

September 15, 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 Clint Anderson  
Councilmember Christine Castoe  
Councilmember Kevin Lindell  
Councilmember Lisa Northrup  
Councilmember Ronald Shaver

Absent: Councilmember Joe Segura Jr. (arrived late)

The meeting was also attended by City Manager Jeff Wells, Police Chief Darin Sagel, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, Engineering/Public Works Director Brad Curtis, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Michael Boyer, City Attorney Jason Meyers, Management Intern Chelsea Gondeck, Recreation Superintendent Jay Cochran, Golf Professional Ty Hamer, Light & Power Superintendent Doug Linton and City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

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#### **DISCUSSION OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A STORMWATER UTILITY**

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Wells reviewed the history of this initiative, which was spurred by localized flooding that occurs throughout the city with heavy rainstorms. A stormwater utility was recommended by an ad hoc committee created by the city several years ago, and city staff had been working on the problem incrementally with specific projects in problem areas since then. Wells said staff felt it was time to bring forth an ordinance creating the utility, and asked for council direction on that.

Council and staff discussion followed, with Wells and others noting that the state Department of Local Affairs had made it clear that unless the city implemented a stormwater fee to help fix the problem, future DOLA grants like the ones that had helped the city to accomplish some of the smaller projects would be unlikely.

Wells proposed an ordinance that would set several interim milestones that staff would have to accomplish, including the setting of a fee and a process for billing, by January 2017 in order for the new stormwater utility to be created. The council consensus was to move forward with that plan, and bring the ordinance forward for consideration, but no formal action was taken.

Councilmember Joe Segura Jr. arrived at the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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#### **2016 BUDGET CALENDAR – PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2016 BUDGETS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING DEPARTMENT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS**

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Recreation Superintendent Jay Cochran, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, Wells and Golf Professional Ty Hamer reviewed the proposed budgets for the Recreation Department, the Riverview Commons General Improvement District, the Fiber Network Fund, the Golf Fund, the General Government account and the Economic Development/Marketing Department, focusing on increases or decreases to the budgets and answering council questions.

During discussion of the Fiber Network Fund, Wells updated the council on staff's research into alternatives for using the city's existing fiber optic system to bring broadband internet to the

community. Light & Power Superintendent Doug Linton and Information Technology Director Nelson McCoy related what they had learned from other communities they had visited to see their efforts and progress on similar initiatives. Wells said the next step would be to have a design created for a system that could bring broadband to every home in the city, and the council's direction was to proceed with that plan. No formal action was taken.

During discussion of the Golf Fund and the General Government account in the General Fund, much council and staff discussion took place on whether the Golf Fund should continue to be a separate enterprise fund, or should instead be merged into the General Fund and treated like other departments such as Parks and Recreation. Wells and Hamer explained that during the peak of popularity for golf several decades ago, many municipal courses were profitable and used as enterprise funds to be self-supporting. Since then, however, golf revenues had declined and costs had risen, and many communities now considered their golf courses to be amenities like parks and funded their operation through the general fund. The council consensus was that Fort Morgan should do the same and place golf course expenses under the General Fund, starting in the next budget year. No formal action was taken.

Wells also explained that the newly created Economic Development/Marketing Department would not be headed by a new director but would be staffed initially with a specialist under the Community Services Department, reporting to Director Josh Miller, who had spent the past year or more taking courses and attending conferences on economic development. Management Intern Chelsea Gondeck outlined the initial focus of this new department, and noted that it was a great time to be building an economic development office within the city, in tandem with the new comprehensive plan that would be developed over the next year.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA BY RESOLUTION**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for August
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Sept. 1, 2015 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.

Councilmember Christine Castoe offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Shaver 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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Wells noted that his monthly written report was in the council meeting packets. He told the council he had been approached by a resident about a new proposal for use of the landscaping planter boxes on the downtown street corners, and was evaluating that proposal.

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## **BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Brennan announced current bids and upcoming meetings, and reminded residents of street closures associated with the annual Fall Harvest Car Show the next weekend.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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The regular portion of the meeting ended at 7:53 p.m., and Mayor McAlister said the next item on the agenda was a scheduled executive session. Castoe made a motion to convene the executive session, which was seconded by Lindell and approved unanimously.

The executive session had been published as follows:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b); AND THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE PROVIDED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES: Conflict waiver.

The executive session began at 8:04 p.m. and concluded at 8:18 p.m., and was attended by the mayor and council members along with Wells and City Attorney Jason Meyers. On the advice of the city attorney the recording of the session was turned off at 8:05 p.m. because the subject matter constituted a privileged attorney-client communication. The recording was turned back on at 8:17 p.m.

At the conclusion of the executive session the council returned to the regular open meeting, where Castoe reported that the council had met in executive session for the purpose stated on the agenda. Castoe made a motion to authorize the mayor to sign a waiver of conflict for Alan Keefe at Sherman & Howard, which was seconded by Northrup and approved unanimously.

Mayor McAlister adjourned the September 15, 2015 regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

/s/ Terry McAlister  
Mayor

/s/ John Brennan  
City Clerk