

**** Page 1 ** A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THREE
FORKS, MONTANA, JANUARY 23RD, 2018**

JANUARY 23RD, 2018, The Three Forks City Council met in session in City Hall at 206 Main Street, and was presided over by Mayor Steven B. Hamilton. Mayor Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. for the SECOND meeting of JANUARY 2018.

PRESENT: Council members George Chancellor, Deb Mickelberry, Teri Whitesitt, Gene Townsend, Ed Tharp and Dennis Nelson. City Treasurer Kelly Smith, City Clerk Crystal Turner and Water Superintendent Randy Johnston were also present.

The record reflects that a quorum was present, with the attendance of six (6) council members, and the meeting was held.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag was led by Mayor Hamilton. Reminder to the public that the meeting was being recorded and a reminder for all those present to review the policies of conduct on the back on the agenda.

GUESTS: Gloria Howland, Cathe Felz, Matt and Kelly Bugland, Carey and Katy Hansen.

Mayor Hamilton asked if there were any **PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS** that were not on the agenda. Seeing none, the Mayor introduced the **CONSENT AGENDA**.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of Claims per List(s)
- b) Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2018

Councilman Chancellor moved we approve the consent agenda. Councilman Townsend seconded the motion. There was no public comment.

Motion Passed 5:0, Teri Whitesitt abstained citing she never received a anything for review.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing and Decision on a Third Reading of an Ordinance (#379-2017) Amending Title 11, Chapter 12, Section 3 to Update Conditional Use Submittal Requirements

The Mayor noted this ordinance was read into the record in its entirety, so unless anyone specifically requests it to be re-read he will not do so. No one requested a full reading.

Councilwoman Whitesitt moved that we approve Ordinance #379-2017, an ordinance of the Three Forks City Council providing in depth submittal requirements for conditional use permits in Title 11, Chapter 12, Section 3 of the Three Forks Code. Councilman Townsend seconded the motion. There was neither public comment nor Council discussion.

Public Hearing and Decision on a Resolution to Adopt the Capital Improvement Plan

The Mayor noted the resolution is still in "track change mode", edited per the comments said at the last meeting. Also included are copies of Dennis Nelson's comments, and a spreadsheet listing the projects, with estimated costs and funding options. He asked if the Council would like to review the project and prioritize those tonight, or he suggested they prioritize the projects by year and get those comments back to the clerks who will compile it together. Kelly Smith added that Wendell Ewan provided a rough estimate for project titled "Improvements to the City storm water drainage system" at \$15,000. Also she spoke with Steve Johnston today who provided a rough estimate on the "Outfall Line" project (for out of town areas only) around \$640,000 including engineering costs. To rehabilitate the entire line into town would probably double that cost.

Randy Johnston explained the outfall line used to be our sewer line when all sewage ran out to the river. Back when the City put the new lagoon system in (1970s), the Council at that time opted not to use the outfall line for sewage as it is made of redwood. Three years ago we had a lot of infiltration, a horse fell through the line, started backing up water and flooding into town. Nash Enterprises came out last year and flushed it with their 750-foot line. There was a muskrat den inside. Steve Johnston, Wendell Ewan, Bill Wilson and Randy repaired the deteriorated section which has greatly improved removing water from basement areas of town. Deb Mickelberry asked if there are easements. Randy said the City worked with TD&H to get all the proper easements. Gene Townsend asked where Randy would recommend funding option(s) come from, wastewater? Randy thought wastewater would work. George Chancellor asked if it could be done in phases? Randy thought yes, and added a lot of the work could be done "in house" but it will end up needing professional work and engineering too. Because of Three Forks' high water table, in December our gallons per day (gpd) was 350,000/day. Currently it is at 600,000/day

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with all our water around town from snow melt off and ground thawing. Randy continued, "We need to repair manholes, some around the school are seeping water in and will need sealed. When there is high water, basically Three Forks is under water."

