

September 1, 2015

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 Kevin Lindell  
Councilmember Lisa Northrup  
Councilmember Joe Segura Jr.  
Councilmember Ronald Shaver

Absent: Councilmember Christine Castoe (excused)

The meeting was also attended by City Manager Jeff Wells, Police Chief Darin Sagel, Engineering/Public Works Director Brad Curtis, Community Services Director Josh Miller, Water Resources/Utilities Director Brent Nation, City Attorney Jason Meyers, Management Intern Chelsea Gondeck, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Michael Boyer, Parks Superintendent Doak Duke, Fire Chief Erik Christensen, Fire Captain Eric Smith, Chief Building Official Mike Kirkendall, Streets Superintendent Jim Willis, Library/Museum Director Chandra McCoy, Light & Power Superintendent Doug Linton and City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

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#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2015 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Councilmember Ron Shaver offered a resolution to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 regular meeting as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Lisa Northrup and approved unanimously on a vote of 5-0, with Councilmember Christine Castoe absent (excused).

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#### **PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING COLORADO CITIES & TOWNS WEEK**

Mayor Terry McAlister read the proclamation in recognition of Colorado Cities & Towns Week, an observance sponsored by the Colorado Municipal League to highlight the importance of municipal government in the daily lives of citizens.

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#### **APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY IN WARD 2**

Mayor McAlister noted previous discussion by the council regarding this vacancy, which was created when former councilmember Damon Mussman moved out of the ward and left the council. At that time the council had chosen to wait until the nominating period for the City Council election in November had unfolded, and if there were only two candidates for Ward 2 the council would appoint one of those candidates to serve out the remainder of Mussman's term until the newly elected council was seated in January. That scenario had come to pass, with Councilmember Joe Segura Jr. and Clint Anderson as the two candidates for the two Ward 2 seats on the council in the November election.

McAlister also noted that Anderson had been attending council meetings regularly for some time and had expressed interest in being appointed during the council's earlier discussions of the vacancy. City Manager Jeff Wells explained the process for appointing a new council member, which had to be done by ballot under the city charter, and said the appointment would be

effective until the election results were final and the new council was seated in January. At that time Segura and Anderson would begin new terms, and the election would decide which of the two received a new four-year term and which received the remaining two years of Mussman's term.

Mayor McAlister then said it would be good to hear from Anderson regarding his reasons for wanting to serve on the council. Anderson said he felt invested in the community, having lived in Fort Morgan for five years and raising his young children here, and wanted to be a part of the future and growth of the city. The best way to contribute, he said, would be to serve on the city council.

City Clerk/PIO John Brennan then distributed paper ballots to the council members, collected them and announced that the vote was 5-0 in favor of appointing Clint Anderson to the vacancy in Ward 2 on the Fort Morgan City Council.

McAlister administered the oath of office and Anderson took his seat with the council and began his duties as a council member.

Brennan then called the roll again:

Present: Honorable Mayor Terry L. McAlister  
Councilmember Kevin Lindell  
Councilmember Clint Anderson  
Councilmember Lisa Northrup  
Councilmember Joe Segura Jr.  
Councilmember Ronald Shaver

Absent: Councilmember Christine Castoe (excused).

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## **RESULTS OF COMMUNITY SURVEYS CONDUCTED AT PARTY IN THE PARK EVENTS**

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Brennan reviewed the results of the three community surveys conducted during these community outreach events at City Park in June and July, with about 200 surveys completed at each of the three events. Among other things, the surveys asked residents about the most important issues facing the city (55 percent said street repairs), their assessment of the city's utilities and customer service (about 90 percent said either good or excellent), and whether storm-related flooding issues existed within the city (87 percent said yes).

Brennan explained that on each of the last two surveys the city allowed the Morgan County Re-3 School District to ask two questions to gauge community opinion about what the school district should do with its old middle school building when the new middle school under construction was completed in 2016, and reviewed those responses.

Wells said the school district had formed a committee to examine possible future uses for its old middle school, and emphasized that the city was assisting the school district in those efforts but that it was not the city's responsibility to determine what should be done with the school district's building.

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## **PRESENTATION ON CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF THE PLAINS**

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Wells introduced Wayne Johnson and Lindsey Bruntz of Media Logic Radio, who had some new ideas for the fourth annual Christmas Capital of the Plains campaign and wanted to see if the council would support them. Wells said the campaign had become much more than a "shop local" promotion and was a community event with widespread appeal.

Johnson said one of the proposed additions for 2015 was to turn Riverside Park into a spectacular holiday light display, encouraging local businesses and organizations to decorate a segment of the park's loop drive with lights. Because this would require help from the city electric department, Johnson said, he would like the council's blessing to proceed with this promotion.

Bruntz spoke about another proposal to erect a 90-foot inflatable snow tubing hill downtown during the Christmas Capital campaign. The options of City Park and Beaver Avenue were explored, Bruntz said, with the Beaver Avenue alternative requiring closure of that street for several weeks.

Council and staff discussion followed about the ability to meet the electricity needs for the lighting displays and the impacts on local businesses and snow removal if Beaver Avenue were closed for the snow tubing hill.

Wells said a formal in-kind services request would be brought to the council after these details were worked out, and staff was just looking for council direction on whether these ideas were worth pursuing. Most council members seemed to support the proposals and the direction of council was to move forward with the ideas, but no formal action was taken.

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### **BIDS FOR A WORK CART FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT**

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Parks Superintendent Doak Duke reviewed the bidding process for this purchase, and said staff was recommending acceptance of the lower of two bids. Northrup offered a resolution to accept the bid from L.L. Johnson of Denver in the amount of \$24,456 for a heavy-duty work cart for the Park/Cemetery Department, which was seconded by Segura and approved unanimously (6-0, Castoe absent).

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### **BIDS FOR A SMALL MOWER WITH CAB AND BROOM FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT**

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Duke reviewed the bid process for this purchase, which would replace equipment used for snow removal on sidewalks in the city and around city facilities. Duke said staff was recommending the highest of three bids because that was from a local dealer and for the same brand of equipment as the department already had, making service and parts easier and less expensive. Northrup offered a resolution to accept the bid from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Equipment of Fort Morgan in the amount of \$38,740 for a small mower with cab and broom for the Parks/Cemetery Department. That resolution was seconded by Segura and approved unanimously (6-0, Castoe absent).

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### **SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY**

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Mayor McAlister reviewed the format to be used for the public hearing, and Brennan confirmed that proper legal notice of the hearing had been published. Wells said the ordinance was the same as presented on first reading, and noted that the city had received support for this new department from partners including the Morgan County Economic Development Corp.

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

City Attorney Jason Meyers explained the council's options for action, and Northrup offered a resolution approving the second and final reading of Ordinance No. 1177, creating an Economic Development and Marketing Department in the City of Fort Morgan, and authorizing publication by title only. That resolution was seconded by Shaver and approved unanimously (6-0, Castoe absent).

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**2016 BUDGET CALENDAR – PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS AND REVIEW OF SCHEDULE OF FEES**

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Wells explained that this was a continuation of the review of General Fund budgets that began at the previous meeting, and that the citywide schedule of fees was also subject to review. Segura stated that he didn't feel the higher fees for Saturday burials at the cemetery were justified, and council and staff discussion of this issue followed. Wells said information regarding the basis for this fee and comparisons with fees for Saturday burials charged by other communities would be brought back at a future meeting.

Fire Chief Erik Christensen presented the council with a framed photo of the city's newest fire truck, and reviewed the proposed budget for the Volunteer Fire Department. Christensen said he was proposing to add a paid position that could be combined with the fire marshal position and serve as a supervisor/manager for the department, which Christensen said were difficult functions for him to do as a volunteer. Council and staff discussion followed about this proposal and the reasons behind it, as well as the possibility of having a paid fire department in the future. McAlister said he would like to see some dollar amounts that would be associated with what Christensen was proposing for the paid manager position.

Chief Building Official Mike Kirkendall, Brennan, Streets Superintendent Jim Willis, Duke, Library/Museum Director Chandra McCoy and Community Services Director Josh Miller then presented their proposed budgets for the Building Inspector, Municipal Court, Streets, Parks/Cemetery, Library/Museum and Community Services departments, highlighting increases and additions and answering council questions.

Wells outlined the remaining budget calendar schedule for review and adoption of the 2016 budget. No formal action was taken.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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Jerry Wathen of 1100 Linda St. congratulated Anderson on his appointment to the council and outlined upcoming football games.

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**REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF**

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Wells referred to the release of "The Long Journey: Many Roads to Fort Morgan," a book produced by Morgan Community College's Adult Education program and Cargill Meat Solutions that was supported by a donation from the city. He announced that the city had been recognized with another award for the Riverside Park ball fields flood restoration project, this one from the American Public Works Association. Wells also mentioned resident concerns about the condition of alleys and said city crews were working to correct these, and encouraged residents to call the city with these concerns.

Wells commended the local school district for establishing a committee to explore possibilities for the old middle school. He said staff would bring a proposal for creating a stormwater utility to the council in the next couple of months, and spoke about purchases the city had made at the junior livestock sale at the Morgan County Fair.

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**BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Brennan announced current bids and upcoming meetings, and highlights of recent news releases. McAlister announced a piano concert to be performed by Wathen.

Mayor McAlister adjourned the Sept. 1, 2015 regular meeting at 8:32 p.m.

/s/ Terry McAlister  
Mayor

/s/ John Brennan  
City Clerk