

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

08/20/2024

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gail Leeper called the August Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, O'Dell and Stuart; Town Attorney McGill; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Public Meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Mike O'Dell, Council Member (Roads) – Appointed, to fill remaining 4-Year Term; by recently vacated Council Member, term through 12/31/2025.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Calvin Wight; Sam Martin Jr., representing Wagon Wheel listed on agenda failed to appear.

AMEND AGENDA:

Water Usage at Park

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to amend the August 20, 2024 Town Council Meeting Agenda adding **Water Usage at Park** under agenda Item **13 PARKS**. Council Member McLure made motion to approve the Amendment of Town of Drummond's August 20, 2024 Town Council Meeting Agenda; adding **Water Usage at Park**, under Agenda item **13 PARKS**. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

GUEST COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Law Enforcement Report was provided to Drummond, for the August Town Council meeting.

MINUTES:

July 16, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the July Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the July Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

July 18, 2024 Emergency Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the July Emergency Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the July Emergency Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

CLAIMS: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

INVESTMENTS: Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

As advised by Denning, Downey and Associates CPA's P.C.; Clerk/Treasurer Wight revised the historic investment excel worksheet used for the Town of Drummond investments; to a more informative excel document containing all Town of Drummond Coffers presented in one document format. This created an easy reference of all Town coffers, for the Mayor and Town Council.

Council President McLure found this improved excel Financial Sheet to be more beneficial and informative.

Clerk/Treasurer Wight will implement this excel document into all future Town Council packets, until such time a change is warranted.

PUBLIC HEARING OF FY2023-2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024 AT 10:00AM

PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE PHILIPSBURG MAIL, with PUBLICATION DATES of SEPTEMBER 5 AND 12, 2024, as required by State statute.

PUBLIC HEARING PUBLICALLY POSTED PER TOWN OF DRUMMOND'S PUBLIC POSTING GUIDELINES AND LOCATIONS.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action Items: Tabled Amendment Resolutions 2023-11-A; 2024-8-A; 2024-9-A; 2024-10-A; 2024-11-A; and 2024-12-A during the July 2024 are now revised and presented before the Council for discussion and approval in this August 2024 Town Council Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolutions 2023-11-A; 2024-8-A; 2024-9-A; 2024-10-A; 2024-11-A; and 2024-12-A. Council Member McLure made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-11-A; 2024-8-A; 2024-9-A; 2024-10-A; 2024-11-A and 2024-12-A. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to these resolutions; at which, the Drummond Town Council did not.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION OF \$85,486.04 FROM DRUMMOND LIGHTING DISTRICT TO TOWN OF DRUMMOND GENERAL FUND.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-A. Council Member Stuart made motion to approve Resolution 2024-11-A. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO CASH OPERATING AMOUNT OF \$4,339.53 FROM 1000 GENERAL FUND INTO HISTORIC FUND 2810 POLICE PENSION & TRAINING (3RD CLASS CITIES) TO ZERO FUND 2810 FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNTING WITHIN BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8-A. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2024-8-A. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO STIP INVESTMENT AMOUNT OF \$1.39 FROM HISTORIC FUND 2810 POLICE PENSION & TRAINING (3RD CLASS CITIES) INTO 1000 GENERAL FUND TO ZERO FUND 2810 FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNTING WITHIN BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9-A. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2024-9-A. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO CASH OPERATING AMOUNT OF \$2,706.50 FROM HISTORIC FUND 7002 FIRE RELIEF FUND INTO 1000 GENERAL FUND TO ZERO FUND 7002 FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNTING WITHIN BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10-A. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2024-10-A. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO CASH OPERATING AMOUNT OF \$30.00 FROM HISTORIC FUND 7458 COURT SURCHARGE TECHNOLOGY INTO 1000 GENERAL FUND TO ZERO FUND 7458 FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNTING WITHIN BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11-A. Council Member Stuart made motion to approve Resolution 2024-11-A. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12-A

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE 'TRANSFER' TO 'CORRECTION' AS FOLLOWS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO CASH OPERATING AMOUNT OF \$30.00 FROM HISTORIC FUND 7467 LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY SURCHARGE INTO 1000 GENERAL FUND TO ZERO FUND 7467 FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNTING WITHIN BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12-A. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2024-12-A. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15

A RESOLUTION FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE LEVIES FOR ALL PURPOSES TO BE LEVIED AND ASSESSED ON THE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Mayor Leeper read aloud RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15 **A RESOLUTION FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE LEVIES FOR ALL PURPOSES TO BE LEVIED AND ASSESSED ON THE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025** in its entirety.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to these resolutions; at which, the Drummond Town Council did not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15 Council Member McLure made motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15 **A RESOLUTION FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE LEVIES FOR ALL PURPOSES TO BE LEVIED AND ASSESSED ON THE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025** Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

That the tax of 158.88 mills on the dollars on the taxable property within the Town of Drummond, Montana, be and the same is hereby adopted for the afore mentioned fiscal year, to be distributed as follows:

GENERAL 136.35 mills

The **LIGHTING DISTRICT** will be 22.53 mills.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- **Joint Session** - Set for September 19, 2024 at 6:00pm, in Drummond; at the Drummond Library.

Mayor Leeper expressed the importance of holding these Joint Sessions between Granite County, Philipsburg and Drummond to properly address the needs of residents, within Granite County; emphasizing the need of attendance by all Elected Officials of Drummond, Philipsburg and Granite County.

