

# CITY OF

MAYOR

Tim Stearns

*"A Valley  
Of  
Friendliness"*



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Adam Blackburn

Jackie Hagberg

Kevin Pieters

Cory Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers and available via zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Kevin Pieters, Jackie Hagberg, and Cory Schurman attended via zoom, absent: no one. Also present were Scott Williams, JJ Veld, JD Holmes, Craig Babcock, and Renee Oltrogge.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Hagberg to approve the posted agenda. Absent: no one. Motion carried unanimously.

Pieters moved to approve the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes. Blackburn seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Pieters moved to approve the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 minutes. Blackburn seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Pieters moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to approve the City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Hours were presented for Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk and Kelly Haskin, Water/Sewer Supervisor. Hagberg moved, Pieters seconded the motion to approve hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Public comments: Pieters advised he had a resident complain about the gym north lobby being locked. Oltrogge explained closed due to vandalism and fighting. Scott Williams, school transportation director, explained the bus routes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> drop off and believes this is like a public bus stop and it is the parents' responsibility to maintain order.

Melissa Johanson, Librarian presented the library report. She explained they will not be getting an increase, she has completed her continuing education, and forms for certification. PO's request for approval for 2021201, 20211203, 20211204 JC Powers \$50.00, Faronics \$148.00, Baker & Taylor \$182.68. Hagberg moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve the PO's as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief presented the Fire Department reporting activities through 2021. 45 plus calls, down slightly from 2020. Major purchases were; 4-gas monitor, bunker gear for four new members, airline upgrades on trucks and some new water hoses. SRFD acquired three new members and we had one retire. Truck #650 passed pump testing, truck #652 failed tests and is at Breda for necessary repairs. SRFD hosting a fundraiser Jan 15th jointly with Happenings. Door prizes and some silent auction items. Monthly training to be January 13th. Chief Williams has found a company that provides a five year lease/purchase on fire gear. Several sets of bunker gear are completely or partially out of compliance. Through the lease SRFD could get roughly 12 sets that would cost \$30,000 to purchase for an annual lease cost of \$6,500 annually with ownership after the fifth year payment. Existing bunker gear was purchased with grants and donations, some of which is aged out of compliance. Mayor Stearns asked about pursuing grants again and Williams is all for it. Williams requested PO #79 Toyne \$120.52 for truck marker lights & plug for generator on truck. Hagberg moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve PO as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

JJ Veld presented the public works report. Sewer back up due to tree roots between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> St has been cleared. Plow truck hydraulic line fixed and replaced both batteries. A dead man switch was added in the cab. Veld suggested purchasing an auto dialer unit estimated at \$4200 for the lift station. Installation calls for an ongoing monthly charge for a satellite uplink. Blackburn moved for up to \$4500 on system, Pieters seconded the motion to approve the system as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor Stearns advised on distressed properties; at 208 3<sup>rd</sup> Street the barn was demolished, Decided to not burn the pile due to the contents. Have a demolition contractor lined up to remove all the rubbish and foundation. Hope to have the lot mow-able by June.

Mayor Stearns advised the concession stand roof has been repaired. The dead red elm tree had no bids. Council advised they will talk with SR residents and it will be first come first serve for the wood.

Mayor Stearns presented two options on shipping containers to add to our building code. Hagberg moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve the language under Choice B as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor Stearns advised no new report on grant applications.

Mayor Stearns and Council discussed water, sewer, and garbage rates starting for July 1, 2022. Garbage: Blythe has raised their contractual rate and the Hardin County Landfill has raised their cost per ton rates. Pieters moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to raise garbage rates as presented for residents to \$25.00 and dumpsters rates increase an average of 32%. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. Mayor Stearns advised for the base water rates to increase to \$25.00 beginning July 1, 2022 including the first 1,000 gallons, then an annual increase of \$2.00 per year. Cost of gallons used over the first 1,000 increase to \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons. Pieters moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve water rates as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. Mayor Stearns advised for sewer rates to raise the base rate to \$60.00 including the first 2,000 gallons with an annual increase of \$4.00 per year, \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons and over. Schurman moved, Pieters seconded the motion to approve sewer rates as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor Stearns presented the budget with the corrections as requested for the \$3600 each going to the Library and Fire Department. Mayor Stearns requested for a motion to accept the budget as presented with the Library to present a balanced budget. Schurman moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to approve budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

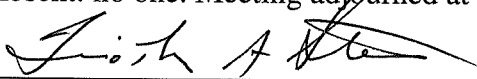
Blackburn moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to go into closed session. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Schurman moved, Pieters seconded the motion to adjourn closed session. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

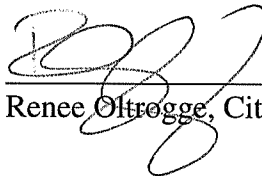
Public comments: none.

Mayor's comments: Mayor Stearns thanked all of council for serving and again for the new terms. Mayor Stearns stated he learned a lot of about how the city operates in his first term and with the council's help hopes to accomplish much in his second term.

Pieters moved to adjourn the meeting, Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.



Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor



Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk