

February 13, 2024

The Red Lodge City Council met in regular session on February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Jody Ronning, Council President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Present: Aldermen Conlee, Daniels, Keys, Ronning and Toupin. Absent: Mayor Westwood (was present online)

**DEPARTMENT HEAD ATTENDANCE:** City Clerk – Loni Hanson

**COUNCIL VACANCY CANDIDATES-** Alderman Ronning said the City received one letter of interest for the Council vacancy, Doug Miller.

**Public Comment on Council Vacancy-** Doug Miller, Red Lodge, said he ran in last year's election for the Ward One seat. He said he felt with his accounting and finance background, he could be useful for the City.

**Appoint Council Member-** Motion by Conlee to open nominations for the Council vacancy.

Motion by Conlee, second by Toupin to nominate Doug Miller to fill the Ward One Council vacancy. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion passed.

Motion by Daniels to close nominations.

**Oath of Office-New Council Member-** Judge He Does It swore in Doug Miller as Ward One Council member.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Present: Aldermen Conlee, Daniels, Keys, Miller, Ronning and Toupin. Absent: Mayor Westwood (was present online)

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024** Motion by Daniels, second by Toupin to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024 as presented. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2024** Motion by Daniels, second by Toupin to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024 as corrected. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Aldermen Keys said on the January 23 meeting, under public comments on page 2, it should be Jenn "Capp" not Jenn "Battles."

**WARRANTS PAYABLE** Motion by Keys, second by Daniels to approve warrants against the City totaling \$848,243.06 to be paid and warrants drawn on their respective funds. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Alderman Keys said there are two CDBG grant pass throughs. She said we also paid the Red Lodge Rural Fire District \$307,000 for the 28 miles the City contracts for.

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS- Staff Introduction: Public Works Director-** Mayor Westwood introduced Mike Maples as the new Public Works Director. He said he started work on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor's Comments** – Mayor Westwood said the auditors have been working on the City's audit this week and things seem to be going well.

Mayor Westwood said the City was awarded a \$38,000 Arbor Day Grant to be used for trees along Rock Creek and Rotary Park. He thanked Alan Best and the Parks Board for working on that.

Mayor Westwood said the targeted opening date for the City pool is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary Update-** Mayor Westwood said he has been working with YWS and public works on the boundary for the sanctuary and will be bringing forward a map of the proposed changes.

**Airport Update-** Mayor Westwood said he is still working on the negotiations for the airport agreement. He also discussed the Rodeo Board's lease with the land West of the airport.

**Rocky Fork Inn Update-** Mayor Westwood said he has been working on gathering information on the Rocky Fork Inn property. He explained to the Council the process for the FEMA Grant that has been initiated for land acquisition.

**Resort Tax Review Committee (New Posting)-** Mayor Westwood said there are spots open on the Resort Tax Review Committee and they will be posted in the newspaper.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** None.

**ACTION ITEMS- Appoint Council Rep to the Sustainability Board and Parks Board-** Motion by Daniels, second by Conlee to appoint Alderman Toupin to the Sustainability Board and Parks Board. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

**Set Time and Place for Hearing for Request Tax Appeal-** Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to set the time and date for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. for Hearing for Resort Tax Appeal Request. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 3639, Resolution Calling for an Election on the Question of Conducting a Local Government Review-** Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to approve Resolution No. 3639, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Red Lodge, Montana, calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so as amended. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

There was discussion among Council members regarding the number of members of the study commission and the funding for that commission.

Motion by Keys, second by Daniels to amend Resolution No. 3639 to change the number of study commission members from five to three. On roll call vote Aldermen Daniels, Keys, Miller, Ronning and Toupin voted "Aye." Alderman Conlee voted "No." Motion carried.

Motion by Conlee, second by Toupin to amend Resolution No. 3639 to change the funding from \$25,000 to two (2) mills. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 3639

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY/TOWN COUNCIL OF THE CITY/TOWN OF RED LODGE, MONTANA, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF CONDUCTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION TO DO SO.**

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Montana requires that each unit of local government shall conduct an election once every ten years to determine whether the local government will undertake a local government review procedure; and

WHEREAS, 7-3-173(2) M.C.A. requires that the governing body shall call for an election, to be held on the primary election date, on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission; and

WHEREAS, the Red Lodge City Council is the governing body of the Red Lodge.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City/Town Council of Red Lodge hereby calls for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and electing a study commission to be held at the primary election on June 4, 2024.
2. If the voters decide in favor of conducting a local government review, a study commission comprised of three members shall be elected at the general election of November 5, 2024.
3. Pursuant to 7-3-175, M.C.A. the question of conducting a local government review shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

Vote for one:

☐ FOR the review of the government of Red Lodge and the establishment and funding, not to exceed two (2) mills, of a local government study commission consisting of three members to examine the government of Red Lodge and submit recommendations on the government.

