

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 VIRGINIA STREET, NEW MEADOWS

Welcome, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Present at City Hall was Mayor Julie Council Members Jeff Parnett and Kaytlyn Gilliam. Present via Zoom were Council Members Darla Weber and Shiloh Ryker.

Staff present at City Hall were Kyla Gardner, Daniel Potter, and Angie Mettie. Staff present via Zoom were Dana Kautz and City Attorney Dick Stubbs.

Public present at City Hall was Hailey Logan. Public present via Zoom was Darbey Edwards.

Mayor Good opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. and Council Member Gilliam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation

Mayor Good presented three plaques from the Stibnite Foundation to 2020-2021 grant recipients. Kaytlyn Gilliam, representing Meadows Valley School, received a plaque for creating learning opportunities using the greenhouse and pollinator garden. Kyla Gardner, representing the City of New Meadows, received a plaque for a project to upgrade the city's dog kennels, and a plaque to install flashing crosswalk signs on Virginia Street.

Reports

Staff Reports

The Council reviewed written staff reports. Public Works Assistant Potter gave an oral report, stating that all drains have been prepared for winter, equipment has been maintained for the snow plowing season, and potholes have been filled. The weather has not cooperated with grading the roads and preparing them for snow plowing. The heater in the booster station required repairs, and C&N Electrical was called to replace faulty wiring. The park restrooms remain closed. Potter also stated that it takes 13 hours to plow all of town, using 40 gallons of fuel in the loader and 22 gallons of fuel in the grader.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Good would like a list created of individuals / businesses who will remove snow from properties. She also stated that the city does not remove berms, and that this is the property owner's responsibility. She stated that the tree lighting was a success and thanked all of the volunteers. Good then introduced Hailey Logan, who would like to repaint the park restrooms as her senior project. She provided drawings to the Council. One suggestion was to use art, but not text, as it is sometimes encourages others to add to it. The Council was in support of Hailey's project.

Discussion Items

Remaining Heigho Funds

Mayor Good noted that even though Granite Excavation returned to fix the drainage issue at the Post Office on S Heigho, water continues to pool at that location. It will cause unsafe conditions when it freezes and will also crack the pavement. Granite has been contacted regarding the issue, and if they cannot repair the area, someone else will be called.

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Animal Control Ordinance - Cats

After review of the Animal Control Ordinance, the Council would like to limit the number of cats. They would also like to educate the public regarding the feeding of stray cats, and possibly reach out to ranchers and rural residents to see if they would like to adopt barn cats. The animal control ordinance will be amended and ready for review at the next meeting.

Water Project Update

Mayor Good met with Tim Farrell and John Stone of Mountain Waterworks regarding the water project. The booster station is of concern, as it is very old. The building is in good condition and could be retrofitted, saving approximately \$450,000. Good would like to meet with the City's funders to discuss funding options. She will report the outcome at the next meeting. She cautioned against waiting any longer, as labor and supply costs are continuously rising.

Annual Calendar

Mayor Good would like to create an annual calendar so that meetings can be planned out quarterly. Council Members were encouraged to share their schedule so that absences could be noted ahead of time.

New E-mail Addresses

New E-mail addresses were set up for council members and will be activated after the meeting.

Action Items

Resolution TBD-2021 Sewer Rate Adjustment - \$1.50

The Council reviewed the Rates and Fees resolution for 2022. The only changes from the previous year were a sewer flat rate adjustment of \$1.50, the removal of the Displacement RV fee, and a daily RV Permit fee of \$5. The Displacement RV expiration date was changed from 90 days to 180 days.

- Council Member Gilliam moved to approve Resolution TBD-2021; Council Member Parnett seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote – Gilliam – yes, Parnett – yes, Weber – yes, Ryker – yes. Motion carried.

Approval of Canvassed Election Results

Adams County sent the official election results for the November 2, 2021, election. These included New Meadows' Mayoral race, with 46 votes going to Julie Good, and 29 votes going to Brad Steiner. The McCall-Donnelly joint school district Trustee Zone 3 was also voted on. Jeremy Griffin received 19 votes and Rachel Esplin received 7 votes.

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve the canvassed election results; Council Member Gilliam seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Gilliam – yes, Parnett – yes, Ryker – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Cost of Living Adjustment

Mayor Good noted that the federal cost of living adjustment percentage this year is 5.9%. She recommended a 3% adjustment, as this was the budgeted amount. The adjustment is solely for the cost of living, not performance or work quality.

- Council Member Parnett moved to approve a cost of living adjustment for all city employees of 3%; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Parnett – yes, Gilliam – yes, Weber – yes, Ryker – yes. Motion Carried.

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The cost of living adjustment will take affect with the January 1st payroll.

RV Use Amendment

The Council reviewed the RV Use Amendment, which removes the requirement of licensing of RVs and removes the fee for displacement permits.

- Council Member Gilliam moved to introduce Ordinance TBD-2021, amending Title 4, Chapter 5 of the New Meadows City Code, and suspend the rules requiring three separate readings on three separate days and read by title only once; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Weber – yes, Parnett, yes, Ryker – yes, Gilliam – yes. Motion carried.

City Clerk Gardner read the ordinance amendment by title only.

- Council Member Gilliam moved to approve ordinance TBD-2021, amending Title 4, Chapter 5 of the New Meadows City Code; Council Member Weber seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Gilliam – yes, Parnett – yes, Ryker – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Park Restrooms

The park restrooms remain closed due to vandalism and the need for a new heater. Mayor Good stated that a security system is needed before they are reopened. Many complaints are being received due to the restrooms being closed. However, it does not make sense to repair and clean them only to have them vandalized again. The cost of a porta-potty at the park would be \$190 per month. Ideas from the council included a security system, motion lights, and possibly coordination with the school students as a community service project.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included November 8, 2021, minutes, November 2021 payroll, and Paid & Pending claims. There were no questions regarding the claims.

- Council Member Weber moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Council Member Ryker seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryker – yes, Gilliam – yes – Parnett – yes, Weber – yes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Topics

Future meeting topics included an update on the park restrooms, right-of-way ordinance, water project update, fire hydrant adoption, financials, and visits from County Commissioner Purdy and the Sheriff's department.

Adjournment

Mayor Good adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Julie A. Good, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Kyla Gardner, City Clerk