

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Present: Mayor Brown, Kriner, Levine, Moreno and Ritter

Staff: Darren Johnson and Alice Attwood

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge of allegiance was given by all.

Lael Duncan, Community Action Council was present to give a short presentation on the service that Community Action provides. Lael stated they have been in existence for 50 years and have gone through many changes. She will come back in 6 months to give the council an update.

Lisa McCoy, a Tonasket resident, was present to discuss the Council's proposal of possibly contracting with Okanogan County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. A few of Ms. McCoy's concerns were to make sure there is due diligence in objective decisions—this is what the voters expect of the Council. She stated the Council's actions were re-active. Ms. McCoy asked the Council not to enter into decisions lightly. She also asked to look into other options other than the Sheriff's Department. Ms. McCoy stated the Community gets projects done and a new police department will be done. Ms. McCoy also mentioned the latest accusations of the Chief of Police falsifying documents.

Public Comment

Several people were in attendance to voice their concerns about the dismissal of the officers and disbanding the Police Department.

It was stated Mayor Brown asked Officer Perez to change his name to Joseph instead of Jose. Perez concurred with this statement and elaborated. The Mayor said it was just translation.

There were many more comments.

Devin Sprague introduced himself and stated he would like to hold a Soap Box Derby during Founders Day for kids ages 6 – 15. He would like to use State St. to Third St. The city will need to take action to close the streets for this activity.

Diane Foreman asked the Council to recognize Jason Utecht for his many years of volunteering at the Tonasket Police Department. His service shows the true meaning of volunteerism.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Initial Officer of Financial Aid with the Community Economic Revitalization Board. M/Levine, S/Ritter. Carried 4:0.

Mayor/Council/Committee Reports

Kriner: Reported she is working with Councilmember Sackman on providing more efficient signage for City Parks. Kriner stated April 26th is Arbor Day and she would like to plant a tree at Founder's Day Park and dedicate it to former Councilmember Claire Jeffko who passed away and was involved with the Tree Board. Kriner also mentioned the protection overlay with the County for the Airport—just waiting for the mapping to complete.

Levine: Reported she had met with Brenda Jones and had a good conversation. Some of the items discussed regarding a possible Sheriff's contract: keeping Perez, having a satellite office, code enforcement, response time, could we do both—a contract and a police officer. There were 800 calls in 2018 in Tonasket, 24/7 coverage in Tonasket is not realistic, should we use our own cars? Levine reported she had previously contacted Omak Police Department regarding contracting with them for services—the liability of that is an issue. Sheriff Hawley has agreed to do a Town Hall to answer questions of the community. It will be next week. The next Miracle Mile meeting is January 24th, and she is still attending the Watershed Planning meetings. Levine also briefly touched on the concern of the chain of command of the evidence at the Police Department. Levine then read a statement stating she has lost confidence in the Mayor and she

has looked into decreasing his monthly wages but this is not possible. There is not a lot the council can do besides doing their job.

Ritter: Reported they are moving forward with the Miracle Mile (Magnificent). They will be updating the 2001 Down Town Plan and with the Planning Grants, the CERB grant and loan and the Stormwater grant and loan many aspects will be addressed. The meetings will be the 3rd Thursday of each month. Ritter proceeded to read her statement of no confidence in the Mayor.

Motion made Ritter and seconded by Levine as a vote of no confidence in the Mayor. No vote was taken, motion died.

Moreno: Stated she apologizes for the whole process of what has happened --- it wasn't the Council's decision. Moreno stated they are not here to point fingers and she is taking the position serious. She is trying to give back to her community and they are all affected by the decisions made. She has spent a day looking at the community and being proactive looking at the city facilities. Moreno would like to find volunteers to help at the airport to help keep it up.

Mayor: Reported he went to the meeting with the Sheriff regarding possible contracting with them. The Mayor stated he did make a mistake and regrets it. He apologizes for his actions there were a lot of circumstances with the police and he did what he did in the best interest of the city. He has lived here for many years and went to school here for 12 years. Mayor Brown stated he is not going to step down.

Department Head Reports:

Johnson: Reported the Parry's Acres Project is progressing.

Attwood: No report

New Business

Review and possible approval of Amendment #2 to the Engineering Contract for Parry's Acres. Jeff Moran, Varela and Associates, stated in his letter he would attend Council to explain the amendment if the Council decided that is what they wanted. It was the consensus to have Jeff attend the next Council meeting.

Motion to approve Resolution 2019-01 the renewal of the professional services agreement with Highlands Associates for Planning Services for 2019. M/Moreno, S/Ritter. Carried 4:0.

Police Vehicles---how to proceed will be determined at a later date.

Motion to excuse Councilmember Moreno from the Special meeting 1-2-2019. M/Levine, S/Kriner. Carried 4:0

Motion to excuse Councilmember Sackman from this Council meeting. M/Ritter, S/Levine. Carried 4:0.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting, the minutes of the special meeting 1-2-2019, the December Payroll (8819 – 8837 and direct deposit run 12-27-2019) \$58,573.34 and the January open period bills (8815-8817, 8838-8889 and EFT's 1-41-8-2019) \$116,970.58. M/Ritter, S/Kriner. Carried 4:0.

Chris Zaferes, a local business owner asked if he could state something. The Mayor allowed him to speak. He recommends since the City is still in negotiation with the County that Officer Perez be reinstated.

There being no further business the meeting was declared adjourned.

Alice J. Attwood, Clerk-Treasurer

