



ORIGINAL

Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Hill called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilwoman Devine; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilman Cutaiar; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Zach Jones, Attorney and Public Works-Kevin Foster. Not Present: Rand Wichman, City Planner.

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT - Lori submitted the October 2023 report. The ending STCU Checking account balance was \$87,870.97; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$30,426.30; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,015,050.38. The P1FCU Money Market account \$154,471.83 for the water loan payments and savings is \$17,0004.01 which is where we are taking the coins from the water haulers. One transfer for \$75,000 from LGIP to STCU checking for paying the last Big Sky invoice and monthly bills, until property taxes come in. Just the new fiscal year.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report. She shared the October usage was 4,187,441 million gallons; coin haulers were 298,800 gallons. October billed utilities was \$22,884.00 and collected was \$30,656.50. There were 44 accounts who received a late fee this month and about 9 accounts getting a shut-off letter.

PLANNER REPORT – Rand submitted a written report but was not present, there were no questions.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE November 7th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 7th, without amendments.

*DISCUSSION * All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM

2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel, that we approve paying the

November/December bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION-All in favor-none

opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to purchase new Security Cameras for the City. Kevin began the Discussion. First, he reminded the council that this has been needed for a while as we have several cameras that do not work, and the quality of the video doesn't help us, or the police identify when vandalism or an issue arises. The updating is really replacing what we already have, to cover and protect city buildings and property. The council discussed what exactly is included in this bid and Councilwoman Kramer questioned if this was necessary to pay so much, verses just having a home type system. The Clerk, Lori, shared this was the second bid we received, the first was for approx. \$38,000, and this one being approx. \$17,000, she apologized for not giving this info and knows that the council generally likes 3 bids to compare. After a brief discussion the council thought it made sense to get a few more cameras at the additional water tower site at the big city shop on 6th street, the new commercial water hauling station,

NOTE: The City will make reasonable accommodations for anyone attending this meeting who require special assistance for hearing, physical or other impairments. Please contact the City Clerk at (208) 683-2101 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date and time.

and up at the cemetery water tanks. **Motion by Kramer to table the request to get new security cameras for the city, and asked staff to get more information on the additional areas just discussed.**
***DISCUSSION Roll Call:** Kramer-yes; McDaniel-yes; Devine-yes; Cutaiar-yes. **Motion passed.**

ACTION ITEM

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL regarding Employee Purchases of Cemetery Plots - Staff was Inquiring about a policy for city employees to be able to purchase cemetery plots at the city rate or some other discount. The Clerk, Lori, shared that it had not come up before and we do not have anything listed in our employee policy on the matter, since it is something, Kevin needs to do so we thought we'd ask. After a short discussion the following motion was made, and no change to the employee manual will be made; rather this is something the council can look at on a case-by-case basis. **Motion by McDaniel to allow Kevin to purchase a Cemetery plot for his grandmother at the city rate of \$300.00 and to also waive the \$50.00 open/close fee to dig the hole for a cremation.** *DISCUSSION – Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Devine-yes; Cutaiar-yes; Kramer-no. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Hire a Temporary/On-Call Employee. Staff is asking just like last year to again hire Robert (Bob) Rickel to aide with snowplow operations during this winter season. These would be the same terms as last year, no changes. The following motion was made: **Motion by Devine to approve the rehiring of Bob Rickel as a temporary/on-call employee as per the same terms outlined last year.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call: Kramer-yes; McDaniel-yes; Devine-yes; Cutaiar-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to discuss how much/if any extra to apply on the USDA Water Loan. Lori began the discussion by reminding them of the upcoming first Water loan payment due on December 14, 2023 for \$76,527.00. She shared her recommendation to the council based upon the following information: a line item was in the last years FY23 budget for \$96,000.00, and that since the auditors are not yet complete, she would only recommend an additional principal amount not more than \$100,000.00. She also shared that the council could do additional payments anytime within the year; so, after the audit is complete if they want to do another, they can. With that, the council had no more questions, and the following motion was made: **Motion by Kramer to make an extra payment to the USDA Water loan, prior to the 1st annual payment, in the amount of \$100,000.00.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call: Devine-yes; Cutaiar-yes; Kramer-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

