

**** Page 1** A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA, APRIL 23RD, 2024**

APRIL 23RD, 2024, The Three Forks City Council met at the Three Forks City Hall (Council Chambers), 206 Main Street and via Zoom. (Zoom is a virtual meeting tool which the City began using due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines and continues to use to encourage participation from the safety of one's home.) The meeting was presided over by Mayor Johnston. Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Council members George Chancellor, Gene Townsend, (Warren) Garret Buchanan, Ed Tharp, and Reagan Hooton. Roxi McDermott was excused. City Treasurer Kelly Smith was excused. City Clerk Crystal Turner and Office Assistant/Code Enforcer Wally Ziegler were present at City Hall. City Land Use Planner with Great West Engineering, Jerry Grebenc attended via Zoom.

The record reflected a quorum with the attendance of five (5) Council members and the meeting was held.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag was led by Mayor Johnston. Mayor Johnston reminded the audience this meeting was recorded and may be streamed via Zoom and on our Facebook page.

GUESTS: Nate Judd, Nathan Miller and Andy Hessen all of the Headwaters Golf Course, Gloria Howland.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS (For items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Johnston read the Consent Agenda into the record as follows:

- a. Check Printed on 4/10/2024, but in the Stack of Claims for Approval on 4/9/2024 but unposted on the Claims Approval List, to Engineered Solutions in the Amount of \$6,323.50
- b. City Claims to be Paid
- c. Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board Claims to be Paid
- d. Council Minutes of 4/9/2024
- e. Zoning and Planning Board Minutes of January 18, 2024
- f. Pledged Security Report from Glacier Bank as of 3/29/2024
- g. Pledged Security Report from Manhattan Bank as of 3/31/2024
- h. Service Agreement with Invictus Security Group for Security at 2024 Rodeo Event on 7/19 and 7/20/2024 in the Amount of \$46.00/hour for 8 Officers, Estimated Total of \$3,344.00

Councilman Townsend moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion.

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Motion Passed Unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing, Comment and Input on Working Draft of Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Land Use Planner Jerry Grebenc asked for any other comments, input, questions.

Garret Buchanan stated he notice just about every section recommends having a study, "Is my understanding correct that as we finish those studies, and they make recommendations, we can update the document?" Jerry replied, "Yes, you should be looking at it [the CIP] on a regular basis and update it as projects are completed, or as projects are added. We don't want to have to recreate the wheel every five years. Five years is the maximum for an update to be conducted."

Mayor Johnston wanted to clean up page 19 (update the feet of slip-lining that was done on the sewer mains, which he believed was roughly four miles of pipe). Crystal Turner stated Great West did the project so there should be accurate distance repaired that could be included in the CIP. Mayor Johnston also would like to update the comment on that page that says, "...the City operators at the time believe several manholes are not sealed that contribute to infiltration." The Mayor said, "I agree with him and we need to address those, I think they can seal them with new technology to help with the I&I problem."

Gene Townsend directed all to pages 33 & 34 under Parks and Recreation under project name I would like to add the Three Forks Rodeo Arena. "I would like to put in an estimated cost of \$550,000 to add two new wings of bleachers attached to the aluminum set, possible covering for the bleachers and upgrades to the cookshack in the future," he said.

Garret Buchanan recommended department heads' provide input or a wish list. Crystal Turner informed Garret of the work done in 2022-2023 so far.

Gene directed all to page 42 and asked when the date is for the overall priorities to be listed. Jerry replied they are already working on edits provided from the last meeting, "Then we will present you with the fully updated document and that is where I think the Council needs to look at all the priorities in that section. So perhaps you could start that discussion at the next meeting, I suspect it would take at least two meetings. In reality, each of you know Water, Wastewater, the big ones - but you'll need to have discussion on an overall priority list. It makes it easier with city staff and yourselves in the budgeting process, and goes back to the conversation that as you get projects done you can check them off the list. This helps with funding agencies as well so they can see "Oh this is the City's overall list of major projects they have decided are the main priorities"." Gene asked when can we expect this

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next draft? Jerry assumed he could have a draft ready for the next Council meeting, but he will double check with Jessica Salo.

There was no public comment.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

City Clerk Crystal Turner will report at the next meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Wally Ziegler did not have a report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (if any)

There were no Council committee updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to update on the Flood project.

Water Project - the County has granted the requested Encroachment Permit on Kyd Road to build a new access so that the well drillers can access the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Contract with Hollow Contracting, Inc. to Perform Street Maintenance District #1 Chip Seal Project (\$286,786.35) Bid Awarded 3/12/2024

Councilman Tharp moved to sign the contract. Councilman Buchanan seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Headwaters Golf Course Discussion/Request for Flashing Stop Signs and Discussion on Installing Taller Fence on 7th/Talc (Nate Judd)

Nate Judd had a presentation on screen. "There are some concerns of traffic along 7th Avenue East, it's a pretty common road that people use to walk to the ponds and the trail and folks are driving really fast down that road. Also, we have the southwest fence on the corner of Talc Road and 7th Avenue East, and we [the Headwaters Golf Course Board] are also talking about a wind screen on the fence," Mr. Judd said.

He explained to the Council that there have been comments of concern that the clubhouse expansion may bring a lot more traffic. "We discussed at one of the board meetings that Kelly and Crystal attended, we discussed blinking stop signs, speed bumps, Randy Strickland purchased *please slow down* signs and posted them all along 7th Avenue East. We think maybe the blinking stop signs are the best option - or maybe a roundabout which may be too much of an expense. I don't think the expansion will be a huge increase in traffic myself, but there have been several comments from residents on 7th Avenue East who believe it will cause more traffic," he

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said. Gene Townsend said, "I think you're going to spread the traffic throughout the year, not add it. In the winter you don't have any traffic; and folks are not coming to play a simulator much in the summer months, so it will spread the traffic to year round. We catch a lot of flak from people - that blinking stop sign at the school a lot of people have complained about it. But I left Three Forks today and headed that way and saw folks driving down 7th and not even stopping at the stop signs." Ed Tharp thinks a flashing stop sign would be a really good idea to add along 7th.

Nate Judd then showed the proposed fence to be replaced. "There is a 12-foot-high chain link fence there now, the last 2/3 is just regular barbed wire fence. From a safety standpoint, there are always golf balls at the shorter fence and even over the trail. This is a 310-foot area of fence that is much shorter than our chain link fence." Ed Tharp said there is 250 yards from the driving range to the 12-foot fence. Andy Hessen said at the corner though is roughly 350 yards, which would allow for stronger hitters to use that section, but the fence as is, safety is a factor. Nate said they are getting quotes on the fence, but they seemed high so far and he thinks they could do better. Andy added that the wind screen is made of armor mesh - looking into something like what the school has to see if would stop a golf ball going through the fence and hitting the trail or Talc Road. This would be on the inside of the fence, so there is less opportunity for vandalism (if left on the outside of the fence). We have received a quote and we could put our logo on it to be aesthetically pleasing and protect those walking on the trail or driving on Talc Road. The cost is \$4,000. He hopes they could split the bill with the City.

Reagan Hooton asked if the proposed 6-foot fence, at around \$7,000, is that high enough along this stretch? Nate said yes, "At 350-yards it's going to take a really strong person to hit that." Gene offered to take the responsibility off the city, and said the trail is a separate entity. "It cost the Trail about \$45,000 for the 6-foot fence on the opposite side of the course. I don't know how much money I'll have left with some projects this year, I'd hate to say yes." Crystal Turner asked what if the City helped, not the Trails, but perhaps out of the Parks account? Gene said you would have to ask the Council; she replied that she is. George Chancellor asked if any tests have been done to see how many balls are actually going through the fence? Crystal replied every time she walks the trail she throws at least ten balls back over onto golf course property from the trail. Nathan Miller, Manager of Headwaters Golf Course. said they just purchased 700 dozen golf balls for the range and will have to replace that many in 2 years. Nate Judd and Andy Hessen went out last summer to the ditch on the opposite side Talc Road - and filled a 55-gallon garbage can and that was perhaps one-quarter of what was able to pick up. "The golf board said they'd like to get the wind screen up pretty quick," he added.

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Garret Buchanan asked how much the flashing signs at the school were, to which Crystal replied somewhere between \$900-\$1,000 each. Gene confirmed those are solar signs. Mayor Johnston asked if the City is to replace the signs? Gene Townsend said he thinks so, as the City is responsible for providing signage in the town. Ed Tharp thought it would be a really good idea. Reagan Hooton asked, "So, for four thousand roughly for 2 signs each direction we could do it?" Garret Buchanan thinks the flashing signs are a good idea and definitely part of the City's responsibility. Reagan agreed, and also likes the idea of the taller fence with windscreen. Mayor Johnston added that he thinks the solar speed sign is helping as well.

Nate Judd said, "The golf course is happy to help with whatever we can, but these were our thoughts." Gene suggested that if the City bought the stop signs it would certainly make it easier for the golf course with the fence and wind barrier to cover that cost. It's a safety issue that has been brought to our attention and should be addressed.

Councilman Chancellor moved to purchase stop signs for the remaining part of 7th Avenue East. Councilwoman Hooton correct, "Replace the current ones, correct?" George agreed. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion.

Public Comment - Nate Judd thought it would be great. There was no other comment.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Gene Townsend asked, "Can anyone hit over that fence?" Nathan Miller said, "Yes, there is a small percentage said."

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS (for items not on the agenda)

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

MAYOR & COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnston reported that he, Sgt. Doonan and Crystal Turner attended a meeting at the school last week about parking, traffic flow patterns, repairs to the streets, and 2nd Ave E parking lot. "Crystal has reached out to the property owners for the one-way recommendation on N. 4th Avenue E. already and they are supportive of changing this block to one-way only. Another thing we talked about was the kids come in to register. They could ask, *Do you drive?* If the answer is yes, they are issued a parking permit and rules for parking around the school

The Mayor thanked Crystal for putting together a nice Earth Day clean up and stated we had public works (Bob and Anthony), Wally, Crystal, Susan (Swimley) and George and himself.

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Garret Buchanan reported he met with Mark Bond of the Regional Housing Coalition. "It was pretty much a an informal meeting to ensure I would be willing to attend. He convinced me, but he will take whatever I can provide. There's not a lot for Three Forks at the moment, but lots of smaller town discussions are had, and we could learn from successes and failures of the other towns and not be left out of the conversation," Garret said. Crystal thanked Garret for taking this on as it is a topic that she thinks is important for Three Forks in the near future. Gene Townsend said he was in One Valley last week to pick up the Give Big signs and ran into Mark Bond who said he was really impressed with Garret and please by his interest.

Mayor Johnston also reported he was asked to attend an HRDC meeting last Friday. "There were over 150 people there, it made me feel good that all HRDC does for the food banks. This case worker brought up a story that a lady was sleeping in a tent out in the field where they built the new building, their main goal is to get people to start helping themselves. To have a place to go, to help them find a job, and help them be self-sustaining. I think it was really great." Gene said he has served on the board for HRDC for 25 years now, "I'm never not amazed with all they do. They help with electric bills; they help you winterize your house to reduce your electric bills. They are already starting on the new phase of Homeward Bound and the new homeless shelter should be done by next year. In the new building there will be a separate women and children house, right now they have a curtain to separate them. It's a heck of a problem, it's just not Bozeman or Gallatin County, it's everywhere. They raised over \$17 million without tax dollars towards these projects. Heather Grenier is amazing, and I don't know how she does it all and keeps it straight - she's working with private and public entities, banks, anyone who can help."

Gene Townsend reported he attended the Gallatin County Commission meeting today to follow on the Open Space Bond money he applied for to do trail maintenance in the sum of \$100,000. The Commissioners usually defer to another meeting, but they discussed it all today and awarded the Trails \$100,000. "Haven't heard from the AARP grant yet. City crew has been busy installing the AARP adult exercise equipment and repairs on the trail along Talc Road where it's deteriorated."

Crystal Turner reminded all the Junior & High School Rodeo is this weekend and Kansas Street will be closed.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: May 14, 2024

- Approval of Letter to Gallatin County Commission asking them to Adopt the City's Growth Policy
- Regional Housing Coalition Presentation
- Public Hearing and Decision on the Zoning and Planning Board's Recommendation for a Conditional Use Permit Request for a Multi-

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Family Residential Triplex by Kenneth Gibson and Barrett Snyder for
Property Located at Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Northwest Townsite,
Commonly Known as 623 E. Neal Street

- Maybe CIP continued discussion and updated draft

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Tharp, seconded by
George Chancellor. The meeting was adjourned by acclimation at 7:50P.M.

Randy Johnston, Mayor

Crystal Turner, City Clerk