

March 12, 2024

The Red Lodge City Council met in regular session on March 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Westwood, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Present: Mayor Westwood, Aldermen Conlee, Daniels, Keys, Miller, Ronning and Toupin.

DEPARTMENT HEAD ATTENDANCE: City Clerk – Loni Hanson and Public Works Director- Mike Maples.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to approve the adoption of the agenda. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13 and FEBRUARY 27, 2024 Motion by Toupin, second by Keys to approve the minutes of February 13 and February 27, 2024 as presented. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

WARRANTS PAYABLE Motion by Ronning, second by Keys to approve warrants against the City totaling \$292,486.21 to be paid and warrants drawn on their respective funds. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

MAYOR’S BUSINESS- Mayor’s Reports – FY 22-23 Financial Audit Update- Mayor Westwood said the audit has been completed and he received the draft. He said he worked with the City Clerk on the finding responses and sent those back to the auditors and it has now been sent to the State for final approval. Mayor Westwood said once we receive the final report, he will provide it to the Council.

Airport Negotiations Update- Mayor Westwood said he included in the packet a bullet point list of goals for the airport negotiations.

There was more discussion among the Mayor and Council regarding the airport negotiations including the airport boundary and the airport agreement.

Other Mayor Comments- Mayor Westwood said he received four land use applications come; Cruisen Red Lodge, Beartooth Rally Camping, The Arts Guild for the Lions Park, and a private party for a wedding rehearsal at the Lions Park Gazebo. He said they have all been approved and put into the calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA- None.

ACTION ITEMS- Appoint Planning Board Members- Mayor Westwood said we have three board member terms that will be expiring on the Planning Board. He said two of those terms are Mayoral Appointments and one will be a Council Appointment.

Mayor Westwood said he would like to reappoint Al Bloomer and Susan Foisy to the Planning Board.

Motion by Ronning, second by Toupin to approve the Mayor’s reappoints of Al Bloomer and Susan Foisy to the Planning Board. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Conlee, second by Ronning to open nominations for the City Council appointment of a Planning Board member.

Aldermen Conlee nominated Pete Critelli to the Planning Board. Aldermen Toupin seconded.

No other nominations.

Motion by Conlee, second by Toupin to close nominations for the City Council appointment of a Planning Board member.

Motion by Conlee, second by Toupin to approve the City Council appointment of Pete Critelli to the Planning Board. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

Mayor Westwood mentioned that on the next City Council agenda, the Urban Renewal District has requested that the Council declare two of the URD board seats vacant.

Resolution No. 3642, Approving Recently Submitted Arbor Day Grant Application and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign Contract- Motion by Keys, second by Conlee to approve Resolution No. 3642, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Red Lodge approving and ratifying the previously submitted Arbor Day grant application, and authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with the Arbor Day Foundation regarding the Arbor Day grant for tree planting project. On roll call vote all Aldermen present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #3642

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RED LODGE APPROVING AND RATIFYING THE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED ARBOR DAY GRANT APPLICATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION REGARDING THE ARBOR DAY GRANT FOR TREE PLANTING PROJECT

WHEREAS, On January 8, 2024, a grant application was submitted on behalf of the City of Red Lodge to the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees in Red Lodge particularly at flood-affected areas near Rock Creek, inadvertently without first obtaining pre-approval to do so from the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City received notification that we were selected to receive the \$38,000 award with no required match, on February 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the grant will help restore trees and natural beauty to park(s) and public area(s) including those that were damaged by the floods of June 2022, and is in accordance with the 2015 Red Lodge Comprehensive Parks Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Arbor Day Grant and tree planting project were discussed at the Parks Board Meeting of February 7, 2024, and the City Council meeting of February 27, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the City of Red Lodge hereby approves and ratifies the Arbor Day Foundation Grant application submitted on January 8, 2024; and

That the City Council hereby authorizes Mayor Dave Westwood to sign a contract on behalf of the City of Red Lodge accepting said Arbor Day Grant.

City of Red Lodge _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Loni Hanson, City Clerk

There was discussion among Council members regarding the Arbor Day grant and what the funding could be used for.

Resolution No. 3643, EPA's CPRG Grant- Motion by Conlee, second by Daniels to approve Resolution No. 3643, authorization to submit EPA CPRG Grant application for a microgrid at the wastewater treatment plant and for water infrastructure and efficiency improvements, and to issue a request for proposal for energy services. On roll call vote Alderman Keys voted "Aye." Aldermen Conlee, Daniels, Miller, Ronning and Toupin voted "No." Motioned failed.

There was discussion among Council members and the Public Works Director regarding the resolution and the grant application.

Alderman Miller called question on the motion, seconded by Toupin.

Alan Best, Sustainably Board Member/ Grant application writer, answered some of the questions and concerns the Council brought up regarding the EPA CPRG grant.

The slideshow presentation the Council received from Alan Best would be included in the March 26th Council meeting packet under correspondence.

RESOLUTION #3643

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT EPA CPRG GRANT APPLICATION FOR A MICROGRID AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS, AND TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY SERVICES PROVIDER

WHEREAS, the Red Lodge City Council passed and approved Resolution #3498 on October 23, 2018, adopting the City of Red Lodge Energy Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Red Lodge City Council passed and approved Resolution #3636 on November 14, 2023 adopting an updated Energy Conservation Plan with accelerated greenhouse gas reduction goal timelines, referenced as Exhibit A ("Updated Energy Conservation Plan, adopted by City Council November 14, 2023"); and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently administering a nationwide grant competition for funding for greenhouse gas reduction projects (Climate Pollution

Reduction Grant or “CPRG”); and

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has submitted its Priority Climate Action Plan to the EPA which includes measures to include microgrids and government energy efficiency projects, referenced as Exhibit B (“MT DEQ Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to EPA on 3/1/2024”); and

WHEREAS, the EPA’s rules regarding CPRG grant applications allow Red Lodge to submit a grant application in alignment with the DEQ’s goals, referenced as Exhibit C (“Notice of Funding Opportunity”), with no required match; and

WHEREAS, the idea of applying for the CPRG grant for solar plus battery microgrids was presented and discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting on February 13, 2024, and at the Sustainability Board meeting on February 19, 2024, and at the City Council meeting of 2/27/24; and

WHEREAS, the idea of applying for the CPRG grant to help fund the ongoing Lazy M water pump bypass as described in the Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (“PER”), referenced as Exhibit D (“Water System PER”), and to help fund the the city’s stormwater diversion project as described in the Storm Water PER, referenced as Exhibit E (“Stormwater PER”), were presented and discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting on January 23, 2024, and were presented and discussed at the Sustainability Board meeting on January 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a grant for microgrids would be expected to result in significant energy cost savings for Red Lodge and would result in increased reliability and redundancy in power supply for vital city functions, as well as further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for the City; and

WHEREAS, a grant for water infrastructure and efficiency improvements would be expected to result in significant benefit to the city’s aging infrastructure systems including increased reliability and redundancy and would improve the Red Lodge Fire Department’s ability to extinguish fires, and ongoing energy cost savings for the city.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Red Lodge City Council:

1. That the City Council approves the submission of a grant application for microgrids and/or for public works efficiency and infrastructure improvements on behalf of the city, to the EPA CPRG grant program.

2. That the city approve authorization to issue the request for proposals (RFP) for an energy services provider per Montana Code Annotated 90-4-11, referenced as Exhibit F (“MCA 90-4-11”), and per Montana Code Annotated 7-5-4315, referenced as Exhibit G (“MCA 7-5-4315”), for the solar plus battery Microgrid.

3. That this grant application shall be conducted by the Red Lodge City Council, Public Works Department, and Sustainability Board whose composition shall be determined by the Council.

4. Appointment of a project champion to coordinate the grant application and administer the RFP for energy services providers and/or the PER for the water services provider whose scopes of work would include:

- a) assist with the grant application at minimal to no cost
- b) engineer, procure, and construct the project(s) if a CPRG grant award is received
- c) design and implement a 5-year performance plan to verify emissions reductions are achieved

INTRODUCED at a Regular meeting of the City Council on February 27, 2024.

City of Red Lodge _____

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 fireworks and if the Council would like to see a change in allowing them to be in the City limits, the committee would bring forward a

resolution to be approved to have it put on the ballot for the voters to make that decision. Alderman Conlee said they also discussed the pros and cons to a Public Safety district, annexing certain areas outside of the City limits, the police department ride along program and the Fire Department budget review.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE- City Council Rules and Procedures- Alderman Toupin said the updated City Council Rules and Procedures was included in the packet. There was more discussion among Council members regarding the Council Rules and Procedures. Alderman Ronning said this will be on the next Council agenda for action.

Business Registration and Liquor License- Alderman Keys said there was a Senate bill that was passed last fall that states City's cannot charge a license fee on things that the State already requires a license for. Keys said Resolution No. 3622, 1st amendment, will be updated to reflect tiers and which businesses fall into those tiers. She said the committee would like to see the resolution up for action at the next Council meeting.

There was more discussion among Council and Mayor regarding updating the business registrations resolution.

LAND USE AND PLANNING- Planning Board Priorities- Alderman Conlee said the Planning Board updated their ranking of priorities list and compared it to the City Council's ranking and said they both are very similar regarding the priorities.

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

Resolution No. 3645, Resolution of Intent for Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary- Alderman Conlee said they discussed the resolution of intent for the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary and would be bringing that forward for action at the next Council meeting.

Alderman Conlee said the committee also talked about creating Rodeo Park and events.

PUBLIC WORKS- Ordinance No. 968, Set Process in Which Fees are Collected for Solid Waste-Alderman Keys went over Ordinance No. 968 and the mechanism of collecting solid waste fees. Currently the fees are collected on property taxes and the committee is recommending moving the collection of fees onto water and sewer bills to be collected monthly. Alderman Keys said the purpose of this is to collect in the same month as the services are rendered.

There was more discussion among the Mayor and Council members regarding the process of collecting solid waste fees.

Resolution No. 3644, Resolution of Intent to Create Rodeo Park- Alderman Toupin said they discussed the option of creating Rodeo Park and MOU. She said they will continue to work on it.

Resolution No. 3646, Resolution Setting Pool Fees – Alderman Daniels said they discussed setting the new pool fees. She went over the different fees in the resolution. This will be on the next Council meeting for action.

Motion by Conlee, second by Toupin to extend the meeting end time to 8:15 p.m. All Aldermen approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY PUBLIC MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA- BR Walker, Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary, thanked the Council and Staff for the work on the YWS resolution. She said there was only one word they had concerns with in the resolution, which is “Encroachment,” other than that they are excited to move forward with this.

Beth Hutchinson, Red Lodge, said she likes the new discussion format. She said to think about senior tax discounts.

Dan Drobney, Red Lodge, had concerns regarding the MOU between the City and the Mountain Springs Villa Mobile Home community and things in the MOU are not being completed.

Royce Ness, Beartooth Little League, said he is working with the Public Works Department and Parks Board on doing some improvements at the baseball fields.

Angie Hazelswart, Red Lodge, said the meetings are going well. She also brought up the solid waste collections and at one time residents could get a smaller can.

Kristen Cogswell, Red Lodge, said Alan Best knows what he is talking about and the Council could, at the next meeting, authorize him to submit it and then do the research.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

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.

