

Council Meeting  
December 7, 2021  
7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor John Bigart III, Jaime Odell, Anna LeDuc, Sharon Briggs, and Joe Hanson.

**Minutes:** The November 2, 2021, minutes were read by the clerk. Jaime made a motion seconded by Anna to approve the minutes as read. All were in favor.

**Claims:** The claims were discussed. A motion was made by Jaime seconded by Anna to pay the claims from check number 16185 through 16198 in the amount of \$23,378.21. All were in favor.

The Council received and reviewed the bank reconciliation and cash report. They have access at the Expenditure to Budget and Revenue to Budget financial reports.

**Water Sewer:** The mayor informed those present that Chris Baez had resigned as the towns water/wastewater operator it was not the job he thought it would be. Marvin Garding will take over as the water/wastewater operator along with the maintenance operator. If it becomes more than what he can do, we will look into something different. Rc Askew will assist Marvin in any way that he can when needed. For now, it looks like the department is running well.

Marvin Garding updated on the maintenance department. He had a contractor come and look at the sinking floor in the center. The contractor will do a temporary fix in December. The cost will be approximately \$800.00 to \$1,000.00. He will come back in the spring to reassess and do a permanent repair.

The speed signposts need to be bolted to a concrete pad so that they can break away if needed. We will be finishing this in the spring.

**Fire Department:** Chief Joe Calnan was not at the meeting.

**Sheriff Department:** Sheriff Toth was not at the meeting.

**County Planner:** Andy Short was at the meeting. He updated on the county. The Lower Alberton Meadows subdivision was approved by the planning board with 36 conditions. It has been forwarded to the county commissioners for their approval or denial. The mayor wanted to know if the HOA could decide after a while to not allow public access to the pathway. It would need to go before the commissioners before that could be done.

**Tree at Center:** The big spruce tree in front of the center had lost its top in the recent windstorm. This caused a branch to lodge itself in the roof. A claim has been filed with the town's insurance company for repairs. According to the arborist that aided in the removal of the top of the tree, it is dying because of the trauma. The Clerk stated that maybe we should remove the tree this spring and replace it with a different tree and honor

Tom and Willie Wheeler who purchased the tree for the town in 1982. The Clerk will contact Willie to see what kind of tree she would like to have replace this one.

**DNRC Floodplain:** Nadene Wadsworth from the DNRC was on the phone along with Traci Sears and Tiffany Lyden. They discussed the floodplain map revision. In 1975 the town was a part of the floodplain map but was removed in 1978. Since then, the town has not had a floodplain map. In updating the map they discovered that there is a very small section by the Clark Fork River that should be included in the map. Most of the town is not in flood danger. The DNRC has a project website that has all the information on it. [www.floodplain.mt.gov/mineral](http://www.floodplain.mt.gov/mineral). The next plan for the town would be to review the maps and information, have a comment and appeal period and begin working on joining the NFIP. They are planning on attending the January meeting.

**Move forward with Annexation:** The mayor stated that throughout 2021 the town had applied and received several grants for our water project. We had applied for a 1.8-million-dollar ARPA grant but did not receive it. We did receive \$88,369.00 grant from ARPA. Because we did not receive the large grant, we are not able at this time to include the new well and water tank that is in phase 3 and 4 of the project, therefore we are not able at this time to provide water to the subdivision. We could look into annexing the property into town without water and sewer. Sharon wanted to know what the impact would be on fire protection and law enforcement. We will look into a resolution of intent for next month's meeting.

**Oaths of Office:** The Clerk administered the oaths of office for Sharon Briggs and Anna LeDuc for council and John Bigart III for mayor.

**Public Comment:**

Kim Garding stated that she had tried to remove the graffiti from the skatepark but was not able to. We will look into getting something that has a long extension. The clerk stated that she had a long-handled wash broom that she could donate to see if it would work.

The clerk stated that the furnace in the library needs to be replaced because it is old. She will be taking the 23<sup>rd</sup> off for the holiday.

Jaime made a motion seconded by Anna to adjourn.

Being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk

Seal

