

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session on December 11, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Cory Schurman, and Jon Schurman. Absent was Adam Blackburn. Also, present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Jim Green, JJ Veld, Marvin Veld, Marc Havens, Michelle Kelley, Travis Hollander, and Scott Williams.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to approve the November 13, 2023 minutes. Motion carried unanimously. K. Pieters moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve City bills. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: Approval of Livestock permit for Jim Green and Michelle Kelley. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve permit. Motion carried unanimously.

Library: No report

Fire Department: Scott Williams, Fire Chief, reported that the fire association theft has been repaid; the volunteer is no longer affiliated with the Fire Department Association. 12 members in the department presently. 55 Santa bags provided to children during the tree lighting. Bill will be sent to Whitten Fire for an assist. Working on scheduling with Breda to get compartment door fixed. Scott was voted in again as Chief and Damion is the new Assistant Chief.

Public Works report – JJ Veld reported the snow plow repair will be costly and recommended pursuing other options. The Council explored various options with follow up meeting schedule for 12/14/2023 to consider options. Mayor Stearns will call Alden Diesel about options. Mull will talk to Stupp’s about their willingness to take a run at doing the repair.

Distressed Properties – Waiting for IRS to sign-off on 208 3rd St. Suit being filed pending lien search on 308 6th St and 601 W Sycamore St

Nuisance reports: none

Account balances were presented and reviewed by Mayor Stearns. A budget meeting was scheduled for 12/28/2023 to start work on the FY25 budget beginning July 1, 2024.

Old Business: Dog park proposal withdrawn. Nuisance Ordinance and Municipal Infractions Ordinance – pending. Animal Control Code section 5-2-1 was reviewed. Remaining Animal Control code is still pending. Periodic State Audit has been completed and exit review scheduled with only two City Council members allowed, for Monday 12/18/23 at 10:00 am. Water code revisions are pending. Both the Affidavit Operator and Water and Sewer Superintendent hires are pending Council approval.

New Business: David Mull, Sr., Mayor Elect and council members elect Marc Havens, Travis Hollander, and Marvin Veld were sworn in with terms beginning 01/02/2024 at 12:00 PM. Marc Haven agreed to be Mayor Pro-temp. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve Linda Whitt-Jensen, David Mull Sr., Mayor Elect, and Marc Havens, Mayor Pro-temp elect. as signers for all accounts at Greenbelt Bank & Trust and Hardin County Savings Bank, upon commencement of term. Motions approved unanimously. C. Schurman moved and Pieters seconded the motion to approve Resolution #2023-13 to apply for USDA-SEARCH Grant. Roll call vote: J. Schurman – Aye, Pieters-Aye, Mull-Aye, and C.Schurman-Aye. Motion carried.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by Pieters. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

 Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk