

January 18, 2011

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 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Present: Honorable Mayor Terry L. McAlister
Councilmember Scott Bryan
Councilmember Sharol Lyn Deal
Councilmember Debra J. Forstedt
Councilmember Brent M. Nation
Councilmember James A. Powers
Councilmember Ronald Shaver

The meeting was also attended by Acting City Manager/City Attorney Jeffrey Wells, Police Chief Keith Kuretich, Director of Water Resources Gary Dreessen, Municipal Engineer Brad Curtis, Community Development Director David Callahan, Community Services Director Patti Evans, Treasurer Terri Schafer, Electric Superintendent Doug Linton, Streets Superintendent Ken Breneman, Gas Superintendent Tony Behrends, Water and Wastewater Superintendent Mitch Church, Inventory Control/Building Maintenance Supervisor Doug Hofman and City Clerk John Brennan.

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE

Acting as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, the council considered an application for renewal of a Retail Liquor Store License for Midwest Gas & Grocery LLC, dba Midwest Liquor, located at 105 S. Main Street, with a previous violation. The applicant had submitted a complete application and paid the appropriate fees, the city attorney had reviewed the application and the police department had spoken with the owners about the earlier violation for sale of alcohol to an underage person. The applicants also submitted a letter to the council at the meeting outlining their response to the violation and their training requirements for staff at the store.

Councilmember Powers asked several questions about the store's operation and said he was glad to see the store actively involved in training. Mayor McAlister commended the owners for taking steps to correct the violation.

Councilmember Forstedt offered a motion to approve the application for renewal, which was seconded by Councilmember Bryan and approved unanimously.

McAlister then asked the council if it would be willing to switch items 4 and 5 on the agenda, as he felt it made more sense to take up these items in that order. Item 4 was a review of the 2011 budget with several departments and item 5 was a discussion of levels of service in various departments and an opportunity to seek council direction on those matters.

DISCUSSION AND COUNCIL DIRECTION ON LEVELS OF SERVICE IN DEPARTMENTS

Acting City Manager Wells noted that over the past several years some city staff positions had been added and eliminated, and he wanted council direction before moving ahead with other such changes.

He said the city management staff had discussed the proposed hiring of a purchasing agent, and the staff generally agreed that a full-time Information Technology person would be more valuable to the city. The council generally agreed with this proposal.

Wells then reviewed a proposal to add an accountant in the city's finance department, as a means of segregating duties and performing checks and balances on city financial matters. This had been recommended by the city's financial auditor, Wells said, but it was not in the 2011 budget and staff would have to find a way to make it fit within the budget.

Several council members said it would be wise to follow the advice of the auditor, while Powers said he was not completely sold on the idea and would probably be against it, although he agreed it is important to listen to recommendations from the auditor.

Wells suggested that if the council agreed with hiring another accountant, the staff could figure out how to make it fit in the budget. McAlister asked that staff do that and bring back a proposal that would outline the impacts on level of service in other city departments.

REVIEW OF 2011 BUDGET

Municipal Engineer Curtis reviewed the approved budget for various departments under his control, including staffing levels, revenues and expenses, planned capital projects and equipment purchases and other matters. He reviewed the budgets for the gas, water distribution, wastewater collection, electric, streets, inventory control and building maintenance departments.

Director Dreessen reviewed the budgets for the water, wastewater and sanitation funds.

Treasurer Schafer reviewed the budgets for the finance, utility billing and network operations departments, and all three directors answered council questions about their various departments, operations and budgets.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Brennan presented the Consent Agenda for Council consideration. Councilmember Nation offered a Resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and moved for its adoption. His motion was seconded by Councilmember Shaver; said Consent Agenda being in words, letters and figures as follows, to wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Jan. 4, 2011 regular meeting.
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Jan. 11, 2011 special meeting.
- C. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for December.

The amount of the December disbursements was \$3,462,614.11, and the payroll amount for December was \$613,371.24, for a total of \$4,075,985.35.

All matters listed under Item 6, Consent Agenda, are considered 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.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of January, 2011, the vote upon roll call being as follows: Ayes: Mayor McAlister; Councilmembers Bryan, Deal, Forstedt, Nation, Powers and Shaver. Nays: none.

PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Brennan announced upcoming bids and meetings. Treasurer Schafer provided an update on the installation of new software in the city finance and utility billing departments. Mayor McAlister announced several upcoming events and activities in the city recreation department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor McAlister asked for a motion to proceed to a scheduled executive session. The motion was made by Powers and seconded by Shaver, and approved unanimously.

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: Separation agreement with Pat Merrill.

The executive session began at 9:26 p.m. and concluded at 10:17 p.m. The session was attended by the mayor and council members as well as City Attorney and Acting City Manager Jeff Wells.

Following the session the council returned to the open meeting, where a motion was made by Forstedt and seconded by Powers to accept Merrill's resignation effective immediately and to direct the City Attorney to finalize the severance agreement with Mr. Merrill. All voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilmember Bryan, who voted against.

Mayor McAlister adjourned the January 18, 2011, regular meeting at 10:20 p.m.

/s/ Terry L. McAlister

Mayor

/s/ John J. Brennan

City Clerk