

BELGRADE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 3, 2014
7:00 PM

Deputy Mayor Anne Koentopp called the meeting to order. Deputy Mayor and Council Members in attendance were: Anne Koentopp, Ken Smith, Kristine Menicucci, Mark Criner, and John Youngberg. Others in attendance were: Acting City Manager Clark, City Planner Jason Karp, City Attorney Ramler, and Angie Rutherford,

Council Member Youngberg made a motion to excuse Council Member Cooper and Mayor Nelson.

Council Member seconded the motion

All voted aye, motion passed unanimously

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, DECEMBER 16, 2013
JANUARY 6, and JANUARY 21, 2014 COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

Council Member Youngberg made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, December 16, 2013 and January 6, and January 21, 2104 meetings

Council Member Smith seconded the motion

All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

PUBLIC FORUM

Deputy Mayor called three times for anyone from the public to speak. Hearing none, public forum was closed.

REPORTS

Deputy Mayor nothing to report

City Attorney nothing to report

Acting City Manager Clark stated that Mr. Barkley would start on February 10, 2014 as scheduled. We have prepared for his arrival and the City is ready. Mr. Barkley has been in a couple of times he met with City Planner Karp and Public Works Director Klotz last week.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF STRONG TOWNS BY ANGIE RUTHERFORD OF THE SONORAN INSTITUTE - City Planner Karp introduced Angie Rutherford. City Planner Karp stated that the same presentation was done at the Planning Board Meeting. Planners gravitate to the blog, Strong Towns. It is an interesting blog, with interesting writing. We had this opportunity come to us because the person that runs Strong Towns, Chuck Marohn is coming to Belgrade. He is doing a presentation on February 24, 2014 and a tour of the town with us on February 25, 2014. It is fun to hear outside perspectives about what we are doing here what we are doing well, what we need to work on and the great thing is we can take all of this advice, none of his advice, or some of his advice. It is a good opportunity for our City. He does these things all over the country; it will be a beneficial perspective.

Angie Rutherford stated she is from the Sonoran Institute. We have an opportunity for Chuck Marohn of Strong Towns to come to the area. Strong Towns has a message of fiscal responsibility for municipalities. They study financial impacts of infrastructure projects and economic development projects. Strong Towns are advocates for small incremental projects. Their premise is the way that cities were built for thousands of years worked well and it worked from trial and error. Downtown cores were based on a walkable scale because people did not have cars. That worked very well. Since World War II, we have gotten out of that pattern and we are finding that it is not working as well financially for communities and paying for maintenance, the ongoing upkeep of infrastructure projects is quite expensive. Strong Towns would argue that it is unsustainable in some places.

The message that Chuck Marohn presents is that the way we used to do things worked well. We should consider going back to some of the way of doing things as we used to. He has some examples of where things have been done and it worked. He has examples of where things have not worked.

The Sonoran Institute is bringing Chuck Marohn in through a project called Gallatin Ahead, which is one of the initiatives that the Sonoran Institute works on.

We started bouncing around the idea of what should he do when he is here and we thought of Belgrade. The Sonoran Institute was thinking about Belgrade and the new interchange and the fact that you have a new city manager. Belgrade is coming into its own as a community and we thought that it was an opportune time for Belgrade and it might be a good time to have this particular person come in and talk about how we can have this interchange project and keep it connected to the downtown core. Keep that downtown core vibrant even with this big interchange. That is why we started thinking about Belgrade.

We talked to City Planner Karp and he seemed receptive to the idea. Chuck Marohn is coming on February 24, 2014 the last Monday of the month. He will speak at the Chamber of Commerce at 6:30 PM. He typically speaks for 45 minutes to an hour and then takes questions. Sometimes that is 10 minutes and sometimes that is an hour. That talk is open to the public we would like as many people come as possible. Chuck Marohn says somewhat provocative things and we hope that there is good discussion afterward. Some of it might be spot on with for Belgrade some of it might not. There are good ideas that surface and that starts with a good dialog. Chuck Marohn will be in town the entire next day, which is Tuesday February 25, 2014. We are going to start with a breakfast and all of you are invited but we need an RSVP. I will work on doing that directly with you to see who would like to come. The breakfast will be at 8:30 AM.