Public Comment: Kelly Bugland said on Friday water was coming off 1st Ave East, coming down Date Street, entering the sidewalk at the alley and following the path of the sidewalk and running into the basement of her rental property. It filled with approximately 7 feet of water, and only 2 feet remained until the water reached the main level of the home. City staff was alerted immediately and she worked with staff to barricade the runoff from the street, and they pumped some water out of the basement. She put her emphasis on storm drainage as a need for the City of Three Forks adding, "It is a very important thing." The Mayor agreed these are very legitimate concerns. He added that we had a lot of rain prior to the snow melting. Matt Bugland added that there are a lot of people using sump pumps right now, which are feeding right into the sewage system. (By ordinance, this is illegal per 9-5-13-A.)

Randy Johnston added if we do any improvements he would prefer seeing those done on asphalt streets rather than dirt streets. From two storms this winter already, drains on dirt streets fill in with dirt and gravel.

The Mayor asked how the Council would wish to proceed.

Crystal Turner replied to Deb Mickelberry's earlier question regarding easements. Crystal has been informed that we are unsure which easements exist and she is working with the Clerk & Recorder's office to verify any easements, as well as research legal descriptions for any which may not exist. Since this is not complete, she would hate for the Council not to include costs to obtain easements if any are found not to exist.

Deb Mickelberry asked, for example the outfall line, if a project could be done in phases, would the Mayor want to see Council comments as "Phase 1 in year X; Phase 2 in year Y, etc..."?

Gene Townsend suggested it would help to number projects with the least priority as a #1, and the highest priority as a #5 for instance. (This would help when totaling everyone's input as those with the highest score being the highest priority.) The Mayor agreed and asked that all Council members provide input by February 1st. Kelly Smith added that a variety of

funding options may be used for each project; please feel free to add to those options if the Council has other ideas.

This item will be continued to February's meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Water Superintendent Randy Johnston distributed a report of wells and their various statuses (see packet for details). He segued into his capital improvement project requests of a reverse osmosis package plant to blend the water from these wells and draw them at full capacity.

Deb Mickelberry said, "With as much work as you think you and Steve can do, are we still looking at \$1,000,000 price tag?" Randy thought no, maybe more around \$500-600,000. Unknown costs would be for engineering.

Gene Townsend asked if a reverse osmosis plant was installed, could it be designed to handle the 250 gallons per minute (gpm) Well #10 produces, and if so could production increase on Wells #8 and #9? Randy said yes, it can be sized for the gpm you have. Gene thought when Well #10 was drilled the City got more water than 250gpm. There was discussion regarding DEQ requirements for drilling and pumping for 48-hours then doing mandatory reductions so as to not draw at full capacity. Randy said, "By the time DEQ is done with you, you do not have as much as originally produced." Randy is trying to keep the system we already have, going. Brent Miller has brought up several times the City has lots of water rights. With low producing wells, if we do not use water rights to full capacity, we could lose them. Randy's first priority would be to pump the water over to where he can do quality testing for gross alpha or radium. If none found we can blend it.

Randy continued that he would like to continue looking at these over the next few months and keep them in the CIP. Marty Gagnon with Morrison-Maierle would like to give us a proposal on this project. Randy also talked about his other handout, for a new interrogator which if purchased by 2/15/18 saves 30%. That savings could be a lot of radios. In December 14 radios died. Randy believed he had \$10,000 still available in his budget, which could be split 50/50 water and sewer. Kelly Smith added that it was budgeted for a replacement in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Townsend said, "Randy, you also mentioned in your notes the possibility of a tour." Randy said he knows not all Council people have

been to the sites and see the operation running. Gene suggested everyone take Randy up on the tour, and also go see how much water the old redwood outfall line collects and transfers out of town. Gene added where people see water collecting, like near the school, is not because of poorly built drains but because the ground is much like a swamp in some areas of town. The ground gets saturated and the water has no place to go. Mayor Hamilton added he took the tour when he was first on the Council and found it to be quite helpful.

Randy reported the wastewater project is working well. "By spending the extra money [for the UV], it put us way ahead of the State's requirements." He added he will be back at the next meeting. He is thankful the Council upgraded the old concrete water storage tank, and redid the steel tank. He also uses the tablet incessantly. He explained his various alarms he gets for any failures. He knows the Council made comments last year about money spent on communications, but this tablet has saved us two well heads in this last year.

