CITY OF NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 AT 6:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 VIRGINIA STREET, NEW MEADOWS

## Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Present at City Hall was Mayor Julie Good. Present via Zoom were Council Members Jeff Parnett, Darla Weber, and Shiloh Ryker.

Staff present at City Hall were Dana Kautz, Kyla Gardner, and Angie Mettie. City Attorney Dick Stubbs was present via Zoom.

Public present at City Hall was Linnea Hall and Kaytlyn Gilliam. Public present via Zoom were Amy Manning of III-A and Sandy Schiffman.

Mayor Good opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Public Input

There was no public input.

## Presentation

Amy Manning of III-A gave an annual report, stating that membership has increased 20% in the last year. Covid had a large impact, making the Telehealth line very successful. A mental health consultant has been hired as well, and agencies can opt in to have a mental health consultant visit when health checks are completed. She stated that cities should budget for a 10% increase this year.

## Reports

Staff Reports

Mayor Good asked for a report from Public Works Assistant Potter regarding the reopening of the park restrooms.

City Clerk Gardner shared about the Youth Advisory Council meeting she attended. They are looking for volunteers from Meadows Valley to start a program for the youth. Gilliam noted that it was difficult to get school volunteers, as those who are willing are already heavily involved in many different areas.

Water Project Update

Mayor Good spoke with Tim Farrell and Ed Stowe of Mountain Waterworks regarding the bid for the wellhouse. She stated that developers are interested in building housing, but this cannot be completed without having the new well online. If the well were online and the housing established, more customers would be paying into the system, which would lower the impact of the cost to complete the project. She stated that the cost to the user with the current number of customers may be $19. If 50 users were added, it would drop to $13, and if 100 users were added, it would drop to $8. Therefore, it is a priority to get the wellhouse built. She suggested that the rebid package include only construction of the wellhouse. Infrastructure and distribution lines will not be forgotten, however the wellhouse is the priority at this time.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Good stated that she would like to see a forum set up that would involve the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Parks & Rec Committee as well as the public. A forum would not require a quorum. She would like input for the Park Master Plan from the entire community, not just a few individuals. The Committees will work together to create a plan from the information provided from the community. This forum will begin in June.

Update from Citizens for Community Enhancement

Linnea Hall shared with the Council the history of the planter boxes, benches, and barrels that decorate town. She would like to see a consistency throughout town. She would like to update the planter boxes at City Hall to match the rest of town. Mayor Good stated that a possible facelift may take place at City Hall. She would like to wait to see what the plans for the facelift are before placing the planter boxes. The Council agreed that a new planter box that matches the rest of town could be placed at City Hall.

## Discussion Items

City Cleanup

Free Dump Days offered by the County will be May 15th and 16th. Mayor Good has set aside the 3rd Saturday in May, June, July & August as Community Cleanup Days. Flyers will be created to advertise the cleanup, and volunteers are welcome on each cleanup day. Donations will be accepted for the effort, and residents can leave items by the curb on these days for pickup by the city. Mayor Good would like to promote a positive cleanup program in the community.

Dog License Fees

Council Member Weber suggested that the dog license fee for unaltered senior dogs ($30) be lowered to the altered dog rate ($10) because these dogs are no longer capable of breeding. Documentation from a vet would be necessary to receive this discount. This item will be added to the next agenda for approval.

Housing Discussion

Mayor Good stated that there is a push to hire a housing official for the region who would work on grants and offer planning and zoning assistance to developers and home builders. She would like to discuss creating an area with smaller homes for single working-class people. Ideas included having land donated for this purpose, and then landowners would receive a return on their investment. This item will be added to the next agenda, and the zoning code will be reviewed for higher density areas.

Council Seat Recommendation

Mayor Good invited Kaytlyn Gilliam to meet the Council. The Council reviewed her resume and asked questions of her. Gilliam stated that she would be interested in improving community involvement and building more opportunities for youth to be involved in the community.

Land Change Request Form

Adams County suggested the City create a Land Change Request form to assist with the combining or splitting of lots or redrawing of lot lines. The Council reviewed the form and would like to add a line requesting any impact the change would have on neighboring properties, and correct a spelling error. The form would not make the action an administrative action, and the P&Z and City Council would still research and review applications. Mayor Good also noted that the form is not in place of a variance and cannot be used as such.

Stibnite Foundation Grant Application

Mayor Good provided possible speed limit signs and costs. The Council felt that two signs would be sufficient currently, and would be placed on Highway 95 South, when entering the City, and on Highway 95 North. A third sign for Highway 55 may be considered at a later date. The Council liked the sign from Traffic Safety Warehouse, which included both a speed limit sign and a flashing "your speed" sign. Money could be saved by supplying the post. Mayor Good stated that the City should apply for $8000 for this project.

An estimate on dog pound improvements was not available. Council Member Weber will research costs and options, and Mettie will contact McPaws for their suggestions.

Broadband Update

Mayor Good stated that two towers were needed to cover the entire city. Free service would be available for the library, city, fire, and school, and there would be no upfront cost to the city. A presentation may be given at the next meeting.

## Action Items

Approval of Joining Valley County Opioid Response Project and VCorp Consortium

Mayor Good stated that this is a group concerned about the mental and physical health of people recovering from Opioid addictions, especially in elderly communities. They have made an effort to include New Meadows in their services. Mayor Good provided a letter of commitment, stating that New Meadows would like to participate in the project and help identify areas of need in the community.

- Council Member Ryker moved to approve of the City of New Meadows joining the Valley County Opioid Response Project and Vcorp Consortium; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Utility bill Request – Ernie Robinson

Part-time resident Ernie Robinson requested relief from his water bill due to a large leak that occurred when no one was home. The Council discussed the issue. Council Member Ryker stated that it is important to keep the water system financially viable. She had compassion for Robinson, as the same situation has happened to her. Council Member Parnett stated that if a discount were given, a precedent would be set, and everyone with a leak would request a discount. It was

decided that Robinson could have several months to pay his large bill with no late fees attached. Mayor Good will write a letter to Robinson explaining the decision.

Land Change Request Form

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve the Land Change Request form with changes; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Weber – yes, Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

## Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes from April 26, 2021, April 2021 Payroll, and paid and pending claims. Mayor Good read the claims. The claim for CTC will be double checked to make sure the amount is correct.

- Council Member Weber moved to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of CTC until verified; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Parnett – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

## Future Meeting Topics

- Air Bridge Presentation – May 24
- Budget Review Summary
- Park Restrooms Report – Potter
- Sign-off for Virginia Street Project – Knife River / ITD & Liquidated Damages
- Financials
- Stibnite Grant
- Wellhouse Rebid Update
- Dog License Fee Change
- Update on Community Cleanup
- Review High Density Zoning
- Appointment of Council Member

## Adjournment

Mayor Good adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

_____ ATTEST:_____

Julie A. Good, Mayor Kyla Gardner, City Clerk



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