I do not know a lot about Belgrade. I am new to the area. You are the experts and we would like Chuck Marohn to get a good foundation of what Belgrade is all about before he goes out and starts looking at the projects. That is point of the Breakfast. Throughout the day, we would like Chuck Marohn to meet with different stakeholders of both the interchange project and downtown business owners. I would like Chuck Marohn to meet with the Superintendent of Schools and other community leaders. At the end, he will write up observations and thoughts of Belgrade and the interchange. It will not be a formal report at this point as we are limited by finances. He will have a written summary of what he found in his observations. If you cannot make it to the February 24, 2014 there will be a webinar on February 19, 2014, which is the Wednesday before and that is at noon. You can sign up via the Sonoran Institute website. That is an hour free webinar.

Council Member Criner stated he would to hear his observations.

City Planner Karp stated Chuck Marohn schedule looks like a rock band concert tour. He goes to great towns and great venues and then there is Belgrade right in the middle of it. He has never been to Montana before. We are the first town that he has looked at in Montana and the only Montana stop on his current schedule. There are many other towns in Montana like Belgrade that grew around the railroad tracks and have similar challenges. It will be something that other towns in Montana can look at also.

Angie Rutherford stated that the Sonoran Institute wants to do what is useful for Belgrade whatever that means.

Council Member Smith asked if the Sonoran Institute targets certain populations.

Angie Rutherford stated that the Sonoran Institute works with growing communities in the intermountain west. Communities poised for growth. Strong Towns works with all different sizes of communities in all stages of development and redevelopment. Strong Towns does not necessarily have a focus on small communities. The Sonoran Institute thinks that the Strong Towns message is good for the Belgrade community. If you get too far down the road, you are going to have to wait for redevelopment projects as opposed to new projects. While it might seem like you have been left behind in being so small in some ways that is an advantage because we know much more going forward now than we did 30 years ago.

Council Member Smith asked where the Sonoran Institute derives their revenue.

Angie Rutherford stated that we get most of our funding from foundations. We do have some private donors, but this project is almost exclusively funded by a foundation.

City Planner Karp stated that in the County and the City of Bozeman and Belgrade have applied for a grant from the Sonoran Institute a year ago that we received to do triangle planning. They just left a contract to Sanderson Stewart a local engineering firm. They are just starting that study. That is separate from this. We have worked with Sonoran Institute before. Randy Carpenter the Program Director attends many of the same meetings I attend. We are familiar

with each other and the work we do.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve January 2013 Payroll

Council Member Criner made a motion to approve the January 2013 Payroll

Council Member Menicucci seconded the motion

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Council Member Youngberg stated that the Chamber of Commerce is planning a meeting on March 4, 2014 so that people from the business community can meet new City Manager Ted Barkley.

Council Member Criner had no new information for the Council.

Council Member Menicucci stated she would like to thank Acting City Manager Clark for acting as our City Manager for over a year. Michael Tucker had a great article in the paper about the positive attitudes and I have encountered that myself. A positive vibe is going on in Belgrade. I would like to note for the record congratulations to Max Baucus on his ambassadorship. He has been very good to the City of Belgrade. He helped with both interchange projects.

Council Member Smith had no new information for the Council.

Deputy Mayor Koentopp had no new information for the Council.

Acting City Manager Clark stated that in reference to the article in the Belgrade News he had a question about Taco Bell. It is confirmed that Taco Bell is coming to Belgrade.

City Planner Karp stated that Taco Bell has not submitted building plans to the City yet. I spoke with their engineer today about what building codes are used.

Council Member Youngberg asked we used to see those liquor license transfers. I understand that Fiesta Mexicana got a liquor license. Have you seen where those have come from?

City Planner Karp stated Fiesta Mexicana's liquor license came from Bozeman Canyon Burgers. It is a full liquor license. The restaurant did very nice remodel.

Acting City Manager Clark stated that the Family Dollar Store should start construction soon.

City Planner Karp stated it actually is not a "dollar" store they will have other items as well. It will be west of the building that Love Inc. is in.

Water Quality District Meeting Feb 6, 2014 at 8:15 AM – Council Member Smith

Fire Board Meeting February 11, 2014 at 6:00 PM – Mayor Nelson

Park Board Meeting February 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM – Council Member Youngberg

MMIA and LGC Municipal Risk Workshops are coming up. If you need more information, call the City office.

ADJOURN

Council Member Criner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM

Anne Koentopp, Deputy Mayor

Christina Crow,
Administrative Secretary