

🏠 Location: City Hall  
📅 Date: October 12, 2021  
🕒 Time: 6:00pm

## City of Electric City Council Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021

### Public Hearing

- At 6:00pm a public hearing was held to discuss the City's intent to file an application for federal assistance with the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Services for funding to line approximately 8,000 linear feet of the City's sewer system with Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP).
- There were no questions or comments from those in attendance.
- A motion was made and seconded to allow CenturyWest Engineering to submit a grant/loan application to USDA on behalf of the City of Electric City for the sewer lining project.

M/S (Buche/Hoffman) CU

The Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Mayor Diane Kohout on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

**Present by Roll Call:** Council Members Brian Buche, Cheryl Hoffman, Don Redfield, Bob Rupe, Cate Slater

**Staff members/Others present:** Arrow Coyote/Electric City Resident, Steve Nelson/CenturyWest Engineering, Peggy Nevsimal/City Clerk/Treasurer, Carol Rupe/Electric City Resident, Mike Shear/Code Compliance, John Tufts/Police Chief

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

M/S (Slater/Buche) CU

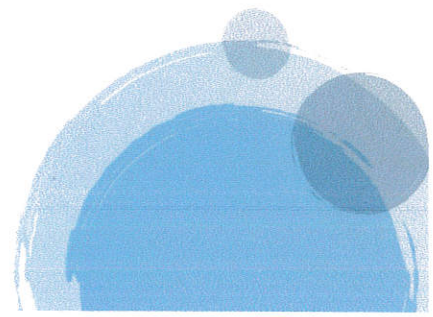
### Consent Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda, with one correction to the September 14, 2021 council meeting minutes, including that Diana Parrish, Deputy Clerk was also in attendance.

M/S (Rupe/Slater) CU

### Public Comments

There were no public comments.



## Unfinished Business:

- Steve Nelson from CenturyWest Engineering went through the project list for the city.
  - The Complete Streets Sidewalk project has been submitted to WSDOT for review. The project is on target to be bid out late in 2021 with a start date in early 2022.
  - The planning on the Pedestrian/Bike path project continues. WSDOT would like to see the path extend the entire length of Coulee Playland's upper campground. The new length would cost an additional \$30,000 and would need to be secured from an additional funding source.
  - CenturyWest is in negotiations with WSDOT regarding the speed limit on Hwy 155 along the proposed Pedestrian/Bike pathway. Dropping the limit to 30-35 is acceptable along the pathway but dropping the limit all the way to the intersection of Hwy 155 and Hwy 174 is not currently acceptable with WSDOT. The council and CenturyWest agree that a public hearing in the Spring of 2022 would be needed to gain community input on the topic.
  - The application process to request grant funding for the sewer lining project has been completed. A public hearing was held at the beginning of this council meeting to complete the official submittal process needed to forward the application onto USDA.
  - The grant application process for a rolling stock grant/loan package for a new Utility Truck for the Public Works Department from USDA has asked for new quotes from auto dealers and additional financial balance sheets.
  - An application was submitted in August to the Transportation Improvement Board for the resurfacing of State & Lincoln streets. Determination of approval or denial should take place by mid-November.
  - CenturyWest has applied on behalf of the city for a TIB Preservation Project grant that provides crack seal and cold patch to towns. We will hear the week before Thanksgiving whether our application has been approved.
  
- Animal Control Information
  - Code Compliance officer Mike Shear presented financials on how much an animal control program would cost for the area. The annual expense would be approximately \$12,000.
  - To build a new facility would cost approximately \$200,000.
  - Chief Tufts stated that they do not field a lot of calls on dangerous dogs and they do not catch loose dogs.
  - The Regional Board of Mayors, council members and city staff will continue to make inquiries regarding vacant buildings in the area to see if there might be a building that can be retrofitted as an animal control building.
  
- TVI Investments
  - City Clerk Nevsimal updated the council members on the health of the City's Bond holdings. The City Bonds are currently outperforming the LGIP investments by 542%  
M/S (Hoffman/Slater) CU
  
- Electric Blvd & Crest Ave Intersection
  - The City's application for funding from QuadCo to re-engineer the intersection has been denied. The council will need to decide whether to fund the engineering in another way, to leave the intersection as is, or to research different safety solutions, including additional signage, traffic mirrors, or flashing lights.

## New Business

- Resolution 2021-11, a resolution adopting job descriptions for the Public Works Director and Deputy Clerk positions for the City of Electric City. Adopting this ordinance now changes the Public Works Director job to a FSLA exempt salaried position.
  - A motion was made and seconded to accept the new job descriptions for the Public Works Director and the Deputy Clerk

M/S (Buche/Redfield) CU
  
- Ordinance 584-2021, an ordinance amending the 2021 budget of the City of Electric City, as adopted in Ordinance 578-2020.
  - A motion was made and seconded to adopt Ordinance 584-2021.

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU
  
- Commercial Noise Reduction
  - The City has received numerous complaints from local citizens regarding the noise that the fans located on top of, and inside of, the bitcoin building create.
  - The City's Code Compliance Officer will map out the decibel readings from the building.
  - The City's noise ordinance was last updated in 2012 and does not address commercial/residential quiet times.
  - When the EPA was contacted, they deferred to follow the local City code.
  
- Engineering Contract Renewal
  - The City's contract with CenturyWest Engineering will expire at the end of 2021.
  - The City Clerk will place an ad in the newspaper of record requesting a Statement of Qualifications for Municipal Engineering Services for the City of Electric City.
  - The deadline to receive qualifications will be Wednesday, November 24, 2021
  - The Mayor kindly requests that a member of the Planning Commission, a member of the City Council, and a member from the community form a committee to review any applications received. A decision will need to be voted on at the December 14, 2021, council meeting.
  
- Utility moratorium and back fees
  - The state mandated moratorium on utility late fees has expired as of September 30, 2021. The City will now begin to charge late fees on monthly utility fees that are not paid by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.
  - The City has a flexible payment plan in place. To-date, only one person has signed up for the payment plan.
  - The City has lost approximately \$16,700 in late fee revenues in 2020 and 2021. The City's ARPA funds received from the Department of Commerce can be used to recover such lost revenue if the Council so chooses.
  
- ARPA Funds
  - The published rules on what ARPA money can be spent on are rather vague and there is currently no reporting structure in place with the Department of Commerce on how a city should communicate what it has used the money for.

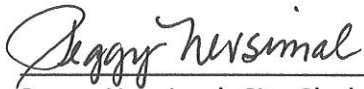
- City Clerk Nevsimal would like each Councilmember to come to the next Council meeting with suggestions on how they wish to see the money spent.
- The topic will continue to be discussed at the November council meeting.
  
- Amending Chapter 5 & Chapter 18 of the Electric City Municipal Code
  - The City will be joining the Department of Licensing's BLS program and starting December 9, 2021 all City business licenses will be collected by the DOL. Changes will need to be made to the City's Chapter 5 Municipal Code.
  - The Planning Commission has made recommendations for amendments to Chapter 18 of the Electric City Municipal Code. The Council has approved these recommendations. Changes will need to be made to the City's Chapter 18 Municipal Code.

**Reports**

- There were no reports

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

M/S (Buche/Redfield)



Peggy Nevsimal, City Clerk/Treasurer



Diane Kohout, Mayor