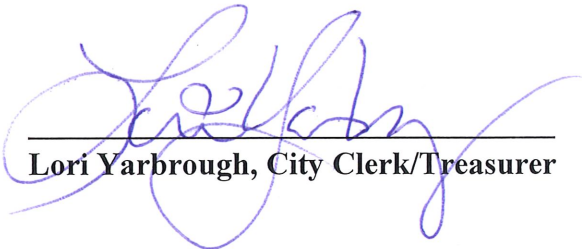
ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council – Devine shared her neighbor Cheryl R. may not be living at home anymore, she will keep staff updated. **Kramer** asked since winter is upon us if anything was done yet on the cemetery standpipe; she was thinking last year there was discussion of an ice dam or coverings that need to be installed. Kevin said he is working on it, but it's not done yet. / **Mayor** – nothing. / **Staff - Lori** 1) Shared the Kootenai County Sheriff department is having a Breakfast with the Sherrif at Country Boy Café at 9am on Tuesday, December 5th. 2) She reminded everyone that city hall will be closed Thursday and Friday November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. 3) Tree lighting is set for 5pm on Saturday, December 2nd, everyone is welcome to attend. **Kevin-** 1) Shared he is ready for snow and has the Christmas lights up. 2) The Commercial Water Hauling station project has begun the concrete is in, the conduit is done. He is now working with KEC for the power pole and still looking into internet options for the most convenience of gathering usage

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1) **Josh Rohrenbach** (county-33352 N Roberts Rd.) – He feels there was a mis-clarification on the agenda item regarding the security cameras, but rather it should have said better what they were for, it might have mitigated a lot of the concerns that brought the public out today. Also wanted to address the Mayors comment about a lot of you not being part of the city- he feels that at some point that is going to change, progress is happening and we can't stop it. So sooner or later we will be part

of the city and we feel like they should have a say it in now. 2) **Deborah Huff** (county-33281 N Roberts Rd.) – She is a part of this community, even if she’s not in the city. She thinks the city is doing great and likes to see the city handle vandalism; we shouldn’t stand for vandalism and feels they should be stopped as it doesn’t belong here. 3) **Khara Ripley** (county-1684 Bayview Rd.) – She lives on the outskirts of this city, but 2 things it’s been hard to hear the council tonight because you are just talking amongst yourselves, not facing the public, and second her kids use the park often. Feels concern over how easily is becoming acceptable to all the technology available everywhere you go now. She doesn’t want her kids recorded and thinks the city should not be using facial recognition. Mayor asked what is wrong with facial recognition, she replied it’s a privacy issue. She is tired of giving up liberties for sake of safety. 4) **Tony Huff** (county-33281 N Roberts Rd.) – Is there a long term project thing, to know when we might be annexed into the city, we will be at some time in the future with all this growth. Mayor replied, the city has no desire to seek annexations, they generally come to the city. Talk to you neighbors who are selling their properties off. The reason he says that is because of his concerns over who and how their road, Roberts Rd. is plowed. 5) **Lonna Santilli** (county-no address given) – Kids pictures and voices are protected and private property; this is a slippery slope, and she personally takes extra measures on her phone. Don’t use our privacy, with every technological upgrade the people lose more and more of their privacy, and she is concerned. 6) **Theresa Davis** (county-no address given) – She has spoken with the Sherriff’s department and was told there are not a lot of laws on the books regarding this matter. Panhandling has very loose laws in the city of Coeur d’ Alene and vandalism is a problem. **Attorney, Zack**, shared this really is a time for comments and not questions. But to clarify there are some city codes to help with these matters, but predominantly there are state codes that cover these things.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:02pm

ATTEST:



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer



Bill Hill, Mayor

Approved at Council on 12/5/2023