

CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF August 28, 2023
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, Chris Purkett and Carole Raymond, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley and Public Works Director Richard Thompson. Excused from attending were Water/ Wastewater Director and Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, Undersheriff Scott McDermott and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. George Becker spoke regarding the manhole that was previously plugged and stated he was having issues again. Mayor Kopitzke stated he would speak with Water/Wastewater Director Hallman to get an update when he returned to work. Mr. Becker asked if the manhole could be flushed every couple weeks until there was a decision on what would be done with the issues he was having.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget Amendments and Year End Transfers: Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m. to open the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget Amendments and Year End Transfers, and asked for public comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Kopitzke closed the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24: Mayor Kopitzke opened the public hearing for Budget of Fiscal Year 23-24 at 7:05 p.m. and asked for public comment, hearing no comments he closed the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Alley Abandonment-Russell Ameline and Greg Losinski: Mayor Kopitzke opened the public hearing for the Alley Abandonment Request from Russell Ameline and Greg Losinski at 7:05; City Clerk Donley stated city hall had received questions from neighboring properties concerning the abandonment and that if the lots to the north of Mr. Ameline and Mr. Losinski were to ever need sewer it would need to be ran down the alley as no sewer runs in front street. City Clerk Donley mentioned that she would check city code on barbed wire in city limits as Mr. Ameline stated he needed it on the top of the fence he was going to put up. Mr. Ameline spoke on why he wanted the alley abandonment. Hearing no comments, Mayor Kopitzke closed the hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Alley Abandonment-Reed and Edre Marcy: Mayor Kopitzke opened the public hearing for the Alley Abandonment Request from Reed and Edre Marcy at 7:13 p.m.; City Clerk Donley stated city hall had received phone calls from neighboring properties owners concerning the abandonment. Mr. Drew Pearson with WWC Engineering spoke as to why the developer wanted the abandonment and the changes they would make to the city sewer at no cost to the city. Mr. Pearson also stated he had spoken to other utilities and they were in agreement with the abandonment. Mr. Terry Nickisch stated he had no issue with the abandonment as long as the alley that ran north and south did not get abandoned as he has an easement for his sewer line through that alley. Mr. Bill Fitzgerald asked questions concerning the west side of the block as he owns the property. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he is had no issues as long as the city kept the manholes in the north/south alley. Hearing no comments, Mayor Kopitzke closed the hearing at 7:22 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 23157-23171 in the amount of \$36,832.18 and check numbers 21880–21918 in the amount of \$89,115.20 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Raymond. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley gave a verbal report. Public Works Director Richard Thompson gave a verbal and written report. Water/Wastewater Director Hallman and Pool Manager Jason Forberg had written reports included in the packet.

City Clerk Donley reported she had been working on the yearly resolutions. She mentioned the resolution for the mills looks different as legislation added new language that had to be included. City Clerk Donley also reported she would be gone October 11-13 for league and asked that any council person that wanted to attend let her know. City Clerk Donley reported she had been working with Interstate Engineering on numbers for budgeting and stated they have been helpful in breaking project costs down into fiscal years.

Public Works Director Richard Thompson asked to move forward with replacing the plow pickup, sander, concrete work on the new building at the shop and fixing the transmission of the white truck. Director Thompson also presented the bids from MDU for moving the power poles off of the levy. Discussion was had on moving the poles in sections.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Jim Atchison-SEMDC: Mayor Kopitzke introduced Mr. Atchison; Mr. Atchison provided a handout with an update for the current fiscal year along with past project SEMDC helped with. Mr. Atchison encouraged the City Council to renew their membership to the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation. Mayor Kopitzke said there were funds included in the budget for the membership. Mr. Atchison was appreciative.

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update: Mayor Kopitzke reported Great West Engineering was working with the issue of Slaughterhouse Creek.

Nathan Bilyeu gave a handout to council and went over the process of creating a Special Improvement District. Mr. Bilyeu stated he was happy to help with the process if the City of Forsyth needs to add the SID. Mr. George Becker questioned why the city was looking at doing the SID. Council Member Purkett stated that the city wasn't choosing to do the changes to the levy, that the federal government is making the city make changes to the levy. Mayor Kopitzke thanked Nathan for the information provided.

Mayor Kopitzke reported the next levy update meeting would be September 11, 2023 at 1 p.m.

Windfarm-Impact Funds: Nothing new to report

Water Project Update: Mayor Kopitzke reported the next water project meeting would be October 17, 2023.

Riverview Villa Lease: Council Member Purkett and Council Member Roberts will meet with representatives from the Riverview Villa Board to discuss issues and then move forward with changes to the lease. A lease will be presented to council for by January 1, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2023-R04- Fiscal Year 22-23 Fund Transfers: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2023-R04; which if approved will give authority to City Clerk/Treasurer Donley to do the Fiscal Year 22-23 Fund Transfers.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the resolution, the motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2023-R05-Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget Amendments: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2023-R05; the resolution will allow City Clerk/Treasurer Donley to do the Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget Amendments.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve the resolution, the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2023-R06- Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget and Set Mill Levies: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2023-R06; which if approved will set the levy for the General Fund at 271.88 mills and for the Permissive Fund at 14.57 mills for a total of 286.45 mills for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, upon real property under 15-10-201, MCA.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the resolution, the motion was seconded by Council Member Raymond. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2023-R07- Set Light District, Garbage and Street Maintenance Assessments: Mayor Kopitzke presented Resolution No. 2023-R07; which if approved will set the light districts, street maintenance, and garbage assessments for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve resolution No. 2023-R07, the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Direction on Alley Abandonment Request-Russell Ameline and Greg Losinski: City Clerk Donley stated the concerns city hall had received about the abandonment. City Clerk Donley also stated abandoning alleys could decrease gas tax payments the city receives monthly from the State of Montana. Discussion was had on options for the property, adjacent property and the issue of a fence with barbed wire.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to deny the alley abandonment for 270 Prospect Street, the motion was seconded by Council Member Raymond. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Direction on Alley Abandonment Request-Reed and Edre Marcy: City Clerk Donley stated abandoning alleys could decrease gas tax payments the city receives monthly from the State of Montana and that the adjacent property owners were not as conflicted on this property. There was discussion on the changes to the property if the abandonment passed. Mr. Pearson stated the only property with sewer in the alley in question is the property owner asking for the abandonment.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the alley abandonment with the condition that all costs of moving the sewer lines and adding man holes be the sole responsibility of the developer, the motion was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-1.

REPORTS:

City Council:

Council Member Raymond presented Riverview Board minutes to the council.

Council Member Purkett asked about the stumps on Main Street and Public Works Director Thompson agreed to check with the contractor on when they would be removed.

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 11, 2023 at 7:00 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: Levee Project, Windfarm.

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
City Council Chambers, City Hall
August 28, 2023
5:35 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dennis Koptizke
Council Member Chris Purkett
Council Member Doug Roberts
Public Works Director Richard Thompson

Council Member Ethan Bell
Council Member Carole Raymond
City Clerk Treasurer Sandy Donley

The committee met to review the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24.

City Clerk Donley provided budget books; which included a revenues to expenditure comparison with cash remaining in each fund.

Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget:

Revenues: There were some increases in revenue from the June 26, 2023 meeting. Gas Tax had a large increase due to the closeout payment for BARSAA and the SB 536 payment. Water also had an increase due to reimbursements, etc. from the water project that were not added to the preliminary budget.

Expenditures: Extensive changes were made to the water budget as none of the water project costs had been added to the preliminary budget. City Clerk Donley stated she worked with Water/Wastewater Director Hallman to make the changes to the water budget. Public Works Director Thompson and City Clerk Donley went over the gas tax budget and increased the expenditures due to the larger revenue the city will receive this year.

Riverview Villa Lease:

Council Member Purkett stated the issues he had with the lease and asked if the Villa Board could answer the questions. Discussion was held on the lease. Council Member Purkett and Council Member Roberts will meet with Villa Board representatives and get a final lease ready to bring to the Council by January 1, 2024 to adopt.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

City Clerk Sandra Donley

Mayor Dennis Koptizke