

CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF August 12, 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, Chris Purkett and Sam Beyl, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley, Water/ Wastewater Director and Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman and Undersheriff Scott McDermott. Excused from attending were Public Works Director Richard Thompson, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Kopitzke asked if there was anyone that had comments not on the agenda-

Deputy Quentin McClure introduced his K9 to everyone and spoke on his background and what the K9 was used for.

Mr. Henry Fink passed out a letter and spoke on things he thought were issues in town.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Variance Application from Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murnion for allowing RV spots and changing setbacks from 25' to 10': Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m. to open the public hearing for the variance, and asked for any comments. Dan Murnion spoke about the variance he would like to receive. Residence Nick Murnion and Duane Yablonski spoke in favor of the variance including allowing the RV spots and changing the setbacks. Ross Pattison spoke on behalf of neighboring property owner Ann Schindler against the variance as did neighboring property owner Jeremy Yerger. After hearing comments, Mayor Kopitzke closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Garbage Pickup and Garbage Administration Fee Increases for FY 24-25: Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:21 p.m. to open the public hearing for the fee increases and asked for any comments. There were no comments. Mayor Kopitzke closed the public hearing at 7:22 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 23730-23791 in the amount of \$380,394.69 and check numbers 22403-22454 in the amount of \$458,704.58 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business: Variance Request from Daniel and Dianna Murnion for allowing RV spots at 210 South 8th Avenue and changing setbacks from 25' to 10'. Mayor Kopitzke presented the variance for consideration.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the variance allowing 3 RV spots and allowing the change in setbacks. The motion was seconded by Council Member Purkett. Council Member Purkett spoke about the state process for a RV Park being allowed. Discussion was had on whether all state obligations had been met. Council Member Purkett suggested tabling the variance until a later meeting. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion failed 0-4. Council Member Roberts made a motion to table the variance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-1.

New Business:

Forsyth Chamber Permits for Duck Days Festivities -Open Container, Street Closure, Parade and Street Dance on August 16 & 17, 2024: Mayor Kopitzke presented the Chamber of Commerce's permits for Duck Days on August 16 & 17, 2024.

Council Member Beyl made a motion to approve all the duck days permits together, Council Member Purkett seconded the motion. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley, Water/Wastewater Director and Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman and Undersheriff Scott McDermott all gave verbal and written reports. Public Works Director Richard Thompson and Pool Manager Jason Forberg had written reports included in the packet.

City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley talked about her report and asked if there were any questions.

Public Works: Mayor Kopitzke stated Public Works Director Thompson, Water Director Hallman and himself had met with Ryan Scanlan from Interstate Engineering about issues with the Oak Street project. Ryan will address the issues with Oak Street, the sidewalk and with side of the road that was not fixed correctly.

Water/Wastewater Director Taylor Hallman reported DOT asked to have the vac truck come clean out their scales. Council stated that they were in favor.

Pool: Council Member Roberts stated there was a pool committee meeting scheduled for September 25, 2024 at 9 a.m. to be held at the swimming pool.

Undersheriff Scott McDermott presented a report and asked if there were any questions. He stated there is a contractor lined up to connect the line from the sheriffs shop to the sewer and he would be in to sign up for the billing.

Code Enforcement Officer Hallman reported he had sent letter concerning overgrown vegetation in alleys. Council Member Purkett asked about animal issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update: Mayor Kopitzke reported there was a meeting with FEMA and the project is moving forward.

Windfarm-Impact Funds: Nothing new to report

Water Project Update: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman has contacted Lynn with Interstate Engineering concerning the revisions needed on plant controls.

Front Street Project: The project is moving forward.

Heser Tree Report: Mayor Kopitzke reported he will meet with Richard concerning the trees and how to move forward with the state.

Fiscal Year 24-25 Budget: City Clerk Donley reported she was in the process of finalizing numbers for the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2024-R05-Adopting the new rates for Garbage Assessments: Mayor Kopitzke presented the resolution and asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-R05/ new garbage assessments with a correction to the wording to state twenty-seven. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2024-R06-Approving changes in rates for Bulk Water and Hourly Labor for the

Water/Wastewater Department: Mayor Kopitzke presented the resolution and asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Beyl made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-R06. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2024-R07-Fiscal Year End 23-24 Fund Transfers: Mayor Kopitzke presented the resolution and asked if there were any questions. City Clerk Donley stated the two (2) transfers are ones that are done every year.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-R07. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

City Clerk/Treasurer permission for set aside transfers and reallocation of the MDU pole moving in Budget 23-24: This request is for transfers to set aside funds within a fund which are to be done yearly per City Council direction and to reallocate payment for the moving of MDU poles on the levee.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the transfers and the reallocation of the cost of moving the poles. The motion was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS:

City Judge Egeland had a report.

City Council: Council Member Purkett stated he would like to see a change in the code 12-3-7. This would touch on the public comment from Henry Fink. Council Member Purkett also reported he donated and installed a dog refuge station at the dog park.

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

City Attorney: None

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 16, 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: FY 24-25 Budget, Mill Levy, Permissive Levy and Tax Assessments

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley