

City of Columbus
Council Proceedings
April 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Columbus City Council was called to order by Mayor JoAnn Lunstad at 7:15 pm on Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Columbus Community Center.

Council members present: JoAnn Lunstad, David Ronning, and Cindy Lautenschlager.

Council members absent: Chris Kihle and Amber Nygard.

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Valerie Post, Tina Remlinger, Shane Homiston with MDU, Deputy Nick Throntveit and Sheriff Shawn Brien with Burke County Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to approve the Agenda as presented. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to approve March 4, 2019 minutes as read. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Montana Dakota Utilities – Discussed past lighting maintenance and billing and current option to sell lights to MDU resulting in a credit to the City and giving future maintenance responsibility to MDU. **Motion by Ronning, Second by Lautenschlager to sign bill of sale to sell street lights to Montana Dakota Utilities. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion carried.**
- Ackerman Estvold – SRF Loan Update – Tabled.
- First District Health Notices:
 - City Attorney seeking options for personal liability of property owners for tearing down and cleaning up rather than the City tearing down and assessing property.
 - Estimates to tear down houses – Tabled
 - Fencing around theater – Letter to owner to secure or the City will fence and send invoice.
- Bulk Water Depot – discussed bid from SoloTec and called Todd Moch to discuss timeline. The City will purchase the valve and meter separate to save money and then the project will take 3-4 weeks to complete. **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to accept SoloTec's bid to complete the automated water depot project. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion carried.**
- Meter Installs in Fire Hall, County shop and Park – tabled until determined if City maintenance can install or if a licensed plumber is necessary.
- Meter Audit – Will be sending form to all property owners to compete and return to the city, if they do not return than Raymond will do an on-site audit. We will be seeking to remove meters from all uninhabited properties to reduce damage.
- Payment Options – as of April 15, the city will be accepting credit card and bank account debit payments through our website at cityofcolumbusnd.com at a minimum fee of \$1.50 for checks and \$3.00 for credit card payment.

- Sale of Equipment/Real Property – will be putting property and equipment out for bids, hope to have bids opened at the June meeting.
- Purchase of Lawn Mower – Raymond will purchase from Gooseneck Equipment.

New Business:

- Sheriff Shawn Brien – Discussed new contract option.
- City Attorney – Discussed researching options for a new City Attorney.
- Use of Community Center by residents – Detailed to be discussed at May meeting.
- Change in wages/insurance – Tabled
- Remote Deposits – Council was not interested but did discuss the possibility of changing banks.
- Purchase of properties from Burke County – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to purchase properties available for discounted purchase price to the City. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion Carried.**
- Amendment to court contract – Tabled
- City credit cards – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to change to State Purchasing Card Program for City employee credit cards. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion Carried.**

Auditor's Report:

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – through March 31, 2019 were presented
Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to approve the financial reports through March 31, 2019, and to pay bills as presented. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair. Auditor called for a vote: ayes: Lunstad, Ronning, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.
- Delinquent accounts – A list of all City utility customers that were 30 days or more delinquent on payment of their utility billing as of the Council meeting was presented. Accounts not brought current by the 25th will receive shut-off notices on the 26th.

Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to adjourn meeting. Mayor Lunstad relinquished the chair, Auditor called for a vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Announcements:

Next regular meeting will be held May 6, 2019 at the Columbus Community Center.

Bills to pay: MDU 501.54, Raymond MacBeth 2,211.87, Christine Aasheim 1,887.44, EFTPS 869.96, EFTPS 84.01, Office of State Tax Commissioner 63.00, Burke County Tribune 78.75, Circle Sanitation 1,373.00, First District Health, 25.00, Jerry's Transfer and Storage 40.00, NCC 101.31, Northwest Rural Water 2,096.24, Verizon Wireless 237.92, Ferguson Waterworks 1,346.65, BCBS 682.42, Fire Extinguishing Systems, Inc. 884.85, Ivers Plumbing 853.56, Lignite Oil 1,827.67, Pearce Durick PLLC 40.00, Souris Basin Planning Council 137.17, Visa – Auditor 508.90 (Intuit Payroll 472.50, Intuit Payroll Monthly Fee 8.40, USPS 28.00)

Christine Aasheim
City Auditor

JoAnn Lunstad
Mayor