

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 July 10, 2023 at 6:34 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and available via zoom. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Cory Schurman and Jon Schurman. Also present were JJ Veld, Linda Whitt-Jensen, Denise Voy, Melissa Johanson, Bob and Vickie Hutchcroft, Arlene Finger, Mary Gast, Tam Eldering, Heidi Young, Trent Lambert, Bryan Meints, Wes Wise, Deb Crosser, Paul DeVries, Joan Schuller, Suzie DeVries, Bill and Sandy Trampe, Steve Pence, and Laura Carr, Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to approve the minutes from June 12, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve the minutes from June 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve City bills with clarification (Stupp). Motion carried unanimously. No hours were presented. New City clerk, Linda Whitt-Jensen, welcomed.

Public comments: Wes Wise from Harden County Conservation spoke in favor of the sewer project and stated that Harden County is willing to pay a \$75,000.00 surcharge contingent on a contract with tentative start date. Deb Crosse, Harden County Economic Development Director, spoke in favor of the sewer project and indicated that there are LOST funds available up to \$25,000 for this project and intends to help us achieve that. Tam Eldering, HCCEF Program Director, gave historical information on funds being contributed to Steamboat Rock for improvement proposed over a number of years. Steve Pence reported that the trail counter at the River Edge Trails tallied 5000 people indicating excellent trail use. Steve encouraged Steamboat Rock to continue development. Heidi Young spoke about the importance of continued economic development investment in our small community from the trail, the river, the Lodge, and the event center. Bob Hutchcroft spoke in favor of moving forward with the West Side Sewer project. Paul DeVries detailed the benefits of economic development in small towns. Melissa Johanson spoke in favor of the project.

Opening to public hearing on abandonment of alley. Motion to abandon alley (resolution #2023-9), Pieters moved, seconded by J. Schurman. Motion to vacate alley, Pieters moved, seconded by J. Schurman. Motion to convey the alley to adjoining property owners. J. Schurman moved, seconded by C. Schurman. Motion for parties involved to pay for all expenses. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters. Motion to authorize the May and City Clerk to sign all related documents to said property. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters.

Melissa Johanson, Librarian indicated excellent attendance and summer programs going well. Fire Department report - no report.

Public Works Report: JJ Veld reported that the snow plow is at Shawn Rogers for repair. Then reported that the end loader will go to Ag Repair next week. Plans to replace the Market Street manhole cover scheduled for Thursday - 07/13. Main Street will be closed while Harden County Secondary Road Department replaces a culvert in the 300th block. JJ requested a company to review repairs to bring the sewer plant to full capacity.

Distressed Properties - no report, City Financial – report pending,

Old Business: Street repairs – new upgraded bid from DENCO \$25,410.00. Blackburn moved, Mull seconded with roll call vote Blackburn, J. Schurman, Mull, C. Schurman, and Pieters. All ayes with motion carried unanimously. Nuisance Ordinance – no report, Municipal Infractions Ordinance – no report, Animal Control Amended Ordinance – no report, EMC Insurance policy new info to review, and State Periodic Audit – no report.

New Business: Joan Schuller reported on acceptance of the Iowa Community Catalyst grant application. City has some responsibility in this project.

Resolution 2023-10 to approve Linda Whitt-Jensen, new city clerk to have full information access as signer on all City financial accounts at Greenbelt Bank & Trust and Hardin County Savings Bank. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all related documents. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters. Roll call with aye by C. Schurman, Mull, Blackburn, J. Schurman, and Pieters. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion on West Side Sewer Project (WSSP). Mayor Stearns stated that a sewer project is always a precursor to community development. Other benefits include increase real estate tax revenue, hotel tax from Airbnb and county cabins. The increased usage by WSSP customers uses pays for the variable costs of operation. C. Schurman moved to use CGA as the engineering firm for this project.

Resolution 2023-10 to approve the new clerk, Linda Whitt-Jensen, to have full information access and be a signer on all City financial accounts at Greenbelt Bank & Trust and Hardin County Savings Bank

Mayor's Comments: Final IDNR SR Dam removal meeting July 13, 2023 - 6:30 at the Lodge. This meeting will be primarily information from federal and state fishery and wild life staff. Mayor Stearns thanks all that helped with the successful community clean up dates. Mull moved, Piers second, meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk