

February 4, 2014

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Present: Honorable Mayor Terry L. McAlister
Councilmember Christine Castoe
Councilmember Damon Mussman
Councilmember Lisa Northrup
Councilmember Ronald Shaver

Absent: Councilmember Joe Segura Jr. (excused)
Councilmember Kevin Lindell (delayed by weather, arrived at 6:18 p.m.)

The meeting was also attended by City Manager Jeff Wells, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Michael Boyer, Community Services Director Josh Miller, Police Chief Darin Sagel, Fort Morgan Police Department Lt. Jared Crone, Assistant City Attorney Jason Meyers and City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JAN. 21, 2014 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Councilmember Lisa Northrup offered a resolution to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Ron Shaver and approved on a vote of 5-0, with Councilmember Joe Segura Jr. absent and Councilmember Kevin Lindell late.

PRESENTATION BY BUXTON RETAIL MARKETING SERVICES

Community Services Director Josh Miller introduced Brittany Roark and Lisa McKay of Buxton. Roark provided an overview of the company's services which included consumer analytics, and some of its successes in retail recruitment and retention in other communities across the country. She also answered several council and staff questions about success rates, the process followed and the support staff that would be required from the city. No action was taken.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

City Manager Jeff Wells said the city staff had been working on this plan for some time, and had reached the point where the council would need to make some key decisions regarding finalization and implementation of the plan. Wells outlined the draft economic development plan, which covered the four areas of building relationships, market analytics, responsible incentives and infrastructure. He said staff was exploring how to make economic development a primary focus in the coming year, and was looking for direction from the council on areas it would like to see addressed.

After some council discussion it was decided by consensus that this topic was so broad that a retreat should be held to discuss these issues, and the retreat was tentatively scheduled for April 22. No formal action was taken.

BIDS FOR TWO POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

FMPD Lt. Jared Crone reviewed the bid process for this purchase and said the staff recommendation was to go with the higher of the two bids received, for Dodge Chargers from Colorado Springs Dodge. Discussion followed about the reasons for choosing the higher bid, which included good experience with Chargers in recent years and the larger size of the vehicles to accommodate the large amount of equipment used by officers and the long periods of time officers spend in patrol cars.

Councilmember Lindell offered a resolution to accept the staff recommendation to purchase two Dodge Chargers from Colorado Springs Dodge at a total cost of \$51,192. That resolution was seconded by Shaver and approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0 (Segura absent).

BIDS FOR ELECTRIC CONDUCTORS

Wells said this was a purchase that would not normally come to the council under the city procurement policy because it was primarily for operations and maintenance, but because some of the materials would be used in capital projects it was being presented for council approval.

Councilmember Lisa Northrup offered a resolution to accept the unit bid prices for electric conductors from Western United Electric of Brighton, Colo., which was seconded by Councilmember Christine Castoe and approved unanimously (6-0, Segura absent).

BIDS FOR WATER HYDRANTS, VALVES AND PIPE

Wells also reviewed the bidding process for this purchase and noted that the best prices varied among the bidders depending on the specific equipment. The staff recommendation was to accept the unit pricing from three of the five bidders for the equipment they offered at the lowest price.

Northrup offered a resolution to accept the unit bid pricing from Dana Kepner Co. Inc. of Denver for the hydrants; from HD Supply Waterworks of Henderson, Colo., for the valves; and from Colorado Springs Winwater of Colorado Springs for the pipe and valve boxes. That resolution was seconded by Castoe and approved unanimously (6-0, Segura absent).

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO RETAIN ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION/WASTEWATER COLLECTION PROJECTS

Wells explained that this resolution would authorize the mayor to sign an agreement for engineering services, which are sometimes needed for the complex technical issues and sophisticated equipment at the city's water and wastewater treatment plants. Wells reviewed the process of evaluating proposals and qualifications of the nine companies submitting bids, with three finalists chosen for presentations and interviews. The consensus of the staff committee that conducted the interviews was to select Merrick & Company for their qualifications as well as their familiarity with the city's systems and processes.

Shaver offered a resolution to approve the Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign a services agreement with Merrick & Company for water and wastewater engineering services. That resolution was seconded by Lindell and approved unanimously (6-0, Segura absent).

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH EAGLENET

Wells reminded the council of its discussion of this matter in an earlier executive session, and said staff had now negotiated a proposed agreement as directed. This would allow the city to provide a temporary connection with EagleNet that would allow Morgan County and the Re-3 School District to obtain the broadband internet service they needed. Wells said negotiations would continue on a permanent connection in the future to help the county and the school district, although the city used a different provider and did not need service from EagleNet.

Morgan County Commissioner Jim Zwetzig addressed the council and said he appreciated the improved sense of cooperation between the city and county as well as other entities and hoped it would continue. He pointed out that broadband service was a great need for the city in terms of future economic development.

Councilmember Damon Mussman offered a resolution to approve the Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign an agreement between the City of Fort Morgan, Eagle-Net Alliance, Morgan County and Morgan County School District Re-3 for a temporary fiber network connection. That resolution was seconded by Castoe and approved unanimously (6-0, Segura absent).

COUNCIL ACTING AS THE BOARD OF THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AND SYSTEM ENTERPRISE OF THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO – RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE ELECTRIC COMMODITY RATE

Wells explained that this resolution would increase the usage rate for city electric customers, and was necessary because of increases in the wholesale power costs and other costs passed on to the city by one of its power suppliers, the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. Wells said the regulatory environment and energy policies of the federal government indicated that power costs would continue to rise, and further rate increases could be necessary in the future.

He said the city would be doing rate studies for its electric and gas utilities in 2014 and would bring those results back to the council, Wells also said the intent of making this rate adjustment now was to spread out such increases over time rather than imposing a larger increase all at once.

Northrup offered a resolution to approve the Resolution adjusting the electric rate for the Electric Department and System Enterprise of the City of Fort Morgan, which was seconded by Shaver and approved unanimously (6-0, Segura absent).

Later in the meeting it as clarified that, as stated in the Resolution, the rate increase would be effective Feb. 1, 2014, for all utility bills generated on or after that date.

PRESENTATION OF CITY MANAGER ANNUAL REPORT

Wells reviewed the report, copies of which were provided to the council at the start of the meeting, and focused on several highlights including efforts to improve community engagement and involvement; working with city employees to keep them engaged, focused and productive; the financial condition and stability of the city; and the excellent response of city employees to the river flood emergency in September, including cooperation and coordination of efforts with other government agencies and entities.

No formal action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

City Treasurer Jean Kinney clarified the effective date of the electric rate increase approved earlier in the meeting. Wells thanked the mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Shaver for their participation in a tour of the area with officials of the Colorado Housing Finance Authority the previous week, which he said helped build relationships and led to good discussion of what Fort Morgan can be.

BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brennan announced current bids and upcoming meetings. Northrup thanked the city streets department, and especially Streets Superintendent Jim Willis, for their ongoing efforts to clear snow and improve road conditions after a recent storm and a significant stretch of sub-zero temperatures.

Mayor McAlister adjourned the February 4, 2014 regular meeting at 8:12 p.m.

/s/ Terry McAlister _____

Mayor

/s/ John Brennan _____

City Clerk