

CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF January 08, 2024
STATE OF MONTANA

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; officials in attendance were; Council Members Ethan Bell, Doug Roberts and Sam Beyl, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley and Water/ Wastewater Director/Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman. Excused from attending were Council Member Chris Purkett, Public Works Director Richard Thompson, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, Undersheriff Scott McDermott and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Kopitzke asked if there was anyone present from the public that wish to comment on items not on the agenda. There will be no discussion of personnel. The Council will take no formal action at this point in the agenda.

Mr. Lloyd Nelson spoke concerning the house at 242 N 12th Avenue that had previously had a house fire. Mr. Nelson asked if the council could do anything with the structure because in his opinion it is both a danger and an eye sore to the neighborhood. Mayor Kopitzke stated he would check with Undersheriff McDermott on what the status of the residence was.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Variance for barbed wire from A & L Properties: Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m. to open the public hearing for the barbed wire variance at 270 Prospect Street for A & L Properties. With no comments being heard, Mayor Kopitzke closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 23265-23303 in the amount of \$136,026.97 and check numbers 22076–22107 in the amount of \$58,278.11 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Mayor Kopitzke presented open container permits from Tom Queen of the Lariat Bar for a dart tournament on January 26th 5 p.m.-1:30 a.m., 27th 8 a.m.-1:30 a.m. and 28th 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
2. Mayor Kopitzke presented open container permits from Thomas Paris of the Iron Horse Bar for a dart tournament on January 26th 5 p.m.-1:30 a.m., 27th 8 a.m.-1:30 a.m. and 28th 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Council Member Bell made a motion to approve all permits from item 1 and 2 together as they all are for the dart tournament. Council Member Beyl seconded the motion. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.
3. Variance Request from A & L Properties for the use of barbed wire. Mayor Kopitzke presented the variance for consideration.
Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the use of barbed wire on the top of the fence at 270 Prospect Street for A & L Properties. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley and Water/Wastewater Director/Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman gave verbal and written reports. Public Works Director Richard Thompson and Pool Manager Jason Forberg had a written report included in the packet.

A. City Clerk/Treasurer: City Clerk Donley spoke about the STIP program and stated she had a resolution on the agenda to join the pool. She also stated W2's, 1099's and 1095B's were done and that she was working on getting them uploaded to the IRS, SSA and State of Montana.

B. Public Works: Written report included in packet

C. Water/Wastewater: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman reported he would like to start working on getting the vac truck to Billings to have them fix it. The Department had a line break at RHCC that took longer than it should have due to the vac truck issues. Mayor Kopitzke directed Mr. Hallman to move forward with getting the truck fixed. Mayor Kopitzke and Council Member Bell both commended the Water/Wastewater Department on the help they gave the hospital during their issues.

D. Pool: Written report included in packet.

E. Rosebud County Sheriff's Office: No report

F. Code Enforcement Officer: CEO Hallman things had been slow with Code Enforcement, but he would be moving forward with snow removal and resident issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update: Mayor Kopitzke reported the levee project had nothing new to report.

Windfarm-Impact Funds: Mayor Kopitzke stated the next payment for Windfarm Impact should be coming in the next few months.

Water Project Update: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman stated the department should be receiving the final draft for Water Plant Upgrades.

Front Street Project-Community Meeting: Mayor Kopitzke stated he would like to hold a community meeting at 6 p.m. on February 12, 2024 before the regular council meeting. The MT DOT is willing to attend the community meeting to answer questions from residents.

Surplus Property Sale-1996 Ford Pickup: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2024-R01, authorizing the sale of surplus property.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Code Changes:

Fireworks Ordinance No. 2023-01: Mayor Kopitzke presented Ordinance No. 2023-01 (Final Reading). The Ordinance is to clarify hours fireworks can be lit off.

Council Member Bell made a motion to accept the final reading of Ordinance No. 2023-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Vegetation Code: This code will be looked at by the policy committee and changes will be discussed at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk/Treasurer Appointment: Mayor Kopitzke asked that Mrs. Sandra Donley be re-appointed to serve as the Clerk/Treasurer. The reappointment fulfills the City Code and Montana Code Annotated appointment requirement.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to re-appoint Mrs. Sandra Donley as Clerk/Treasurer, the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

City Judge Appointment: Mayor Kopitzke asked that Mrs. Elaine Egeland be re-appointed to serve as the City Judge. The term for this an appointment is 4 years.

Council Member Bell made a motion to re-appoint Mrs. Elaine Egeland as Forsyth City Judge, the motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Deputy City Attorney Appointment: Mayor Kopitzke stated that Attorney Jeff Weldon would like the council to appoint Nyles Greer as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Forsyth.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to appoint Mr. Nyles Greer as the Dputy City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Council President Appointment: Council Member Bell nominated Council Member Roberts for the position of Council President. Council Member Roberts accepted the nomination and Mayor Kopitzke stated we would vote on the council president nomination with all of the council committee assignments.

Committee Assignments: Mayor Kopitzke and Council completed the list of committee assignments.

Council Member Doug Roberts made a motion to approve Council Member Bell to serve on the Riverview Villa Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the Council President Nomination and all Committee Assignments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Committee Assignments are as follows:

Services and Policy

Council President-Council Member Doug Roberts
Parks and Public Works-Council Members Chris Purkett and Ethan Bell
Water and Sewer-Council Members Sam Beyl and Doug Roberts
Police Commission- Council Members Sam Beyl and Doug Roberts
Policy and Code- Council Members Chris Purkett and Ethan Bell
Adminstration and Policy-Committee of the Whole

Public Safety

Zoning-Council Member Doug Roberts, Joan Duffield-term expires 12/31/2026, Linda Wolff-Bowen-term expires 12/31/2024, Cathy Fleming-term expires 12/31/2025 and Zoning officer Jason Ackerman.

911 Board-Council Member Chris Purkett

Fire Department-Council Member Ethan Bell and Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Economic Development-Committee of the Whole

Southeastern Montana Development Corporation-Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Other Committees and Boards

Tree Board-Clint Heser, Lydia Heser, Council Members Chris Purkett and Doug Roberts, Public Works Director Richard Thompson and Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Accessibility- Council Members Chris Purkett and Sam Beyl

Riverview Villa Board- Council Member Ethan Bell this appointment is a 2 year term.

LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee)-Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

ReBranding- Council Member Sam Beyl

Resolution No. 2024-R02- Authorizing participation in the Montana Board of Investments Short-Term Investment Pool and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents Related Thereto: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2024-R02; concerning the City of Forsyth's participation in the STIP program. Discussion was had on the program and how it functions.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-R02. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS:

City Judge Egeland had a report included in the packet.

City Council: None

Mayor: Mayor Kopitzke presented his report and asked if there was any questions.

City Attorney: None

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 12, 2024 at 7 p.m. following the Community Meeting for the Front Street Project which will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Mayor Kopitzke asked for public comment after each topic, if comments are made; those comments are recorded as part of the official minutes.

Agenda Items for the Next Meeting: Union Negotiations, Windfarm-Impact Funds, Water Project Update, Levee Update, Vegetation Code changes, 242 N 12th Avenue Update.

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley