

March 17, 2020

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 Lyn Deal  
Councilmember Allison Howe  
Councilmember Doug Schossow  
Councilmember Brian Urdiales

Absent: Councilmember Kevin Lindell (excused)

The meeting was also attended by Acting City Manager Brent Nation, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, Interim Police Chief Jared Crone, City Attorney Geoff Wilson, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Susan Kurk, Economic Development Specialist Sarah Crosthwaite and Deputy City Manager/City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

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#### **APPOINTMENT OF KATHY THOMPSON TO THE SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD**

Councilmember Allison Howe said the Senior Center board had unanimously recommended this appointment, and made a motion to appoint Kathy Thompson to the Senior Center Advisory Board. That motion was seconded by Councilmember Clint Anderson and approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0, with Councilmember Kevin Lindell absent (excused).

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#### **APPOINTMENT OF JENI ELRICK TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

Economic Development Specialist Sarah Crosthwaite said the Historic Preservation Board had recommended this appointment. Councilmember Lyn Deal made a motion to appoint Jeni Elrick to the Historic Preservation Board, which was seconded by Anderson and approved unanimously (6-0, Lindell absent).

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#### **RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING CITY MANAGER JEFFREY A. WELLS' SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN**

City Attorney Geoff Wilson said this resolution had been discussed in executive session and was substantially revised based on council feedback. He said this resolution was one of three major elements of the severance package with Wells, and would finalize the settlement with him. Howe offered a resolution to approve the Resolution acknowledging City Manager Jeff Wells' service to the City of Fort Morgan, which was seconded by Anderson and approved on a vote of 5-1, with Deal voting against and Lindell absent.

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#### **BIDS FOR AN EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM TO RECRUIT CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY MANAGER POSITION**

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Susan Kurk reviewed the process of evaluating the bids received, noting that two council members were chosen to assess the proposals and when one did not participate the mayor stepped in. Based on the council feedback Kurk narrowed

the field to the top two finalists and said council should choose between those without a personal recommendation from her. Mayor Shaver commented on his assessment of the two and said his top choice was KRW Associates and several council members agreed.

Deal offered a resolution to accept the proposal from KRW Associates of Colorado Springs as the executive search firm to recruit candidates for the city manager position. That resolution was seconded by Councilmember Doug Schossow and approved unanimously (6-0, Lindell absent).

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**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING FOR THE FIELDHOUSE PROJECT**

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City Treasurer Jean Kinney introduced Nate Eckloff of Piper Sandler, the placement agent that conducted the request for proposals for this financing. Eckloff said the RFP was sent to approximately 25 financial institutions and eight bids were received. He reviewed the proposals from the two lowest bidders and the pros and cons of each, and said the council could choose either and get a very good interest rate.

Council discussion of the proposals and the terms followed, including whether to take a loan for \$8 million or \$10 million and whether to pay it back over 10 years or 15 years. Kinney suggested a loan of \$10 million because the rate was so low, and a term of 15 years because there was no penalty for early payoff. After more council and staff discussion the consensus was \$10 million over 15 years.

Howe offered a resolution to approve the first reading of an Ordinance of the Council of Fort Morgan, Colorado, approving a lease purchase financing to provide funds for the construction and equipping of a community center and fieldhouse on city-owned property; authorizing and approving a site lease, a lease purchase agreement and other documentation relating to the lease purchase financing; and providing other details, parameters and authorization in connection with the lease purchase financing with BB&T for \$10 million over a term of 15 years, and to schedule a public hearing on the ordinance for April 7. That resolution was seconded by Anderson and approved unanimously (6-0, Lindell absent).

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**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING A STORMWATER UTILITY**

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Mayor Shaver said this item would be removed from the agenda and revisited at a later time given the current circumstances of the Coronavirus outbreak.

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**CONSENT AGENDA BY RESOLUTION**

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Deputy City Manager/City Clerk/PIO John Brennan presented the Consent Agenda for Council consideration as follows:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for February
- B. Approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2020 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.

Howe offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Anderson and approved unanimously.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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None.

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**REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF**

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Nation said the city staff was doing its best to keep up with the rapidly evolving Coronavirus emergency and also trying to keep the public informed. He said the city may consider an emergency declaration.

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**BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Brennan announced current bids and upcoming meetings.

Mayor Shaver adjourned the March 17, 2020 regular meeting at 6:44 p.m.

/s/ Ronald Shaver  
Mayor

/s/ John Brennan  
City Clerk