

**** Page 1** A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA, JANUARY 14TH, 2025**

JANUARY 14TH, 2025, The Three Forks City Council met at the Three Forks the Ambulance Barn, 2 E. Hickory 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, Roxi McDermott, and Reagan Hooton. City Treasurer Kelly Smith and City Clerk Crystal Turner were present at City Hall. City Attorney Susan Swimley attended via Zoom.

The record reflected a quorum with the attendance of six (6) 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 audio and video recorded and may be streamed via Zoom and on our Facebook page. The Mayor also reminded all to familiarize themselves with the policy of conduct for this public meeting on the back of their agenda.

GUESTS: 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. Claims Paid due to Timeliness on 12/19/2024 Totaling \$42,464.96
- b. Claim Paid due to Timeliness on 12/24/2024 Totaling \$563.37
- c. City Claims to be Paid
- d. Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board Claims to be Paid
- e. Council Minutes of 12/10/2024
- f. Service Agreement with Daybreak Electric to Upgrade Lighting in the Three Forks Community Library (\$6,637.60) (Signed by Mayor on 12/11/2024)
- g. Service Agreement with Formescent Architects for Drawings of City Hall Remodel (Up to \$5,300) (Signed by Mayor on 12/16/2024)
- h. Service Agreement with TnT Electrical for Electrical Services of City Hall Remodel (\$11,800) (Signed by Mayor on 12/20/2024)
- i. Customer Agreement with Northwestern Energy to Permit/Install New Power at the Fire Hall (\$5,734) (Signed by Mayor on 12/16/2024)

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- j. Draw #24 for the Water Project Totaling \$26,734.10 (Minimum Allocation Grant MAG Reimbursement of \$1,433.50, Local Fiscal Recovery LFR Reimbursement of \$4,210.60, and ARPA Comp Reimbursement of \$21,090) (Signed by Mayor on 12/17/2024)
- k. Draw #25 for the Water Project Totaling \$11,760.65 Minimum Allocation Grant (MAG) Reimbursement
- l. Tak Order #9, Amendment #5 for the Water System Improvements to Complete Design, Bidding, Construction Oversight/Administration, and RPR and Record Documents for Well 2C (\$105,000)
- m. Pledged Security Report through 12/31/2024 from Glacier Bank

There were no Council questions on any items on the consent agenda. Councilman Townsend moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Buchanan seconded the motion. There was no public comment on the consent agenda items.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

City Treasurer Kelly Smith did not have anything to report.

City Clerk Crystal Turner we have officially moved to the basement of the Library. She asked the Council to pay close attention to the upcoming agendas as meeting locations will change often depending on how many people are expected to attend. The Mayor thanked the staff for helping do everything to move. Crystal added that we all worked a couple hours before the movers arrived on 12/30, then packed things up and moved. "On 12/31 we got setup and computers all working, then worked on our computers a couple hours and responded to emails and the rest of the day we spent in the attic of City Hall cleaning out the attic since it will no longer be load-bearing capable," Crystal said. Gene Townsend asked if the ceiling is still tin in the attic. Crystal replied it is, and we would like to utilize some of it as a backsplash or background for the Council meetings as artwork. She mentioned it was sad to toss some of the old books that were stored in the attic. "They weren't records, they were old meter reading books that an operator used to go around and read the meters and calculate the bills. They were cool, but they were not something we were required to keep, so we tossed them all," she continued.

City Attorney Susan Swimley did not have a report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (if any)

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Gene Townsend reported we held a Water/Sewer Committee meeting last week with Susan Hayes, who brought us up to speed on Well 2C, which is going to have close to 200gpm and are just waiting for O'Keefe to return to line the well and then we can move forward with the rest of the project to build the pumphouse and connect it. We talked about the possibility of drilling another well, or using the well that was drilled up by the water tank, which produced about 70gpm. "Susan thought we should pump test that first to make sure what it could produce, and then since we have enough money left in this fund we could drill another well," Gene said. "If we find another well with good quality and a good producer, we could use the additional water too," he said. "Well 2C we will change the name to #12, since we should keep them in numerical order. Everything looked good and we need to spend the ARPA money because at the end of this year, whatever we do not spend we will have to give back so in my opinion we should spend it. Much will be used on the water main and re-looping of the main lines as well. It was a very good meeting and I was happy with the results Susan reported to us," Gene said. Ed Tharp added that the idea for another well was because the City could use an additional 50-75gpm. Mayor Johnston added that Well 2C will have a generator put on it as well. Garret Buchanan asked for clarification on the City said during budget time another well would have a generator added. Mayor Johnston said that would be Well 6. Gene said the Committee asked Susan Hayes to try and get the new well on natural gas rather than hooking up the generator to be on propane. There was discussion about the existing generator at the wastewater treatment plant and at the lift station.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Project - Crystal Turner reported that the Amendment to Task Order #9 tonight on the Consent Agenda was \$20,000 underestimated. "Susan Hayes got word today from the structural engineer would be higher than she estimated so she will prepare an additional amendment to the Task Order to include that \$20,000.

Flood Project - Kelly Smith reported when the engineers come to do the survey for the water well, they plan on doing an initial survey for the flood channel. Jeremiah Theys has met with MDT and trying to keep them in the loop so they do not become the bottleneck. We still hope to start construction in the fall of 2025. She added she has spoke with Three Forks Lumber and Ready Mix to see if they could build the culverts as well. Kelly informed the Council and Mayor that she and Crystal, Headwaters Economics and Great West will be presenting at the State Floodplain Conference in Missoula in February, and then have submitted it for a presentation at the National conference in New Orleans in May.

Garret Buchanan asked what the purpose of Three Forks' presentation would be. Kelly explained that this collaboration of the State DES, DNRC, Headwaters Economics and us all writing the grant and how you can work

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together. We want to share that collaboration effort to show other small rural communities that they should not be deterred in applying for these large grants that normally just coastal communities get awarded.

Crystal added that the Resiliency Fund is not something that is always "a given" from the State's Legislature budget, so Kelly has been testifying on behalf of the State DES's request to have it set in the budget as an annual line item, encouraging the Legislature to support that funding.

NEW BUSINESS

City Clerk Annual Business License Report

Crystal Turner reported the number of businesses licenses in the 2023-2024 season, which runs from October 1 of one year to September 30 of the following year. (See packet for full list.) "We tend to get a couple handfuls of new businesses each year, likewise a couple handfuls that no longer do business, so it roughly stays just over 200 each year. These are not all brick and mortar businesses, these include companies like Bozeman Tree, or Republic Services, etc." Crystal explained. She turned the Council's attention to Exhibit C, which are not the seasonal ones that have historically come in to get licensed once they do business in Three Forks. The final ones listed in Exhibit C are the ones Crystal is seeking direction from the Council on how to handle them.

Councilman Townsend moved to send the eleven businesses that have not responded to City Hall's letters, that they be turned over to the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office for aid or help with collecting. Councilman Buchanan seconded the motion. There was no public comment.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

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

MAYOR & COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnston distributed the 2025 Committee assignments.

Then the Mayor reported he met with Patrick Lonergan last week regarding the 5-year update to the County Disaster and Emergency Plan. "Every five years, we should all meet at least once to go over our list of hazards for Three Forks, and rate them. I would like to get a meeting together next week so we can rank these and get this back to Patrick. Kelly and Crystal have already reviewed and rated things, but we should to. The Willow Creek Dam for example was constructed in 1938 and I believe it is a big problem because of its age, they cannot get it up to the spillway level anymore, and so we increased the dam breakage ranking a little higher. But this is a list of everything from dams to fire and everything. Can we

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have a meeting on Tuesday the 21st at 9AM or Thursday at 9AM. We will meet at the Library in the "Montana Room". Crystal said she has already sent the rankings to the Three Forks Area Ambulance, the School, and the Fire Department to include their priorities as well.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 1/28/2025 @ the Methodist Church Annex

- Resolution to Adopt the Impact Fee Schedule

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman McDermott. **Motion Passed Unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:44P.M.

Randy Johnston, Mayor

Crystal Turner, City Clerk