☐ AGAINST the review of the government of Red Lodge and the establishment and funding, not to exceed two (2) mills, of a local government study commission consisting of three members to examine the government of Red Lodge and submit recommendations on the government.

Passed and adopted by the City/Town Council of the City/Town of Red Lodge, Montana meeting at regular session held on the 13th day of February, 2024.

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Dave Westwood, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Loni Hanson, City/Town Clerk

**Resolution No. 3632, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, Resolution to Conditionally Delay the Disposition of all Airport Assets-** Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to approve Resolution No. 3632, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, a resolution of the City Council to conditionally delay the disposition of all airport assets as amended. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to amend Resolution No. 3632, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, to change the date from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3632 (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONDITIONALLY DELAY THE DISPOSITION OF ALL AIRPORT ASSETS**

**WHEREAS** Carbon County has requested additional time to discuss a New Interlocal Agreement, and to discuss the finalization of disposition of Assets called for in the Airport Interlocal Agreement; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council for the City of Red Lodge is willing to provide additional time to discuss a new Interlocal Agreement and to assist in the disposition of Assets; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council is in need of all information concerning the Assets of the Airport Board.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Red Lodge, Montana, as follows:

The disposition of Assets called for in the Interlocal Agreement by August 13, 2023, is hereby stayed until **May 31, 2024, ~~February 15, 2024~~**, with the current Airport Board continuing in authority to maintain the Airport in its current state.

**PASSED and APPROVED** by a majority of the City Council for the City of Red Lodge on this the **13<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2024 ~~20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023~~**.

City of Red Lodge

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Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Loni Hanson, City Clerk

**CORRESPONDENCE-** Any correspondence was included in Council packets.

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY-** Alderman Conlee said the committee talked about ice on the sidewalk corners on Main Street. She said they talked about doing a survey about using Resort Tax funds for police wages. Conlee said they also talked about crisis management and addressing and fireworks.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE- Resolution No. 3640, Authorize to Submit CDBG Planning Grant**

**Application-** Alderman Toupin said they discussed Resolution No. 3640 and the grant would be used for a study on workforce housing and would be a pass through the City to the Community Foundation.

**Business Registration and Liquor License-** Alderman Ronning said there was a Senate bill that was passed last fall that states City's can not charge a license fee on things that the State already requires a license for. Ronning said the City is not charging for a license but a registration. She said we need to just clean up the resolution and ordinance pertaining to business registrations and the sale of liquor and our fees.

**City Council Rules and Procedures-** Alderman Ronning said the committee ran out of time to discuss the City Council Rules and Procedures. She asked the Council members to get anything they would like to see changed or included, to the Admin Committee.

**LAND USE AND PLANNING- Planning Board Priorities-** Alderman Conlee said the Land Use and Planning Committee went over the Planning Board Priorities list. The Committee felt that the Council should go through the list and prioritize what the Council thinks the Planning Board should work on.

There was more discussion among the Council regarding the Planning Board Priorities list.

**Urban Renewal District Parameters-** Alderman Conlee said the Urban Renewal Agency is still working on the procedures for how to handle requests for funding for projects within the District. She said they will bring forward to the Land Use and Planning Committee their suggestions.

There was more discussion among the Council regarding the Urban Renewal District parameters.

Alderman Conlee said the Land Use and Planning Committee also briefly discussed events.

**PUBLIC WORKS-** Alderman Toupin said the Public Works Committee met the new Public Works Director, Mike Maples. She said Alan Best was also there with information on other grant opportunities for a solar grid down by the sewer ponds and water infrastructure.

Toupin said they will also be looking into the Recycling Center's budget and looking into updating all of the contracts.

Toupin said they did not have a chance to talk much about the addressing, but will have it on their next agenda to discuss.

Alderman Keys said the Committee will be looking at the budget shortfall in the Solid Waste fund.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk

Disclaimer: These minutes conform to the requirements of MCA Code 2-3-212. A full recording of the meeting and discussion may be found at [www.cityofredlodge.net/meetings](http://www.cityofredlodge.net/meetings).

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