

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
City Council Chambers, City Hall
March 9, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dennis Koptizke
Council Member Ethan Bell
Council Member Chris Purkett
Public Works Director Richard Thompson

Council Member John Hill
City Clerk Treasurer Doris Pinkerton
Pool Manager Jason Forberg

Citizens attending were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Krueger and Mrs. Sharon Wetsch.
Unable to attend the meeting was Council Member Raymond and Water Wastewater Director Pat Zent and Attorney Weldon.

Mayor Koptizke called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., he explained the committee is meeting to discuss Code 7-6-3 and 7-6-4 and code enforcement options.

He noted that Code 7-6-3 and 7-6-4 are included in Title 7; Police Regulations, and is specific to the Sheriff's office. He had ask the Sheriff and Attorneys if they had any concerns or comments, and received nothing back from them. He said he has not dealt with any of the code in Title 7, as it is the Police Regulation code, he ask if there is a need to change the code.

Sharon Wetsch and Mr. and Mrs. Krueger handed out another version of 7-6-3 which included eliminating 7-6-4 entirely, which are new changes from what was provided before.

The changes that they proposed were:

7-6-3 AUTOMOBILE RESTRICTIONS: In residential neighborhoods, all vehicles parked on the street must be currently licensed and parked with the flow of traffic. If a vehicle or vehicles are parked on private property within city limits, it must be kept in an area with grass mowed and weeds abated. Complaints concerning any vehicles parked on private property or on the street shall be inspected by code enforcement committee and if necessary a 30 day written notice shall be sent via certified mail. If the complaint is not rectified within 30 days of receipt of the letter, the person responsible will be ticketed accordingly by code enforcement.

This section shall not apply to any vehicles enclosed within a building, or covered by a fabric in good repair or to any vehicle held in connection with a business enterprise lawfully licensed and properly operated in an appropriate zone, pursuant to the zoning laws of the city or a vehicle in an appropriate storage place or depository maintained in a lawful place and manner by the city or to any vehicle or motor vehicle validly and properly retained by the owner thereof for antique collection purposes pursuant to 61-3-411, Montana Code Annotated.

Any motor vehicle whether in operable or inoperable condition designed and adapted or used for demolition derby or bump and run purposes shall be covered, as set forth in this chapter, or placed within a building.

7-6-4 eliminate entirely as the city doesn't have the right to tell a citizen what they can store within their own building on private property.

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The committee members felt they needed time to review the new information in respect to the existing city code. Council Member Purkett explained in areas of the code that make reference to Montana Code Annotated sections, the city is unable to trump state law.

Code Enforcement Options:

Position:

Mayor Kopitzke reported that two (2) individuals applied for the position. He noted the job description was adopted earlier, and did not include animal control. Items of discussion, will the position be designated as a department head, or part-time employee, will a vehicle need to be provided, interview process. Council Member Purkett felt animal control should be included.

Animal Control concerns: impound facility, daily care, and animal collection vehicle and equipment, training, and liability issues. Public Works Director Thompson said the city did have a process before, Dr. Killen would take the animals and work with the city in sending the owner to city hall to pay impound fees, license the animal (with proof of rabies vaccination) and get a release, this process has not been used in a long time. Dr. Killen does take animals but handles them in his own way.

After further discussion it was felt that more discussion was needed. Mayor Kopitzke will notify the candidates that there will be a delay in filling the position.

Committee:

Details of the structure of the committee were discussed, including reporting responsibilities, procedure, responsible to the Mayor, Council, or Code enforcement Officer? Should there be a violation reporting form and criteria, signed complaint letter? A volunteer position?

A committee meeting was scheduled on March 23rd to further discuss code changes presented, code enforcement position and creating a code enforcement committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

City Clerk Doris Pinkerton

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke