

MAYOR
Tim Stearns

"A Valley
of
Friendliness"



COUNCIL MEMBERS
Adam Blackburn
Dave Mull
Kevin Pieters
Cory Schurman
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session April 10, 2023, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman and Cory Schurman. Also present were Scott Williams, Ryan Stupp, Nate Johnson, Wes Weise, Taylor Nederhoff, Melissa Johanson, JD Homes, Trent Lambert, Jo Bauman, and Julie Jeske. After several failed attempts to activate the Zoom live meeting, the meeting continued without Zoom.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Schurman moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 council meeting, seconded by Blackburn. Motion carried unanimously, C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to approve City bills except High Tide Technologies and Wright Classics which required further investigation.. Motion carried unanimously, J. Schurman moved to approve Dawn Schaa's hours worked in March and April, seconded by C. Schurman. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stearns stated that all of the money Pride & Betterment had in accounts has now been transferred to the Visionary Group accounts. The costs the City has incurred to print and mail the Friendly Valley times should get repaid by those funds.

Public comments: Nate Johnson spoke about having a weekly open gym night for local children beginning in about September 2023 through the winter months. Nate or another responsible adult will be on hand for each night. Thinks Thursday nights at this time. Nate's employer, POET may have some donations/ grants available to provide some new athletic equipment or donations to help heat the gym in the winter months.

Wes Weis spoke about the Hardin County Conservation improvement plans on the west side of the river. Planned campground improvements, Lodge upgrades, planned cabin additions near the lodge, and the need to be able to hook up to the City of Steamboat Rock sewer system. Mayor Stearns reported that the USDA grant application for the west side sewer has been completed and submitted. Should hear from the USDA sometime in mid-April 2023.

Melissa Johanson, Librarian reported that the summer reading program is set up and donation letters have been sent out. Cribbage classes have gone well. Library Wi-Fi is available 24/7. Heidi will be offering through Heart of Iowa, Tech Training classes at the library.

Fire Department – Williams reported that SBCA testing will be coming, Hydro testing tanks, three carbon fiber tanks are coming, need to replace the air brake dryer in one of the units, Firemen's fund-raising breakfast scheduled. J Schurman moved seconded by Mull to approve purchase orders #92 & #94. Motion carried unanimously.

JJ Veld was unable to attend. Mayor Stearns reported that the manhole on the 200 block of Market St will need to be partially torn apart to get the correct measurements for the replacement parts to complete when weather permits. The Water & Sanitation Audit went well with a few minor changes to the reporting duties.

Mayor Stearns advised no report on distressed properties;

Nuisance Reporting- none

Road repairs: Jon reported that he had met with Elizer of Elonzo Concrete and received an estimate of \$18,000 to patch 11 spots where streets are either missing parts, replacing a couple manholes, or needs serious patching. Discussion about how concrete and asphalt don't move together in the freeze/ thaw cycle.

Discussion about how asphalt repair costs may have decreased with the lower crude oil prices and regional competition. Jon will work on getting pricing from a couple asphalt companies.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. final pending.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. final pending.

Animal Control Code Ordinance Update. final pending.

Mayor Stearns presented the ATV/UTV Code for 2nd reading. C. Schurman moved to accept the ordinance as presented, seconded by Pieters. Motion passed in a four Aye, one Nay vote. Third reading to be held at the May meeting.

Mayor Stearns requested Budget Hearing Date be moved to Monday April 17, 2023 at 5:30 per published notice. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to set the Budget Hearing Date as April 17th, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stearns discussed City insurance. In speaking with our agent, the underwriters are suggesting the City coverage to change in a significant way which also increased the cost. Mayor Stearns stated that he told our agent that the insurance needed to stay with-in our budgeted amount. An Insurance audit is planned for Tuesday 4/18/23 at 8:30 am with a representative from EMC, our local agent, and Mayor Stearns. Plan to get answers to the council's questions regarding the renewal of the City insurance.

Mayor Stearns reminded council of the ditch walk planned for Saturday April 22, 2023 beginning 9:00 am at the Iowa River landing and heading west on D-35. Always looking for many volunteers to help.

Mayor Stearns reminded Council of the Spring Clean-up Days scheduled for June 10th and June 17th. Asked Council members to think about which times they could help.

Mayor Stearns presented a request from Happenings Bar for a variance to the City sound ordinance. Request was from noon to 10:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month beginning in May and ending in September. Pieters moved to provide the variance, seconded by J Schurman. Motion carried unanimously.

Pieters moved to advertise for a new City Clerk, seconded by J Schurman. Discussion about the possibility of sharing the position with Wellsburg. Nederhoff stated that would require a 28E agreement but could be done. Mayor Stearns stated that Denise Hoy has agreed to help during the interim period on a limited basis and to help with training when a new clerk has been hired. Motion carried unanimously.

Blackburn moved to go to closed session to discuss real estate, pending legal, employment issues, C Schurman seconded, motion carried unanimously. Room was cleared of visitors. Mayor Stearns reopened the public meeting at 8:41 pm.

Pieters moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Schurman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor