

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

Mayor Russell Nelson called the meeting to order. Council Members in attendance were: Brad Cooper, Anne Koentopp, Ken Smith, Kristine Menicucci and Mark Criner. Others in attendance were: City Manager Ted Barkley, Rick Ramler, Jackie Flikkema, Wade Pehl and Michael Tucker.

Council Member Koentopp moved to excuse Council Member Youngberg. Council Member Cooper seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE October 20, 2014 MEETING

Council Member Menicucci moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting. Council Member Smith seconded the motion

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Nelson called for public comment 3 times. There being none, the public forum was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items set for public hearing.

REPORTS

Mayor Nelson had nothing to report.

City Attorney Ramler had nothing to report.

City Manager Barkley referred to the invitation sent out by e-mail to each Council Member to participate in the Building Belgrade class scheduled for November 13th. Barkley indicated that the City of Belgrade would be co-hosting that session of the class. The Council was specifically asked to attend between 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and stay for lunch as well. This represented an opportunity for the members of that class to interact with Council and learn a bit about what it's like to serve in leadership roles within the community. Barkley asked Council members to confirm their attendance no later than November 7th to be able to make arrangements for lunch and to allow for notice regarding the possibility of a quorum. He also welcomed the Council to join in on any of the tours of City facilities that would also be part of the event.

Barkley reminded the Council of the joint meeting scheduled with the Central Valley Fire District on November 10th. One topic to be discussed will be how we approach the statutory environment that regulates cities designated as 2nd Class and the way that they provide fire service. Barkley referred to assistance through the Montana League of Cities and Towns in regard to lobbying support for legislative changes. Barkley spoke with Council Member Youngberg since he knows a number of legislators throughout the state and Youngberg is planning to make some suggestions as to who might sponsor a Bill. This is something that should be brought hand in hand with the Fire District and perhaps some other Fire Districts as well, to the legislature, to bring more sense to the situation. Barkley inquired if the Council Members had any other specific items they would like to have considered at the joint meeting next week, and if so, they could let him know before Wednesday morning when the agenda would be drafted.

Barkley discussed an additional Mill Levy as part of next year's budget in order to continue providing the same level of services and to rebuild the City's reserves. This would be a voted Mill Levy. Barkley indicated that an initial proposal on this item will be presented to the Council in order to frame what this will entail. The time frame being recommended was to have an election before March 31, 2015. This will enable us to set the date ourselves, as a special election, with this being the only issue on the ballot. If we wait until after March 31st, it would probably be paired with the School District issues. Being considered singularly is preferred. Ballot question and documentation needs to be to the County no later than 70 days before the proposed election.

Barkley reported that Council Member Smith, Sue Caldwell and himself had attended training held in Ennis sponsored by the Local Government Center and Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (MMIA). Ethics exercises, risk management and liability issues were covered. Insurance coverage for Special Events was specifically discussed with suggestions for some policy changes.

Barkley reported on his meeting with Debra Youngberg, Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, and also 3 of the 4 Belgrade area hotel property managers early last week. They talked about the possibility of forming a Tourism Business Improvement District. Those at the meeting were very much in favor of it. Barkley indicated he would be writing a white paper on this to distribute to the people who would have to vote in order to create such a District. It was Barkley's hope to have this out sometime within the next 3 to 4 weeks. That particular election would only involve those 4 properties at this point. A year from now we would start to see some tax distributions from that action. The white paper would also be distributed to the Council as well.

Barkley reported meeting with the Library Board of Directors last week in part to help clarify how the funding of the Library actually works. He referred to the summary sheet regarding Library funding sources distributed to the Council at tonight's meeting. He reviewed the operating revenue, mill levy and other income. He also highlighted a broad range of services provided by the City for the Library at no cost to the Library. Barkley reiterated that this

information was provided to dispel the misunderstanding by several Library Board members who did not realize the high level of support the City provides for the Library.

Barkley reported that the Impact Fee Study that we need to complete before the City can spend the related fund balances is back in process again. Prior to Barkley coming on board, Phyllis Wernikowski, Director of Finance, had solicited proposals for the study, however, they were very expensive and they were all from out of state, mostly from California. After doing some research, it was found that a lot of cities in Montana were using engineering and planning firms out of California and Colorado, perhaps because the Impact Fee Study process was so new to Montana. Barkley reported his plan to review our needs with planning and engineering firms who already have a Montana presence and possibly help them get into this business so we can simply revise what we have, instead of starting from scratch. Barkley indicated that he had already met with the firm of Sanderson Stewart and had another meeting scheduled with Morrison Maierle as well.

Barkley reported on his regular meetings every other month with Bozeman City Manager Kukulski and Jim Door of Gallatin County. Subjects for discussion include issues shared in common, mainly the managing of development on the valley floor. He referred to their shared frustration with the different regulatory environments within the various jurisdictions. Barkley pointed out the printed copy of the Gallatin Triangle Planning Study done by Sanderson Stewart in cooperation with MSU and the Sonoran Institute. Barkley explained that this Plan was discussed at the Planning Board meeting last week and was being provided to the Council for review now as it will probably be coming to the Council for further discussion at a later date.

Barkley reported his opportunity to be a Guest Lecturer at a masters level class in Ethics for Municipal Government at MSU last week.

Barkley reported ongoing discussions with Diane Letendre regarding a proposal for her efforts to create a compensation classification plan for the City including field verification of a matrix pay system. Barkley stated he was not sure if it would end up being practical or not, but it will be discussed with the Council once the details are available. When the Mayor inquired why a study would be needed on a pay matrix, Barkley responded that a full-blown study was not needed. However, what was needed was someone who had the time to complete a thorough analysis and comparison. Barkley indicated that Finance Director Wernikowski did not have the time to devote to the research. Using Letendre's services also had the added advantage of input from someone outside the organization with a higher level of objectiveness to bring into the final product. Barkley indicated he expected a proposal to bring before the Council within the next 2 months.

Barkley also handed out a draft policy regarding the Revolving Loan Fund process for Council's future consideration.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

CONSIDER Applications for Boards and Commissions

Mayor Nelson reported that Jeremy Olson had applied for membership on the Belgrade Youth Sports Complex Committee, but since that board had no more vacancies, Mr. Olson had been asked if he was willing to serve on the Park Board. Mayor Nelson informed the Council that Mr. Olson was not interested in serving on the Park board.

Mayor Nelson referred to the newly received application from Jeff Reiter for the Park Board. Mayor Nelson recommended Mr. Reiter for appointment.

ACTION: Council Member Cooper moved to approve appointment of Mr. Jeff Reiter to the Park Board for a 2 year term. Council Member Criner seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER Restated Interlocal Agreement with Central Valley Fire District (CVFD)

City Manager Barkley reminded the Council that the City had entered into the current inter-local agreement for fire and emergency medical services with CVFD earlier this year. Since then, issues had arisen related to workers compensation insurance coverage involving other jurisdictions. After consulting with MMIA, a letter of clarification was submitted. Language from that letter was incorporated into this Restated Agreement with CVFD.

Mayor Nelson inquired if it was still desirable to maintain the agreement with a 1 year rolling term. Barkley indicated the 1 year term was the Council's wish and added that the legislative angle would also improve future flexibility to address local needs as the local municipality saw fit.

ACTION: Council Member Koentopp moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the Restated Interlocal Agreement with CVFD. Council Member Menicucci seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Payroll for October 2014

Council Member Cooper moved to approve the Payroll for October 2014. Council Member Smith seconded the motion.

All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mayor Nelson had nothing to report.

Council Member Cooper inquired about the mill levy vote and what the conversation would include. Barkley again commented on the need to rebuild the City's reserves in order to maintain the level of services, particularly related to the Police and Library. This will need to be presented to the public. The Council's efforts to provide the least tax impact on the public is apparent through these past years in view of the recession, but now the City has to try and recover those reserves.

Council Member Menicucci had nothing to report.

Council Member Smith had nothing to report.

Council Member Koentopp reminded everyone that the next meeting would include discussions on Urban Chickens and she hoped all council members would be in attendance.

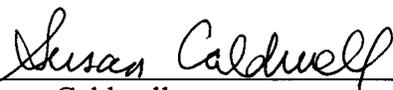
Council Member Criner reminded council about the games coming up and encouraged others to rally for the Belgrade school teams and show support. City Manager Barkley also commented on the recent soccer match that was well represented.

ADJOURN

Council Member Criner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37p.m.



Russell C. Nelson, Mayor



Susan Caldwell,
Administrative Assistant to the City Manager