City Treasurer Kelly Smith reported the Town of Manhattan, with MMIA and the Local Government Center, is hosting a Roles & Responsibilities for Government Officials' training on February 1st at 5PM. This will be held at their new city hall: 207 S. 6th Street, Manhattan. If anyone wants to go Manhattan is asking us to contribute \$100.

Ms. Smith also reported Rural Development will be here Friday around 1:30pm to do a site tour of the bleacher project.

City Clerk Crystal Turner reported a resignation by Bruce Weber from the Three Forks Ambulance Board, and a resignation by Sirsa Helvey from the Fire Department. The Council has another fire fighter application tonight for decision, and she has already begun the advertisement for board vacancies. Bill Frank had applied for the Ambulance Board at the last vacancy, then withdrew his application because a new volunteer also applied. Crystal has contact Mr. Frank to see if he would be interested in serving again.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no Council committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wastewater Project

Mayor Hamilton said he visited with Craig Pozega of Great West, who anticipates hearing back from DEQ by mid-February. He would encourage not closing the project out until after we hear back from DEQ in the event anything needs modified, as WRDA funding will not be available after closeout. The Mayor added it is "better to be safe than sorry" and wait until the end of February before closing the project out. Kelly Smith added that we will have a draw at the next meeting and hopefully that will utilize the rest of the WRDA funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Permission for FCCLA to Utilize the City Drug Forfeiture Money for Fatal Vision Marijuana Glasses (Money has been in the account since January 2015)

Mrs. Felz introduced Carey Hansen, project lead of FCCLA. Carey said she and her partner, Halee (Wilson), is going to present to the sixth grade class on how drugs and alcohol affect the body. They are thinking about getting a package with activities including the goggles, the three fabric foxes, mazes and pens. One activity is performed using fatal vision goggles. Cathe Felz distributed goggles and two ping pong balls to the Council and Mayor. Katy Hansen asked if anyone minded having their pictures taken for the project. There was teasing and laughing, but no one vocally objected. They put the glasses on and then tried to bounce and catch the ping pong balls. It was very challenging to accomplish. This demonstrates how when not in the right frame of mind, you do not want to operate a motor vehicle. The marijuana glasses will demonstrate something similar and will be used by the students to learn about altered motor skills.

Councilman Chancellor made motion to give permission to the FCCLA to utilize the city's drug forfeiture money to purchase fatal vision marijuana glasses. Councilwoman Mickelberry seconded the motion. Public Comment: Kelly Bugland said it would be money well spent. The Council asked to try those glasses once purchased. Cathe Felz said she would bring them once received.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Council Permission Provided to Gene Townsend in order to Apply for Recreational Trails Grant

Gene Townsend reported since 1997 he has been applying for the Montana Grants and Loans Recreational Trails Program, administered by Fish,

Wildlife and Parks. This is where a lot of the money came from to build the Headwaters Trail System. This grant requires the City Council's approval to apply. He will be applying for \$40,000 and in the past Imerys (his former employer) provided any match required. Imerys has committed to continue providing that match if a grant is awarded.

Councilman Nelson made a motion that we give Gene permission to apply for the Trails Grant. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion. There was neither public comment nor Council discussion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Annual Trails Department Report

Gene Townsend provided the yearly report of the Headwaters Trail System. It was kind of a slow year; he did not receive any grants this past year. This fiscal year he will apply for the Recreational Trails Grant due 2/1/18. He is also applying for the Rails to Trails grant in the amount of \$35-40,000, due by 1/31. The Rails to Trails program is a nationwide program, which only doles out about 10 grants nationally. The western states have been recipients though so he is hopeful.

