

**Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Monday, February 3, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Mike Nelson, Dana Kass, Darla Kruser, Andrew Ysker

Members Absent: David Savage

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk; Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney; Doug Bristol, Police Chief

Others Present: Deanna Anderson, Observer/Advocate; Doug Regehr, Gloria McKissick

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to add 9.A Discussion – Fire/Ambulance Hall and 9.B Discussion/Action – SCBAs to the agenda. Motion carried 4 – 0. Motion by Kass, seconded by Kruser, to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks #23326 – 23365, 655E

Payroll: Checks #65150 – 65165

Approve November 26 Police Commission Minutes

Approve January 10 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve January 21 City Council Minutes

Approve Resolution #2-20 Appointing Election Judges

Public

No one spoke during this portion of the meeting.

Full-Time Police Officer Position

Jon Beck, who has been working part-time for the police department since September, has applied for the open full-time police officer position. There were around five total applicants. Police Chief Doug Bristol explained the dynamics the department has been in over the past year with two officers resigning for other positions. Councilmember Kruser and Kass expressed concerns on patrolling Highway 60 and other situations. Chief Bristol provided a report of traffic stops, location of the stops, number of citations, and other information. Bristol stated if there are concerns that if he is given the time and date he can investigate further as stops are recorded.

Experience and the pay scale were discussed. Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to hire Jon Beck as a full-time officer at step 6 of the police officer pay scale effective the first date of his first shift of the next pay period (February 13, 2020). Motion carried 4 – 0.

Street Superintendent Position

Daron Friesen, who has the most seniority within the department, signed the internal posting for the Street Superintendent position. The administrator reviewed Friesen's application and has met with Friesen. The administrator stated that he is qualified for the position. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Kass, to promote Daron Friesen to Street Superintendent effective February 4, 2020 and to place Friesen on Step 3 of the Public Works I pay scale per the 2020-2022 AFSCME agreement. Motion carried 4 – 0. Friesen will have 30 days to decide if he desires to stay in the new position or elect to return to his former position. The council will also have 30 days to keep Friesen in the new position or elect to return him to his former position.

Lawn Mower

The same proposal as the previous meeting to trade-in a current lawn mower and purchase a new lawn mower was presented. With the trade-in, the cost of the new mower will be \$5,600. The administrator explained that the utility may still be interested in purchasing the lawn mower from the street department but won't decide until Thursday's Utilities Commission meeting. The street department has no preference as long as they only have to pay \$5,600 for their new lawn mower. Motion by Ysker, seconded by Kruser, to trade-in or sell the mentioned lawn mower and purchase a new lawn mower for \$5,600. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Option-to-Buy for Land Purchase

Option-to-buy agreements were signed in 2019 with Ruth Weckwerth, POA for Marilyn Fast, and Elsie Schultz for land to be used for new wastewater ponds construction. In the agreements, a notice must be given to the two landowners on the city's intention to purchase the land. The administrator has sent in documents to the Public Facilities Authority as part of the PFA loan application process but has not heard back from the loan officer as the loan officer has been out of the office unexpectedly. By approving to exercise the option-to-buy, it will give the city attorney and administrator flexibility on sending the notice and setting up a closing date once the PFA loan application is approved or close to approval. The SIU agreement and awarding the bid for the project will be presented at a future meeting. Motion by Kass, seconded by Kruser, to exercise the option-to-buy agreements with Ruth Weckwerth, POA for Marilyn Fast, and Elsie Schultz as stated in the signed agreements to purchase land for the wastewater ponds project. Motion carried 4 – 0.

City Attorney

A trial for a public nuisance is scheduled for this Thursday unless a form of an agreement is decided prior to Thursday. The property owners of the greenhouses have until February 12 to

submit a written brief of their appeal. The city will have 30 days to respond and then the property owners will have an additional 15 days to provide another response. The court will then decide if oral arguments will be heard for the case. Parking regulations were discussed by the administrator and the attorney. Regulating parking and driveways are difficult because writing certain regulations and restrictions to prevent issues with 1-2 properties will impact many more that are not currently issues. Limiting the number of cars per lot is an option but it can overregulate parking on lots that are responsibly following current ordinances. More research will continue.

Bonded Indebtedness as of 12/31/19

The bonded indebtedness report that is sent to the county each January was reviewed.

Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd.

Fire/Ambulance Hall

A committee was formed to discuss the status of the current fire/ambulance hall and the feasibility of repairing the current building or building a new one. Councilmember Kruser asked what the council would like to see presented to the council from the committee. The council provided direction to see what the options of repairing the current building are, what would be included in a new building and an approximate cost, and what their recommendation would be. The administrator stated that a new building would need to be bonded or go through a USDA loan to be built as there are only limited reserves for both the fire and ambulance departments.

SCBAs – Fire Equipment

The department is expected to receive their new self-contained breathing apparatus equipment in mid-February which was approved to purchase in August of 2019. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker, to declare the current SCBAs equipment surplus once the new equipment arrives and to sell/scrap the current equipment. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved February 18, 2020

ATTEST:

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk