

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
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 Darla Weber, Jeff Parnett, and Darbey Edwards. Shiloh Ryker was absent.

Staff present at City Hall were Mac Qualls and Angie Mettie. Present via Zoom was City Attorney Dick Stubbs.

Public present at City Hall was Darlene Loper. Public present via Zoom were Ed Stowe of Mountain Waterworks, Linnea Hall, Chris Curtin, and Dr. Irvine.

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

Public Input

There was no public input.

Reports

Mayor's Report

Mayor Good summarized her staff report and thanked Darbey Edwards for chairing the Citizen Advisory and Parks and Recreation joint committee. She noted that Jessie has done an amazing job and that she received several positive comments regarding snow plowing. Warren Drake will check in monthly and will be the backup operator for the water/sewer and become more familiar with the system. Brochures for community education are being organized and created and will also be available online soon.

Joint Citizen Advisory and Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Mayor Good would like to see the mission statement and the draft master plan in order to share ideas and see the direction the Parks Master Plan is headed.

Well #5 Progress Report

Ed Stowe of Mountain Waterworks reported that Well #5 is currently being test pumped. It will be pumped for six hours at 1250 gallons per minute. Tomorrow a sand sample will be taken, and water quality samples will be sent to Analytical Labs. He stated that the well can easily pump 1300 gallons per minute, and their goal was 500 gallons per minute. Next steps will be to have the well house plans reviewed and approved as well as the booster station plans. Mayor Good would like to review these in depth at the February 22nd meeting.

Citizens for Community Enhancement Letter of Thanks

A letter was submitted to the City from the Citizens for Community Enhancement group, stating that the full funds have been raised for the entryway sign project, and that the city's contribution will not be needed.

Presentations

Local Broadband Effort

Chris Curtin, IT Director for the City of McCall, shared about their broadband program entitled RAPID. This program will bring quality, reliable and inexpensive high speed Internet to rural areas. The program is

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broken into three parts – the fiber utility, the connection to the utility, and the service. He estimated that each of these would cost a homeowner \$15, with a total being approximately \$45 for Internet. He stated that the net cost for installing the broadband would be \$0 due to selling the connection as part of a bond. The cost the homeowner spends on Internet would be paying the bond. He stated that those homeowners who opt in now would pay the \$45 per month fee. Those who choose not to opt in but want to connect later would pay a possible \$3000 connection fee. Grants are available for broadband at this time, and the City Council is interested in bringing a similar broadband program to New Meadows. Curtin stated that the first step would be to pass a resolution declaring broadband as an essential service. This will be added to the February 8th meeting.

COVID-19 Update: Dr. Irvine

Dr. Irvine answered questions from the Council regarding COVID-19. He stated that currently Adams County has low numbers at 23.3 new cases. However, cases are like wildfire and an outbreak can occur at any time. Regarding the vaccine, he stated that it is 95% effective, and there have been no adverse side effects from anyone in McCall who has received the vaccine. A person may not want to receive the vaccine if s/he has allergies to many things. He stated that an antibody treatment is available but must be administered before shortness of breath occurs. He referenced a study by the University of Kansas that showed counties where masks were mandated had a 20% decrease in cases, where counties with no masks had an increase of 100% in cases. He also stated that wearing masks can decrease the number of virus droplets transmitted from a sick person. A person who inhales only a small amount of droplets will have a milder case than a person who inhales large amounts due to an infected person not wearing a mask. He will see about getting a vaccination clinic at the New Meadows St. Luke's office.

Local Volunteer Spotlight

Linnea Hall was recognized for her work in Meadows Valley. A certificate was created for Linnea.

Local Volunteer Spotlight

Darlene Loper of Vintage, Etc. shared with the Council about her shop. She offers a variety of collectables, Idaho products, jewelry, clothing and more. An Espresso shop will also soon be available. They have moved, and their new location is at the corner of Virginia Street and North Miller. They are open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am-5pm. Employees include herself and her daughter-in-law Stacy. She stated that two issues she has encountered have been parking and getting locals to shop at her store. She has a guest book to sign and has had customers from all over the world. She would like to invite everyone to visit the shop in its new location.

Training

Legal Advice - Dick Stubbs

City Attorney Stubbs gave a presentation on the purpose of lawyers, which is to act as a representative and to advise in legal matters. The City attorney can prosecute ordinances and infractions, which in New Meadows, is the job of Chris Boyd. Stubbs provides legal advice to the Council, who in turn makes decisions based on that advice. However, the Council can choose not to heed the advice. Stubbs stated that he should be notified when any council or staff member is contacted by another attorney, asked to give a deposition, asked to provide a declaration or affidavit, served with a subpoena, threatened by someone who states they will sue you personally or threatens to sue the city.

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Discussion Items

Animal Control Position

Mayor Good stated that \$4420 is budgeted for the animal control position. The position might include ten hours of patrolling per week plus 50% of the fines collected. The Council discussed whether the position should be contracted out or whether the officer would be an employee of the city. It was also discussed whether a city vehicle or a personal vehicle would be used for the job. Hours of the job were also discussed, as many calls regarding barking dogs are received late at night. A person is needed who is objective, who would take ownership in the position, enjoys people and animals, and would be flexible. A job description will be created for the position.

Ordinance Review – Parking

Mayor Good asked the Council to review the parking ordinance. There have been multiple complaints about trucks parking near the intersections, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic when turning onto Virginia Street. The Council will send ideas to be compiled and will review the ordinance in one month.

Installation of Parking Signs Downtown

Mayor Good noted that the “*no parking between 2am and 6am*” signs are at the edges of town instead of in the downtown corridor. She would like to install four new signs along Virginia Street that are visible to drivers parking along the street, especially during snow removal hours. If the signs are in place, deputies will be able to cite vehicles parked during these hours. Good will get a price, more information, and sign locations for the next meeting.

Action Items

Installation of Parking Signs Downtown

There was no action on this item.

City Council Best Management Practices / Decorum Resolution

The Council reviewed the final draft of the best management practices resolution.

- Council Member Edwards moved to approve the Elected Officials Best Practices Policies Resolution TBD 2021; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Weber – yes, Edwards – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

A copy of the Resolution will be sent to Pam McConnell and will be placed on the website.

Mr. Kern Extension

Jim Kern is requesting an extension on his discount to build at 233 Larae Street. There have been delays with construction due to COVID-19. Council Member Edwards suggested an expiration date. The request can be reviewed at the end of the extension period.

- Council Member Weber moved to extend the building discount for 233 Larae to October 1, 2021; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Weber – yes, Edwards – yes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included a grant support letter for a Mobile Medical Vehicle, December 2020 Financials, January 11, 2021 City Council minutes, and invoices to date. Mayor Good read the invoices to date.

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HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
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- Council Member Weber moved to approve the letter of support for the mobile medical unit for Adams County; Council Member Edwards seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Edwards – yes, Weber – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.
- Council Member Parnett moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Edwards – yes, Parnett – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Topics

- Audit Presentation – Feb 8
- Broadband – Feb 8
- Citizen Advisory / P&R park plan review – Feb 8
- Parking – Feb 22
- Wellhouse design – Feb 22
- Brown’s RV dump station agreement
- Snow storage agreement
- Resolution Adoption – personnel policy update
- TTAC meeting update
- Animal control job description
- Downtown sign placement, cost

Adjournment

- Council Member Weber moved to adjourn; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Julie A. Good, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jacob M. Qualls, City Clerk / Treasurer