As he said, he did not receive any grants this year and he is a poor loser. He requested being present at the Recreational Trails' annual meeting to provide his comments, and they agreed. He talked to the board about their scoring program. Out of roughly \$1,000,000 available in grant funding, the board issued close to \$400,000 to the Forest Service and other \$100,000 to Bureau of Land Management. He did not feel it was right that almost half of the money went back to the federal government. Regarding scoring, they rate using numbers 1-10 and you can go online after and find out your scores. He received some 8s and 9s on his application, but some 3s and 4s - from the same committee. When he asked why the difference, he learned scoring is subjective and if one person is a cross country skier perhaps they would rate a ski trail application higher than perhaps a walking trails application. He felt better after reporting his frustration to that board.

Gene also reported Mr. Don Stockburger donated his four-wheeler and small trailer to the Headwaters Trail System. Pat O'Brien Townsend and Gene purchased a weed mower that can be hooked to the four-wheeler, and he worked with the City to purchase a small trailer to haul run equipment for the race. Dave and Amber Hargrove donated a spray tank and lots of weed spraying has been accomplished. He mentioned Randy Johnston helps him a

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lot with mowing too and he thanked the Council for allowing him to do that.

For this fiscal year he plans to spend \$15,000, which was awarded two years ago, on maintenance. He has spoken with Steve Johnston regarding the piece of trail between Hwy 2 and the golf course. This section maybe was not built up high enough and the golf course waters it constantly. We want to pull that up and replace it with cement. He wants to repair a couple places where gophers have dug through the asphalt. Two benches will be replaced this year too: one by Droulliard and one on the east fork of the Madison. Gene would like to put in some riprap along the ponds. "Between the muskrats and the wave action, the banks are really deteriorating," he said.

Regarding revenues, we received about \$16,000 in donations last year, and had few expenses (mostly only the race). He plans to spend about \$18,000 in maintenance this year. The race is the biggest fundraiser of each year, and upon speaking with runners a lot of people have told him they did not run because it was so hot this summer. There were also other runs scheduled around the same weekend which makes it hard for runners to hit more than one in one weekend. He opted for more advertising for the race this past year. This helps get the names of our sponsors out there in the other areas like Big Timber, West Yellowstone, Ennis and Livingston.

Public Comment: Kelly Bugland asked what date the 2018 race will be, as she will put it on the Ambulance's calendar. Gene replied it will be July 21, 2018. Crystal Turner added that the Headwaters Trail System received another donation today from Imerys in the amount of \$3,500.

Gene added that these two grants he is applying for are really funding the trail system. He encouraged the Council to consider reapplying for this year's Transportation Alternative grant. The City applied for this grant last year but was unsuccessful. His goal is still to get a county-wide trail system, at a minimum he would like to connect the Headwaters Trail to Logan. He thanked the Council for the support it has given him in building the trails.

Approval to Reinstate Jason Kelsey as a Probationary Firefighter

The Mayor reported Mr. Kelsey was a firefighter and moved away for work, but now he is back.

Councilman Chancellor moved to reinstate Jason Kelsey as a probationary fire fighter. Councilwoman Whitesitt seconded the motion. Public Comment: Kelly Bugland encouraged Mr. Kelsey to be an EMT too.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Kelly Bugland wanted to reiterate her thanks to City staff, especially Wendell Ewan, for working such long hours over this past weekend with their flooding issue.

Gloria Howland reported a little incident she had at the grain elevator with two people in there with a gun, but Sgt. McDonough handled it quickly and safely. Matt Bugland agreed, he passed a deputy with an A.R. out so he stopped to watch and witnessed Sgt. McDonough interviewing people all around quickly about the incident. Both thought Sgt. McDonough handled it very well.

MAYOR & COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gene asked if Steven had followed up on the money from the West End Training Center. He said no, but he would.

Ed reported the flashing light it still out. Crystal said she reported it to the State MDT and Kelly added that they called back and said they would take care of it.

Kelly Smith asked if there would be a Budget Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 2/13/2018

- Wastewater Project Draw
- CIP Resolution
- Harassment Training

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hamilton asked if there was any other item to come before the Council tonight and if not for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Nelson "so moved" to adjourn. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion. There was no public comment.

Motion Passed Unanimously. (8:31 P.M.)

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Steven B. Hamilton, Mayor

Crystal Turner, City Clerk