

October 18, 2016

The City Council of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, met this day in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The Honorable Mayor Ron Shaver called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Present: Honorable Mayor Ron Shaver
Councilmember Clint Anderson
Councilmember Christine Castoe
Councilmember Allison Howe
Councilmember Dan Marler
Councilmember Lisa Northrup

Absent: Councilmember Kevin Lindell (excused, arrived at 6:06 p.m.)

The meeting was also attended by City Manager Jeff Wells, Interim Police Chief Jared Crone, Water Resources/Utilities Director Brent Nation, Engineering/Public Works Director Brad Curtis, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, City Attorney Jason Meyers and City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

RESOLUTION ADJUSTING SEWER RATES EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2017

Water Resources/Utilities Director Brent Nation said staff was concerned that reserves in the sewer fund were being drawn down more quickly than expected, and with potential capital improvements needed at the wastewater treatment plant a rate increase may be warranted sooner than planned. The latest rate study recommended 5 percent increases in 2018 and again in 2019, but Nation said staff was asking that an increase be put in place effective Jan. 1, 2017. Councilmember Kevin Lindell arrived at the meeting at approximately 6:06 p.m.

Council and staff discussion followed about the level of reserves in the sewer fund, anticipated capital needs and potential impacts of new federal regulations on the fund.

Mayor Ron Shaver asked if the rate increase could be delayed until some later date, since a new rate study was already planned for 2017. Nation said that could be done, and more council and staff discussion ensued, with a council consensus emerging to delay action on the rate increase for the time being. No action was taken.

AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO SIGN INTERNET SERVICE AGREEMENT

Information Technology Director Nelson McCoy said the city's computer network needed more capacity and the current provider was unable to supply it, so he had found a new provider that could offer 1GB dedicated service for about \$300 less than the city currently paid for 45mbps service.

Councilmember Lisa Northrup offered a resolution to authorize the mayor to sign a 36-month agreement with Zayo Group for internet service. That resolution was seconded by Councilmember Christine Castoe and approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Engineering/Public Works Director Brad Curtis said federal aviation grants for a master plan for the city airport required an ad hoc advisory committee to participate in the planning effort. Curtis said the board he proposed would include the existing Airport Advisory Board and

representatives of the FAA, Colorado Department of Transportation, Morgan County and other entities.

Northrup offered a resolution to approve the Resolution establishing a Master Plan Advisory Committee for the Airport Master Plan, which was seconded by Castoe and approved unanimously.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 1184, MERGING THE FIBER NETWORK AND ELECTRIC ENTERPRISE

Mayor Shaver outlined the rules and format to be followed during the public hearing, and City Clerk/PIO John Brennan confirmed that proper legal notice of the hearing had been published. City Manager Jeff Wells said the ordinance had not changed since first reading, and would combine the city's fiber network utility with the electric fund. Wells said this had many benefits to the city and made sense because the electric department would perform many of the functions associated with the fiber network.

Jerry Wathen of 1100 Linda St. said he was in favor of the measure. No other public comment was received, either during the hearing or in advance, and no council comments were offered. Castoe made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Lindell and approved unanimously.

City Attorney Jason Meyers advised the council of its options for action, and Northrup offered a resolution to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 1184, combining the Electric Department and System Enterprise of the City of Fort Morgan and the Fort Morgan Fiber Utility, and authorization to publish by title only. That resolution was seconded by Castoe and approved unanimously.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 1185, AMENDING THE 2016 BUDGET FOR THE WATER FUND

Shaver said the same rules observed in the preceding hearing would apply to this public hearing, and Brennan confirmed that proper legal notice had been published. Wells said this ordinance also was unchanged since first reading, and City Treasurer Jean Kinney explained that the amendment to the current year's budget reflected a change in the accounting for bond payments to include principal as well as interest.

No public comments were received, either during the hearing or in advance, and no council comments were offered. Castoe made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilmember Dan Marler and approved unanimously.

Meyers advised the council of its options, and Northrup offered a resolution to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 1185, amending the appropriation of monies for the funds of the City of Fort Morgan for 2016, and authorization to publish by title only. That resolution was seconded by Castoe and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON AMENDING THE SIGN CODE

Curtis said the Planning Commission and city staff had been reviewing and commenting on the draft of the new sign code, and he updated the council on the latest discussions and issues. Council and staff discussion followed, with Wells noting that the staff did not have a final version to present for approval yet but that was expected soon. Curtis said the sign code would be brought back to the Planning Commission the following week, and a finalized document would be brought to the council when it was ready. No action was taken.

**FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 BUDGET, FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE
ADOPTING THE 2017 BUDGET**

Wells said the 2017 budget and ordinance presented here represented the culmination of a lot of work by everyone in the city organization. Brennan noted that paper copies of both documents included in the table files for the meeting reflected the latest versions.

Wells said the budget was balanced and presented in accordance with state law and the city Charter, and the council would have the next two weeks to review the budget before it was presented for second reading and final approval at the first meeting in November. Wells said changes could be made in the interim and if necessary the 2017 budget could be amended during that year.

After several council questions were answered, Northrup offered a resolution to approve the first reading of an Ordinance to adopt the 2017 budget, set the mill levy and appropriate monies to the various funds of the City of Fort Morgan, and to schedule a public hearing on the ordinance for Nov. 1. That resolution was seconded by Councilmember Allison Howe and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA BY RESOLUTION

Brennan presented the Consent Agenda for Council consideration as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for September
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Oct. 4, 2016 City Council regular meeting

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine business by the Council and will be enacted with a single motion and a single vote by roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is deemed necessary, that item should be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Councilmember Castoe offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Marler and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jerry Wathen again addressed the council about the upcoming election and Christmas plans, and encouraged the council members to get to know the people in their respective wards.

REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Wells noted that his monthly written report was in the council meeting packets. He said he had attended a meeting of the Morgan County Planning Commission regarding a permit for the Western Sugar plant and had received much positive feedback from residents who were glad that the city took a position and was trying to hold the company accountable for negative impacts of the factory on the quality of life in the community. Wells said the city would continue to move forward on these issues, and emphasized that the city supported the plant but wanted to work together with Western Sugar to resolve some issues and find solutions that could help all concerned.

Nation informed the council of flushing of the water system that had affected water pressure for several hundred homes over the previous weekend.

Marler questioned why Barlow Road had been closed during the rebuilding of its intersection with US 34, and Curtis explained the reasons for the closure. Council and staff discussion ensued.

BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brennan announced upcoming meetings and highlights of recent news releases.

Mayor Shaver adjourned the Oct. 18, 2016 regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

/s/ Ronald Shaver
Mayor

/s/ John Brennan
City Clerk