- **Montana Department of Revenue** – Mayor Leeper discussed needing to visit the Department of Revenue Office; as Granite County Treasurer Todd and Clerk/Treasurer Wight have been requesting the Department of Revenue correct the duplicate billing of Valley Fire District sewer billing on the tax records. This duplicate billing by Town of Drummond and Granite County, resulted of an amount showing due on the delinquent tax report, that has been paid to the Town

of Drummond, by Valley Fire District.

Thus far, this issue has yet to be resolved by the Department of Revenue.

- **Black Mountain Fiber Optic Project Update** – Mayor Leeper led a discussion amongst the Town Council Members, of the time and financial concern brought forth, due to the endless remarking required of the dig tickets.

Public Works Director has remarked the same lines several times throughout this fiber optic project; which reflects an added locate and payroll expense to the Town, each time repeat tickets are requested.

The Town of Drummond does not locate on land owners' properties, as to the land owners' lines; nor, does the Town have knowledge of where those lines are placed on private property.

There are multiple entities involved in this fiber optic project, with poor communication between them and poor schedule keeping.

At this point, a 30-Day project, has been a 56-Day project, without sight of completion. The project is currently in the phase of installation of lines to residents' homes.

There have been reports of several snafus with lines being hit, road and alleys not returned to original form, and improper placement level in repaired areas.

There has not been proper clean-up of large rocks left; nor has there been gravel brought in, or repair work completed.

All of these issues will be brought to the attention of Blackfoot, by Mayor Leeper; especially areas of concern located at Corlett Avenue and Alley of Broad Street.

ATTORNEY: None

PARKS:

- **Electrical Discussion** – Palmer Electric evaluated the park electrical; which is in need of installation of higher amp.

Mayor Leeper spoke with Attorney McGill in regards to the City Park/Campground. She discussed that conversation amongst the Council, as to their thoughts and concerns.

Campground revenue is down. There are a lot of individuals not paying to stay; individuals are camping in areas not designated as campsites; staying longer than the posted **5-Night Maximum Stay**; large luxury high amp motorhomes plug into electrical and are blowing breakers.

The electrical at the campground was installed long ago, the 30AMP/50AMP sites can not sustain the type of recreational luxury motorhomes staying at the campground.

Law Enforcement has been called to the campground; to assist in making campers abide by the posted 5-Night Maximum Stay.

The Town recently had a camper Law Enforcement dealt with; whom did not pay, stayed over the maximum 5-night stay; Law Enforcement had the VIN# got them to pay, they left and then came back.

Public Works is having to deal with clean-up and sanitation of individuals placing feces all over the walls in the vaulted bathroom, and port a potty.

Mayor Leeper addressed the Council, The Drummond City Park was originally established by the Town as a Day-Park. She asked the Council, to look at the cost the campground currently presents; needing to update the electrical to support the usage; placement of more signage, stating where camping is not allowed, mapping and signage of campsites and where camping is permitted.

Updating the electrical alone will pose a great expense to the Town; at a time when ensuring campground revenue is paid, has become difficult.

Water Usage – Water usage at the park has become an issue, with individuals removing (stealing) water from campground.

Water will be turned off for Winter in October.

Mayor Leeper concluded with Parks, by asking the Council to take a long hard look at the Campground and what would be in the best interest of the Drummond Tax Payors.

ROADS:

- **Blackfoot Communications** – Further discussion regarding Blackfoot; needing to bring in gravel; and Blackfoot needing to properly clean the areas of rocks and boulders.
- **Sewer Line Hook-up** – Discussion was had amongst Mayor Leeper, Council Member Clute (SEWER), Council Member O'Dell (ROADS), Public Works Director Harrington; regarding new home construction work on E Broad and the new sewer connection to the mainline that is required. The Contractor for the project has been in contact with Town Hall and has been informed by the Elected Officials of the contractor's obligation to return the roadway/alleyway to its preconstruction status. As well as, informing the contractor of his liability should something get broken pertaining to the main sewer line.

FLOODPLAINS:

- **Maintenance and Cleaning** – Culvert at Bergman Slough plugged with debris.

Beaver Dam will be dealt with; by an individual holder of a Beaver Nuisance Permit.

SEWER:

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade** – Discussion was had regarding type of fencing to be placed around the perimeter of the Wastewater Treatment Facility, upon completion. To ensure wildlife and cattle to not damage the facility.

A game fence would be a preferred fence, Mayor and Council will discuss with Engineer Koon; for possible use of the contingent funding in the project budget, to be utilized for this game fence.

Ranchers will be alerted that run cattle near this project, the importance of having cattle secured away from the lagoon.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

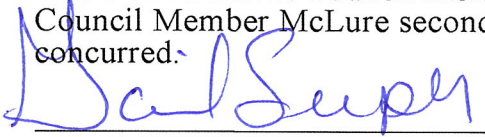
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Fireworks** – Mayor Leeper and Attorney McGill have discussed the Insurance Liability aspect of fireworks that could fall upon the Tax Payors; should a liability claim brought forth against the Town. Discussion continued, as to the Town Hall on Fireworks, the importance of engaging the people, for the full community to attend the Town Hall, allowing everyone to be heard, also in extending an invitation to Law Enforcement and Valley Fire.

Process of communicating this Fireworks Town Hall, and community involvement was discussed at length; including the need of establishing a committee to oversee the fireworks issue.

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Stuart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



Gail Leeper, Mayor



Robin Wight, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal