

**CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF June 24, 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, Sam Beyl and Chris Purkett, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley, Public Works Director Richard Thompson and Water/ Wastewater Director -Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman. Excused from attending were Council Member Doug Roberts, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, Undersheriff Scott McDermott and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 24-25: Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. to open the public hearing for the preliminary budget of Fiscal Year 24-25, and asked for public comment, hearing no comments he closed the hearing at 7:02 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 23651-23673 in the amount of \$868,675.82 and check numbers 22343–22371 in the amount of \$147,571.43 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Mayor Kopitzke presented an Open Container Permit from Mr. Tom Queen/Lariat Bar for a pig roast July 4, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the permit, the motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

2 a and b. Mayor Kopitzke presented Street Closure Permits for Mr. Beau Steinburger for July 20, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mr. Steinburger asked that the permit be changed to 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 (midnight) and an Open Container Permit for Riverside Park July 20, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the permits, discussion was had and Mr. Steinburger was directed he would need a separate open container for the street closure area. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

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

City Clerk/Treasurer: City Clerk Donley reported she has been working with Director Thompson on a proposed increase in the garbage charges. Discussion was had and City Clerk Donley will move forward with the resolution for a \$40.00 per year increase.

Water/Wastewater: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman spoke concerning a bulk water increase. Discussion was had and Director Hallman will move forward with figuring final numbers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update: Nothing New

Windfarm-Impact Funds:

Forsyth Volunteer Fire Department Pager Purchase-Scott Hein asked that city to approve the purchase of 25 new pagers for the FVFD in the amount of \$10,725.00 from Eastmont.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the purchase of the pagers, the motion was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Water Project Update: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman reported the bill for Oak Street to Western Municipal had been received and was in the approved claims to be paid.

Front Street Project: The front street project is moving forward and Lydia Hesser will be giving her professional opinion on the trees the project effected on main street.

Union Negotiations: Discussion was had on pay increases and changing from allowing more than one (1) step increase per year to a \$.10 increase in longevity steps. City Clerk Donley asked that full-time non-union employees receive the same increases as union employees, discussion was had.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the longevity steps by \$.10 instead of being able to have more than one step raise per year and allow non-union employees to receive raises, the motion was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Code Changes: Council Member Purkett reported he is still working on the code changes.

Building Inspector Position: Mayor Kopitzke reported he has made a couple phone calls and the position is being advertised.

Adopt Fiscal Year 24-25 Preliminary Budget: Mayor Kopitzke presented the preliminary budget, noting this is not adoption of the final budget, which if approved would allow the city to receive revenues and pay expenses. The final budget will not be adopted until the second meeting in August.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve the preliminary budget, the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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: July 15, 2024 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: Bulk Water Rates, Water Project Update, Levee Update, Code Changes and Garbage Increase

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley