

CITY OF POLSON

COUNCIL MEETING

Commission Chambers

January 6, 2014

7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Pat DeVries, Mayor Heather Knutson, City Commissioners: John Campbell, Todd Erickson, Fred Funke, Mike Lies, Dan Morrison, Ken Siler, Jill Southerland, Stephen Turner, City Manager, Mark Shrives, and City Clerk Cora Pritt.

Others present (that voluntarily signed in): Gerry Browning, Dave Cottington, Elsa Duford, Lita Fonda, Rory Horning, Carlisa London, Paul London, Skyla London, Bonnie Manicke, Agnes Rinehat, Daniel Smith, and Andrew Speer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pat DeVries called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

City Manager Mark Shrives made the following corrections to the Proposed Agenda; Item No. 10 should read Acting Chairman of City Commission per the wording of the City Charter. Agenda Item No. 12 should have an indicator that a vote will be needed. **Commissioner Campbell motioned to approve the Proposed Agenda with corrections. Commissioner Funke seconded.** Commission Discussion: none Public Discussion: None **VOTE-Unanimous Motion passed.**

3. APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2013-

Commissioner Lies made a correction to Agenda Item No. 3. There was a typo-a double motion to approve. Commissioner Campbell noted a correction on Agenda Item No. 9-it should read Judge Manley. **Commissioner Lies motioned to approve the City Commission Meeting Minutes December 16, 2013 with the corrections. Commissioner Campbell second.** Commission Discussion: None Public Discussion: None. **VOTE-Unanimous Motion passed.**

4. APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 23, 2013-

Commissioner Lies motioned to approve City Commission Meeting Minutes December 23, 2013 as written. Commissioner Funke second. Commission Discussion: none Public Discussion: None **VOTE-Unanimous Motion passed.**

5. JUDGE OLSON ADMINISTERS OATH OF OFFICE – Judge Olson administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Heather Knutson, Commissioners Todd Erickson, Ken Siler, and Jill Southerland.

6. REMARKS-

Mayor Heather Knutson began her remarks by thanking everyone for coming this evening. Heather thanked everyone for their interest in the local government and will look forward to seeing everyone on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. A thank you and appreciation was extended to the current Commissioners and the Mayor and Commissioners that were leaving office. Heather thanked them for their years of service. Heather further commented that she does not expect this to be an easy role, but with respect and open minds, and collaboration we can all work together and do really great things for our town. Mayor Knutson then introduced the two guests that were invited to speak, Lake County Commissioner Bill Barron, and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council Lloyd Irvine.

County Commissioner Bill Barron began by congratulating each new member of the City Council. Commissioner Barron went on to comment that the County admires the individuals who are willing to step up to in to these positions that are quite often thankless. You are volunteering and putting your time out there. Commissioner Barron acknowledged the individual visions that each Commissioner has for the City and the future. Do not get discouraged as the process goes on. There are a lot of good things happening in the community right now. It is a real positive time. The County and City have had a great working relationship in the past and will continue in the future. The Skyline Project is a great example of what working together can accomplish. With the County, City, and Tribe working together, we brought 12 million dollars to this community. The only way we could have feasibly fixed that road. Good things happened because we worked together. We commit that we will work with you and continue to work with you. We are sure that you will reciprocate. Thank You.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council Lloyd Irvine spoke next. He too congratulated the new Commissioners who were elected. The Tribal Council just went through the same process as well. This is Mr. Irvine's 23rd year serving. What Tribal Council Irvine expressed is a continuance of the government agencies to work together. We are all dedicated to do the same thing for our communities. Tribal Council Mr. Irvine sits on some of the committees in Lake County as well. The camaraderie that has developed in the past few years we would like to see that continue. We have some of our biggest businesses and departments located in your town. We look forward to working with you, the staff, and our staff, and we will get things done in the way that we should for everyone. Not for just a few people but for our entire community.

NEW BUSINESS

7. **PRESENTATION**-Mayor Knutson asked outgoing Mayor Pat DeVries and former Commissioners Fred Funke and Mike Lies to please step forward. Mayor Knutson commented about the years of service from these individuals. Mayor Knutson was thinking about these three and the very first time they each sat in their new position and the hope that they had at that time. It is very similar to what we newly elected officials have. Mayor Knutson stated that as you are ending your time and heading off to new things, my hope for you is that you have really been fulfilled by this experience that you have learned and grown, and contributed to the betterment of our community. The number of years contributed is phenomenal and much appreciated. We wanted to present you with a commemorative plaque for your service. Mike Lies, who has given us over 15 years of service, thank you for your time. Fred Funke who has been in over 25 years of service, and Pat DeVries thank you for 8 years of service for doing this and other things. We thank you all and wish you well in your endeavors in the future and what you decide to contribute your free time to. We do hope that we will continue to see you here. Thank you all very much. Mayor Knutson asked if Mike, Fred, or Pat had anything they wished to say. Fred Funke commented that it has been quite a trip for him. Fred further stated that he was born and raised here in Polson and he just felt that it was something he wanted to do. He's worked with a lot of different Commissioners and Mayors, learned a lot, good City employees, Fire department, Police. We have worked well with Lake County. Mike Lies commented that it has been 21 years ago that he started. Mike took 4 years off. Mike stated that he's enjoyed it; there have been ups and downs, and all-arounds. Pat DeVries commented that there is a great Council, just keep them motivated. Pat also commented on the great City employees and their dedication. I wish you the best.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

DECEMBER 12-13 CLAIMS-Commissioner John Campbell made a motion to accept with one correction; page 4 the \$24, 092 charge to Shari Johnson under TMDL project is actually a Sewer project not a Water project. Commissioner Campbell spoke with Water/Sewer Superintendent Tony Porrazzo about this and Tony agreed it should have been Sewer treatment. Commissioner Dan Morrison second. Commission discussion: none Public discussion: none **VOTE: Unanimous motion carried**

9. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**-City Manager Mark Shrives commented that the City has received some donations. We received a \$1,500.00 anonymous donation to the Fire Department. We also received a donation from the Paul J. McCann foundation for the City Parks at just over \$24,000.00. The City has received 5 proposals from the Request For Proposal for a new auditor. We will be going through those proposals and hopefully bring a recommendation to the next meeting. The City is still taking applications for board positions, and hope to also bring those applications to you on the 22nd. The Fire Presentation Evaluation Co-sponsored by the City and the Rural Fire District, the consultant will be available on February 20th so that is tentatively scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the 20th. An email will be sent out to the Commissioners regarding a workshop session as we look forward to the next year. Probably try to do that in February some time.

10. **NOMINATE AND ELECT CITY COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN**-**Commissioner Todd Erickson nominated Commissioner John Campbell. Commissioner Jill Southerland second.** There was no further discussion from the Commissioners or the Public. **VOTE: Unanimous Motion carried**

11. **REPORT ON GOLF RESTAURANT**-Golf Board President Dave Cottington reported that the Golf Course Restaurant had a great year. All comments from the golfers were positive. The food was great and the pricing was fine. Golf Pro Roger Wallace was there daily and this made a difference. The numbers will be ready later. This was one of the best years in a long time. City Manager Mark Shrives stated that City Finance Director Cindy Dooley did have the numbers and would be presenting them. Cindy reported that the numbers do reflect on Dave's comments. Things are on a much more positive note. The Golf season from January to December of 2013; the Operating profit of \$3,466.89 then take out Capital Outlay we do have a slight loss, a little over \$5,000.00. But if you look back at prior years, we have been averaging about a \$15 to \$20,000 loss under the previous model. This is quite an improvement. There are only good things for the coming year as well. Commissioner Campbell questioned the Capital Improvement. Cindy answered that there were a couple of things that the Restaurant purchased which came to about \$8,500.00. There is also an agreement with Roger Wallace that we pay him a percentage, 50% of the operation profit, and this formula will make a payment to Roger of about \$5,000.00. It will create a little bit more of a loss. We will have to add back the Capital Outlay, and then this year we are adding back wages that were prior to June 1, 2013. We are doing way better. **Note-these figures will be cleared up at February 3, 2014 meeting per Commissioner Ken Siler's request during January 22, 2014 meeting.*

12. **APPROVE INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT**-City Manager Mark Shrives presented this item. There was a brief background provided. The City needed to move fairly quickly on this issue due to the back up of prosecution cases. Attorney Bob Phillips reviewed the contract and had no issue. City Manager Mark Shrives requested that the Commission approve Rich Gebhardt as the new Interim City Attorney. This will be a 6 month contract. In this time we will look at what model we want to use. We are doing an hourly contract so that we can get an idea of just how much time we will need. Initially we will need more in order to catch up with some things that are going on. Commissioner Turner questioned why we are going 6 months instead of month-to-month. City Manager Mark Shrives explained that the City needs the consistency, also 6 months takes us to the end of the fiscal year. It really is a month-to-month because we can terminate the contract with a 30 day written notice. We need the consistency with prosecution. Commissioner Erickson made a comment on the contract; page 1, 4th paragraph there is a typo; it reads represented by client on an as needed bases it should read basis. Also, on page 2 under Termination-Commissioner Erickson was unclear of the wording either party. Does that mean either side? Also, under the Benefits-no benefits will be paid for health insurance or retirement to the attorney. As far as time worked, is that something that will be submitted? City Manager Shrives answered that yes, there will be an hourly invoice submitted based on the department and the hours. This will help in determining the cost per department when we get in to budgeting. City Manager Shrives

stated that he will be working directly with all department heads and monitor the time with the attorney. Commissioner Erickson clarified that the department heads will go through the City Manager. City Manager Shrives said that yes, and then the invoice will come before Council as a claim. Commissioner Erickson requested a job clarification regarding the City Attorney's presence at the Council meetings. This has never been done. Commissioner Erickson is concerned about the set up that comes from the public when the public asks questions of the attorney. Commissioner Erickson wants the public to understand that the City Attorney is not expected to be in attendance at every council meeting. City Manager Shrives made a statement that if all goes well Rich will not be at the meetings. Rich Gebhardt commented that if the Council needs an opinion from the attorney, just forward that question to the City Manager and he will see that Rich gets it. Rich will then give a written response so that everyone has a copy. Mayor Knutson commented that this is also a matter that can be discussed at the workshop. The Council can work on defining the job description. Commissioner Campbell commented that it will be a good chance to see what the actual costs will be. Mayor Knutson agreed that the short term will give us the flexibility. Mayor Knutson thanked Mr. Gebhardt for responding so quickly and helping with this situation. **Commissioner Todd Erickson motion to approve the Interim City Attorney contract with the correction mentioned.** Commissioner John Campbell second. There was no further discussion from the Commissioner or Public. **VOTE: Unanimous Motion carried**

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANT MATTERS TO THE PUBLIC NOT ON THE AGENDA-Mayor Knutson reminded the public that there is a 3 minute time clock that is run during this time. So, if any member of the public would like to come forward and address the Commission they are welcome to do so. Polson School District Superintendent Dr. Linda Reksten extended her congratulations to the new Commissioners and Mayor. Dr. Reksten announced that the school district had received a Quality Schools Grant from Montana Governor Bullick for \$28,800.00. This will launch the school system into a strategic planning process that will help in reviewing the school facilities and the future enrollment. A gentleman from Missoula has been commissioned to see where the enrollment is going. Dr. Reksten extended any members of the Commission, Mayor, or City Manager to participate in these meetings. We want to set up a process that has the finest facilities, and educational program to offer our new families. The meetings will be held in the Library Conference Room February 25th, March 12th, and March 25th lead by CTA Architects out of Missoula. Daniel Smith also extended his congratulations to the new Council and Mayor. Mr. Smith is the Co-Chair of FLIC (Flathead Lake International Cinemafest). This organization was also the recipient of a \$7,500.00 grant from the Montana State Tourism Office. This money will be used to advertise the festival in a radius of 100 miles. There 123,000 copies of the guide printed and will be distributed in the State of Montana, Idaho, and Canada. There will be 79 films featured from 16 different countries. The Grand Opening party will be Friday, January 24th from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the KwaTaqNuk. There will be lots of fun things happening from January 24th to the 27th. Lake County Commissioner Ann Brower also extended her congratulations to all. There has been an excellent working relationship with the City staff. They are a great staff to work with, jovial, take jokes quite well. Also, the Stop sign on 5th, by the Courthouse, excellent choice. Thank you.

ADJOURN: 7:39 P.M.

Mayor Heather Knutson

ATTEST:

Cora E. Pritt, City Clerk

