

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
OCTOBER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

10/17/2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gail Leeper called the October Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:58pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, Powell, 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 October Town Council Meeting.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Calvin Wight.

GUEST COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: The Town Council was provided a report from the Sheriff.

- Law Enforcement Contract provided to Town Council for review; prior to the current contract expiration.

MINUTES: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Hearing and Adoption Meeting Minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Hearing and Adoption Meeting Minutes. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the September Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the September Regular 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 Stuart made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member McLure 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.

- MLTCT Consultant – AFR

Discussion was made by the mayor, regarding benefits in hiring seasoned Clerk-Treasurer Jodi Rogers, now working as a Consultant for MT League of Cities and Towns; to assist Clerk-Treasurer Wight in completing the FY2023 AFR. Mayor Leeper expressed by doing this, the training would benefit Clerk-Treasurer Wight with a teaching opportunity that would aid in the completion of future AFR's.

Mayor Leeper added, that accountants are not familiar with Black Mountain Software; instead of just completing year end Journal Vouchers, this would provide understanding why particular Journal Vouchers are needed and hopefully limiting the quantity needed at Fiscal Year End.

Discussion was extended to the need of continuing to have Newland, CPA as the Town's accountant on staff, as needed; and by not maintaining this relationship it would be a disservice to our citizens.

Fire Hall.

- Decorative Street Lights – There may be opportunities through AARP for grant funding for the purchase of these lights; alone each light is \$4,000.00, without flag, banner accessories, nor prior to any electrical or construction placement costs.

These lights would be aesthetically pleasing on Front Street; however, this would be an item brought to the citizens for their input of desired placement; this would be an ongoing project as funding allows.

- Breweries use of mash; cities are using the enzymes in this mash to keep their sewers healthy. Bozeman conducted the study regarding use of mash in the sewer system and Helena is using mash material brought from Three Forks. Currently, this is a very expensive procedure calculating in the cost of hauling the material.

This may be an option for Philipsburg; down the road Drummond may benefit from this as well since we are fairly close. This is a way to benefit from normally wasted material.

- The wastewater loan forgiveness is looking very promising, the National League President spoke at conference, stating you may have to take a loan out for needed projects, then they would do a forgiveness on that loan, as they can count that as revenue.

The National League realizes that small towns lack the funding for these large projects.

- League annual dues will be increases; which was done by vote. Areas in which these funds will be utilized is by adding the following:
 - Financial help for Cities and Towns; by hiring Jodi Rogers as a Full-Time Consultant.
 - Public Affairs, every two years is legislation; currently they have two individuals from the League fulfilling this and they cannot sustain it.
 - Consultant with Montana Department of Transportation.
 - Technical Assistant.
 - Full-Time Paralegal.

The need is growing exponentially; more and more Cities and Towns are using MT League for their needs; such as when Clerk-Treasurer Wight came on, since there was no other place to turn for assistance.

Fees will increase 10% this year; Towns Drummond's size will be \$1,000.00 and larger cities are expected to go up to \$6,600.00.

Mayor Leeper expressed appreciation for the League; stating Drummond is as far as we are because of the League.

- We still have not heard from Xylem regarding dates for the pumps to be serviced. Public Works Director Harrington will call; both Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Mayor Leeper will contact via email. Hopefully, this will elicit a response from the company to be placed on the schedule for pump maintenance.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

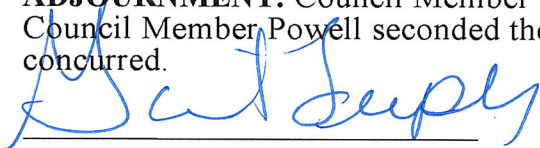
- Chamber use of Old Jail – Linda Smith discussed using the Old Jail for use as a Thrift Store. The Chamber has since changed their mind for use of this building.

Discussion was made regarding that space being cleaned out; to be used as storage for Town Hall, as opposed to Town Hall storing other entities belongings.

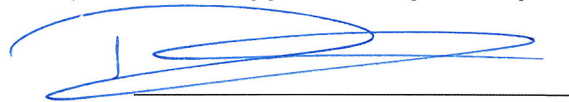
OLD BUSINESS: None

Next Town Council Meeting scheduled Tuesday, November 21st.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. Council Member Powell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



Gail Leeper, Mayor



Robin Wight, Town Clerk-Treasurer