

REGULAR CITY OF NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 VIRGINIA STREET, NEW MEADOWS

Welcome – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance

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

Staff present at City Hall was Angie Mettie. Doug Buys and City Attorney Dick Stubbs were present via Zoom.

Public present at City Hall included Alex Shepherd and Linnea Hall. Ed Stowe of Mountain Water Works was present via Zoom as was Drew Dodson.

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

Public Input

Meadows Valley student Alex Shepherd attended to share more about his senior project but was not on the agenda. Mayor Good asked Shepherd to put his information in writing and send it to Mac Qualls, and his report will be placed on the next agenda as an action item.

Broadband Presentation

Chris Curtin was not available to present.

Reports

Mayor Report

Mayor Good summarized her report stating that Attorney Stubbs will provide training in January. Council members were encouraged to come and add an ornament to the Christmas tree. Mayor Good would like to have council members come for a photo with the tree after it is decorated. Council Member Ryker was thanked for completing the handwritten cards for those who participate in the tree decoration.

Elected Official Reports

Council Member Edwards stated that he would be interested in chairing the Citizens Advisory Group / Parks & Recreation Committee through the project of creating a park master plan.

Staff Reports

Staff reports were received from Mettie, Gerke, Buys, & Qualls. Buys stated that the sewer has again been hit with an insulation / shop towel-like material that overflowed a manhole, stopped the auger, and ripped off the collection bag. Mayor Good would like to place a post on social media reiterating the damage this causes and the fines associated with it. She would like staff to put together this information.

He also stated that the drilling project has caused the irrigation ditch behind Hartland Inn to flood. It was unclear whether the ditch was plugged, or not large enough to handle the flow. The water has been redirected to the Katherine ditch.

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Well #5 Fence Update

Chance Hobbs with Dig Well sent an e-mail to David Kellogg regarding the fence but has not received a reply. A construction fence is now in place and it appears they are no longer using the access from Kellogg's property.

Mountain Waterworks Engineering Report

Ed Stowe of Mountain Waterworks summarized his progress report, stating that the well drilling is going well. At approximately 490 feet, there was a large sedimentary formation that broke the 16" bit, which caused some delay. The bit is being repaired, and a 10" bit is being used in the meantime. There is approximately 50 feet left to drill. The next steps will include a pump test, gathering water quality data, and submitting them to DEQ. Plans and specs will also be submitted to DEQ for the wellhouse and distribution piping. Once approved, DEQ will allow the wellhouse to be bid out.

Business Spotlight

Natural Arts Taxidermy – Terry Saba, Owner

Mr. Saba was not available to share about his business but provided an information sheet for the Council.

Discussion Items

Local Pandemic Stage Review

Mayor Good stated that there have been rumors of people being infected with COVID-19 and others not. She has met with all staff and they are doing a great job of social distancing when there is concern about being exposed. She commended them for the responsibility they have shown.

She also stated that there has been lack of communication between the city and the school in regard to the pandemic. Mayor Good was inundated with phone calls and questions about the move to the red category and the closing of the school. She called the county to find out their response, which was minimal to none. She called the health department, which stated that the school had chosen to shut down due to their own policy that was in place. She stated that City Hall will now require masks upon entry. She would like to continue to follow the resolution passed by the City Council, which stated the main goal was to keep people safe. She reiterated that a "mask mandate" only mandates masks where six foot social distancing is not possible.

Council Member Edwards stated that his number one concern was staff safety, even if that meant sterner restrictions.

Council Member Ryker stated that the panic is real for many, and as long as choices are reasonable, peace and reassurance should be brought to the people.

Council Member Parnett stated that there are extremists on both sides, including mask mandates at all times to never wearing a mask. His main concern as well was to keep the employees safe.

Mayor Good stated that she talks with staff as much as possible, and that they feel safe with what they are doing. The bathrooms are closed, and there is not an influx of people at City Hall. If a concern is brought to her attention, she goes directly to staff. The City Hall lobby is sanitized between customers, and the decorating area for the tree is sanitized as well. She would like to continue to hear concerns and will follow up with each of them.

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City Council Best Practices

Mayor Good stated that in response to Pam McConnell's address to the Council at the last meeting, she has been researching best practices for elected officials. She would like to keep the document broad, and not list specific actions that can or cannot be taken. According to Attorney Stubbs, there is no code specifically stating Council actions. She also stated that abiding by "best practices" does not mean there will be no negative interactions with the public. She asked that the council review the document and send any changes or additions to Mettie before December 28th. At that time Attorney Stubbs will review the document. The completed document with changes will be available at the January meeting for approval by the Council.

Regular Meeting Dates

The Council reviewed the 2021 calendar of meeting dates. Council Member Edwards suggested having only one meeting in November and December due to the holidays. Mayor Good stated that it may be possible to forego the second meeting in November. The second meeting in December is more difficult, as that is the time that Alcoholic Beverage License applications come in.

Action Items

Well #5 Change Order

Ed Stowe of Mountain Waterworks explained the change order, stating that the size of casing was changed from 20" to 16", and reduced by 140 feet, which netted no change in cost. However, an additional \$31,519.55 was needed to complete the drilling. The Council discussed the additional cost. Council Member Edwards was concerned, and suggested checks and balances to make sure the cost was essential, as well as have stricter benchmarks for costs. Mayor Good stated that the engineers are hired due to their knowledge of the project. Council Member Parnett felt that the word of the engineers should be trusted. Ed Stowe stated that approximately 50 feet is left to drill, and that there should be no additional change orders, unless the City were to decide to drill further than the 600 feet. However, a final change order will be submitted at the end of the project, which will shore up the completed project.

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve Change order #2 in the amount of \$31,519.55; Council Member Edwards seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Edwards – Yes, Ryker – yes. Motion carried.

Short Term RV Use Rates Resolution – Adding a Daily Rate Option

The Council reviewed the updated resolution, allowing for a single day vacation permit of \$5, as well as continuing a year-long vacation permit for \$100. Money collected from RV permits will go to the Meadows Valley Roundup program.

- Council Member Edwards move to approve Resolution TBD-2020 outlining the fees for short term RV use; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Edwards – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

Stibnite Advisory Council

Mayor Good stated that a letter of interest was received from Linnea Hall for either the Stibnite Advisory Council or the Stibnite Foundation Board.

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Regarding the Stibnite Advisory Council, Mayor Good explained her involvement, including attending meetings, sharing community needs and concerns, and providing updates on city hall and business activities around New Meadows. She stated that if the Council chose, she would like to remain in this position, as this is a passion of hers. Council Member Edwards asked if her load might be lightened if another were appointed to this position. She stated that no, she enjoys the work, and would like to remain involved. She suggested that Linnea Hall might serve as an alternate, but that it was the City Council's choice.

- Council Member Ryker moved to appoint Julie Good to the Stibnite Advisory Council as the representative for New Meadows; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Edwards – yes, Parnett – yes, Ryker –yes. Motion carried.

Stibnite Foundation Board Representative

Mayor Good stated that she is currently the chair for this committee. She runs the meetings and creates press releases. She is the secretary for the board and was the creator of the grant platform via Submittable. She felt that continuity was important but reminded the Council that it was their decision on whom to appoint.

- Council Member Ryker moved to appoint Julie Good to the Stibnite Foundation Board; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Edwards – yes, Ryker – yes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included November 2020 payroll summary and timecards, November 23, 2020 minutes, claims to date and financials to date. The claims and financials were not available. The Council reviewed the payroll, timecards, and meeting minutes.

- Council Member Edwards moved to approve the consent agenda; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Edwards – yes, Parnett – yes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Topics

The meeting for December 28th was cancelled and replaced with a tentative special meeting on Tuesday, December 29th with only two agenda items – Alcoholic Beverage License approvals and presentation by Alex Shepherd.

Adjourn

- Council Member Edwards 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 7:52 P.M.

Julie A. Good, Mayor

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