

**CITY OF BELGRADE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 6, 2023
7:00 PM**

This meeting was open to the public and attended in person.

Mayor Russell C. Nelson called the meeting to order. Council Members in attendance were Mike Meis, Jim Simon, Jim Doyle and Renae Mattimoe. Council Member attending via Zoom was Kristine Menicucci.

City staff in attendance were City Manager Neil Cardwell, City Attorney Rick Ramler, City Clerk Camille Gregory, Executive Assistant Dana Jambor, Director of Finance Charity Wilson, Library Director Gale Bacon, City Judge Chris Gregory, Engineering Director Tom Eastwood, Community Development Director Jason Karp, Human Resource Director Becky Wilbert, Fire Chief Greg Tryon.

Others in attendance were Pamela Knowles, Jane Schumacher, Robert Schumacher, Vonnie Sayers, Kali Peterson, Gabe Kreis, Aleck Gantick, April Kreis, Vivian Crouse, Judy Doyle, Monica Mart, Diana Perry, Jason Guffey.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Nelson called for public comment.

Aleck Gantick residing on N. Kennedy, spoke on behalf of their neighborhood, he voiced concerns about the City purchasing houses with public funds, that the Public Lands and Institutions district (PLI) zoning would limit the freedom for homeowners who wanted to sell to the public rather than only to the city and what it would do to appraisal values.

City Manager Caldwell explained PLI zoning wouldn't affect the appraisal of any home. There was no intent to force anyone out of their homes and that the letters were intended to start the conversation with the public about the city offices growing and the purchasing of homes, but nothing had been decided at this time.

Mayor Nelson reiterated that there was no intent to force anyone out.

Community Development Director Karp noted that there would be a public meeting for the Planning board Monday February 27, 2023, for the zoning, first reading will be March 6, 2023 and council would hear the second reading March 20, 2023.

Vonnie Sayers residing on N. Kennedy wanted clarification on what could be built on the properties that the city purchases.

Karp explained that the current zoning of R2 allowed temporary offices to be built but no permanent offices.

Mayor Nelson called three more times for public comment. There being none, public forum was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Draft Council Minutes: 01/17/22, 1/26/23 special.
- Resolution 2023-3 Intent To Consider Annexation of The Williams Property and set date for public hearing 03-20-2023.
- Submission Letter For “Acting City Manager” Article III Section 3.02 Belgrade Charter

ACTION: Council Member Simon moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Council Member Mattimoe seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Discuss and Consider First Reading of Ordinance 2023-1 To establish A Municipal Court in The City of Belgrade and set date for public hearing.

City Judge Gregory summarized the concerns of having a non-attorney judge position in such a fast-growing city. He reviewed plans for becoming A Municipal Court which requires the Judge to be an Attorney. It would also mean the Council would need to establish a Municipal Court Clerk position. It was assumed the current Court Administrator would move into that role.

City Attorney Ramler pointed out that the updated version of the ordinance allowed the city council to amend by resolution to amend the amount of the administrative fee going forward.

Mayor Nelson called for public comment. There was none.

ACTION: Council Member Meis moved to approve first reading of Ordinance 2023-01 and set a public hearing and final reading on February 21, 2023. Council Member Mattimoe seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Professional Services Agreement for Work Order 22-04 – Sewer Lagoon rehabilitation Project.

Engineering Director Eastwood reviewed the lagoon rehabilitation and water reclamation facility project. He explained this component had to be separated out of the job, that we will need to hire a separate engineer to complete the project and that it was severely underbid because we will need to replace the liners that are 20+ years old.

City Manager Cardwell noted that this aspect of the WWTF had come up during the negotiations of the settlement agreement. The lost estimate was between \$1.5M to \$3M and would be covered by the existing fund source.

Discussion followed about the encapsulation of the lagoon, how it would address the odor issues, type of liners that they are looking at and supply chain concerns.

Mayor Nelson called for public comment. There was none.

ACTION: Council Member Doyle moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services with Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC in the amount of \$231,000.00 associated with City of Belgrade Work Order 22-04. Council Member Simon seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Cardwell requested to move Agenda Item 4.5 (the Library update), as the next item of discussion.

Discuss Belgrade Community Library Update

Belgrade Library Director Bacon reviewed the current programs including Community Wide Read of the Last Green Valley, Tax help for the public and the availability of Hotspots to the public. They were available for reserve in two-week increments. They were very popular and had a long waitlist.

Council member Mattimoe commented that the book The Last Green Valley was very moving and encouraged anyone to pick it up.

Discuss 2022 Growth Report from the Community Development Department

Community Development Director Karp gave a brief report on growth in the Belgrade area. Belgrade was now one of the 8 largest cities in Montana and provided some Census data and Housing development data from 2020 to now. Karp noted that a recession was possible, but that the growth in the Gallatin Valley area would probably hold steady. He explained that in the past, the growth in population was due to people moving in from other places in Montana, but now people were coming in from out of state.

Mayor Nelson commented on the growth of Belgrade.

Library Director Bacon mentioned she had heard that there were now more jobs openings in Belgrade, than the projected Number of high-school students graduating this year.

Mayor Nelson called for public comment on the library updates and Growth Report. There was none.

Discuss and Consider Ward 3 Vacancy Applications

City Manager Cardwell suggested options for building a committee with some Council Members to have a discussion, or the Council could direct the city manager to have a workshop (Meet and greet) where the applicants could come and introduce themselves or have the individual Council Members reach out to the applicants and report back. He explained that the called for that a full Council deliberation decision verses a mayor appointment with council approval.

Discussed the workshop option and agreed to set a date.

City Mayor Nelson calls for a Ward 3 workshop meet and greet February 21 2023 at 5pm.

Mayor Nelson called for public comment

Pamela Knowles, residing on New York Dr. in Ward 3 introduced herself and stated she was a candidate.

Jason Guffey, Belgrade resident stated he planned to participate in the workshop as well.

Mayor Nelson established a deadline to have all applications for the Ward 3 seat turned in by February 17 2023 at 3pm.

ACTION: Council Member Simon moved to set the deadline for Ward 3 vacancy applications to be turned in by February 17 2023 at 3pm. Council Member Mattimoe seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Mayor Nelson reported he would not be present for the first meeting of March and called on Council Member Meis to act as Deputy Mayor

City Attorney Ramler had nothing to report.

City Manager Cardwell reports the senate natural resources committee would hold a hearing Wednesday February 8 2023, on bill 237, which revolves around Belgrade's wastewater capacity and our ability to issue permits beyond the paper capacity. He will be attending the meeting to speak in support of the bill.

Community Development Director Karp further explain the bill.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Council Member Meis reported that he was unable o attend the planning board meeting due to illness.

Council Member Simon had nothing to report.

Council Member Menicucci reported she was contacted by a constituent about the airport authority wanting to add 2,000ft to the main runway to the east, in order to bring in jumbo jets. They were concerned about the noise pollution and asked if the city could do anything about it.

Engineering Director Eastwood explained the master plan related to this was on the airport authority's website.

Council Member Doyle reported that he had missed the Senior Center Board meeting the beginning of January. The Center was looking for more help.

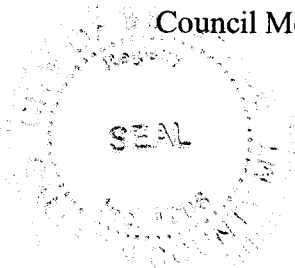
City Manager Cardwell reported that the senior center board would be reviewing complaints related to parking citations. He also noted that staff was looking into the costs of acquiring A passenger van for the Senior Center to use on various group outings.

Council Member Mattimoe reported that Belgrade Aquatic had met several times to go over a game plan to get the word out about the Regional Park District and Aquatic Center ballot question. Social medias would be set up and \$10 yard signs would be ordered. There will be a lot of opportunities for the public to meet with Belgrade Aquatic Center. Lunch at the Senior center for Q&A 2-20-23, Q&A at the Library 2-28-23 10:30am-12pm, Open house 2-15-23 4-5p for the public to meet Belgrade Aquatic center, Pint Night at Bar 3 3-9-23 & 4-6-23, Bingo at the Senior Center in April at an undetermined date.

Mayor Nelson confirmed there was a Council Planning retreat scheduled March 21 2023 in Bozeman.

ADJOURN

Council Member Mattimoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell C. Nelson".

Russell C. Nelson, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Camille Gregory".

Camille Gregory, City Clerk