the motion to approve Resolution No. 3949, a resolution lifting Stage 1 and II fire restrictions within the City of Lewistown 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.

3. Discussion and action on approving the agreement between the City of Lewistown and the Lewistown Rural Fire District

Ms. Phelps explained that at the last couple of meetings the Commission and members of the Lewistown Rural Fire District have discussed the agreement and the agreement will be updated. There are no significant changes, the addendum was incorporated into item #13 and allows the Finance Officer to request additional documentation for the revenue calculations. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the agreement between the City of Lewistown and the Lewistown Rural Fire 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. Fire Chief Kucera briefly explained the rural fire district contract.

4. Discussion on the proposed trail ordinance

Ms. Phelps explained that this ordinance has been discussed at several meetings and what is proposed at this time is to allow campers to be parked on City streets. The restrictions will still be in place like making sure the campers are passable, not blocking areas, and not too close to crosswalks. The five day rule is still ineffective that they will need to be moved every five days. This will be allowed from April 1st to November 1st of each year. Further discussion followed. Ms. Phelps commented that she would like to have the first reading on the first meeting in November. Commissioner Byerly explained that a change in ordinance requires two readings.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Joe Kern expressed his concern with parking during afterschool hours at Garfield School. Citizens are parking in front of the fire hydrants and blocking cross walks. Ms. Phelps answered that the Police Department is aware of the issue and it is occurring at several different schools and will be working with the schools regarding the issue.

COMMISSIONER’S MINUTE

Commissioner Hewitt commented that there are a lot of trailers in place year round and would like to know why the ordinance is in place. Commissioner Doney explained that the reason for the change in the ordinance is to make it enforceable.

Commissioner Hewitt commented on all the benches in the downtown area and thought they look very nice and like the different colors.

Commissioner Turk commented that there is a big change in just the enrollment at the high school. There are changes in the school system and also in businesses. Commissioner Byerly commented that he agrees with that comment but the good news is in the elementary grades are higher than in years past. The

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2017.

Dave Byerly, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk