



🏠 Location: City Hall
📅 Date: July 13, 2021
🕒 Time: 6:00pm

City of Electric City Council Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021

The Electric City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Diane Kohout on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

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

Staff members/Others present: Jared Armstrong/Public Works Director, Arrow Coyote/Electric City Resident, Carlos Lira/Planning Commissioner, Steve Nelson/CenturyWest Engineering, Alric Miller/Planning Commissioner, Peggy Nevsimal/City Clerk/Treasurer, Mark Payne/Electric City Fire Chief, Mike Shear/Code Compliance Officer, Danny Stone/Grant County Commissioner, Jacob Wagner/Star Newspaper

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Diane Kohout made two corrections to the agenda:

1. Item 7.5 "Park Committee Appointments Oaths of Office" should be deleted from the agenda
2. Item 7.6 "Councilmembers Oaths of Office" should also include "and planning commissioner"
3. An executive session regarding personnel issues will be added under unfinished business as item 6.6.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with these three corrections.

M/S (Buche/Rupe) CU

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda.

M/S (Slater/Hoffman) CU

Public Comments

Danny Stone, District 1 County Commissioner spoke to the group thanking the councilmembers, mayor, and community members for continuing to stay positive during a challenging year with pandemic worries and economic uncertainty. He thanked the community their support of his candidacy.

Unfinished Business:

- Steve Nelson from CenturyWest Engineering went through the project list for the city.
 - The City continues to wait for a CAGE number issued by the Security Account Management (SAM) government agency. Once the City has secured that number, they are cleared to proceed to apply for a USDA grant.
 - The Complete Streets Sidewalk project is with WSDOT for review. Our old contact at WSDOT has retired (Paul Mahre) and our new contact is Brian Pearson. Brian came to look at the project and suggested some changes on the length and alignment. The project will most likely need to wait until next year with the hopes of seeing a reduction in pricing of construction materials.
 - The income survey did not yield the results we were hoping for and we chose to not validate the survey, rather than lock ourselves into those results for 7 years.
 - Our sewer lining project has been approved as a health and safety risk and thus eligible for grant funding at 75%, plus eligible for loan funding at 1.5% interest with the USDA.
 - A motion was made and seconded for CenturyWest to begin the application process for grant funding from the USDA for the sewer lining project.

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU
- CenturyWest has begun the grant application process with QuadCo for funding to reconfigure the Crest & Electric Blvd intersection.

- Nuisance House contract
 - A motion was made and seconded to waive the nuisance fee for “Property C” as they have entered a 60-day clean up contract with the City and they are making good progress on cleaning up their property.

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU

- Animal Control Information
 - Code Compliance officer Mike Shear has arranged to visit the Ephrata animal control facility on Wednesday, July 14.
 - Intern Mikayla Higgins has researched the options county generated “Special Purpose Tax” can be used for. Continued research will be done whether this money can be used to offset costs for animal control activities for our area.

- Income Survey
 - We did not receive the required number of responses to income survey to reach statistical validity. When this happens, the survey can be validated by using the highest response rate the number of times needed to reach validity. This did not work in our favor, and it was decided that we would not validate the survey, thus leaving it open to repeat the process at a later date.

- Future TVI Investments
 - The councilmembers discussed the possibility of investing additional money in the bond market and reducing the balance in the City’s LGIP account. The City’s currently held bonds are performing at 6 times better than the current LGIP interest rate in the 7 months the City has invested in the bond market. City Clerk Nevsimal will discuss the best options with TVI and report back to the council members on recommendations.

Executive Session

- Mayor Kohout stated that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss a personnel issue.
- The council adjourned at 6:45pm
- The council resumed at 7:00pm
- A motion was made and seconded to reopen the application process for the PARC Committee as we have been unable to fill all the seats with the applications that have applied.

M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU

New Business

- American Rescue Plan Act Money
 - Electric City has been awarded \$279,706 from the American Rescue Plan Act.
 - City Clerk Nevsimal has signed an “Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements” document and a “Terms and Conditions” document with the US Department of the Treasury. The first half of the money has already been received by the city in the amount of \$139,853.
 - The councilmembers discussed possible uses for the money which can be used for infrastructure projects such as water, sewer, and broadband, or to recoup utility late fees. It will be a vote of the council what the money will be spent on.
- Amendment to the Coulee Playland Concession agreement
 - A motion was made and seconded to extend the concession agreement between the City of Electric City and Coulee Playland until 2029.

M/S (Slater/Rupe) CU

- Tree removal at Wastewater Treatment Facility
 - Pine trees around the Wastewater Treatment Facility need to be cut down because their needles are causing problems with the settling/sorting/spinning equipment. Wastewater Operator Travis Irwin has secured permission from the USBR and the Department of Ecology to remove the trees and is in the process of securing bids for their removal. Electric City will be responsible for 50% of the cost of the tree removal.
- Amendment to Wastewater Treatment Facility Interlocal Agreement
 - A motion was made and seconded to accept the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment plant with the update of changing all references to the Town of Electric City to the City of Electric City.

M/S (Buche/Hoffman) CU

- Councilmembers Oaths of Office
 - There is no record that current councilmembers oaths of office were recorded at the county Elections office so it was determined that current sitting councilmembers would reaffirm their oaths of office. Councilmembers Buche, Hoffman, Rupe and Slater and Mayor Kohout were sworn in by City Clerk Nevsimal. In addition, Carlos Lira, the new Planning Commissioner was also sworn in by City Clerk Nevsimal

- Public Works on-call pay
 - City Clerk Nevsimal presented to the councilmembers the topic of on-call pay for public works employees. Employees are currently expected to be on-call but are not compensated for it.
 - The councilmembers agreed that the City should come up with a pay structure of minimal pay for hours on call, but not worked, in addition to the traditional time and a half pay that will be paid if the employee is called in to work off hours.

- Planning Commission land use report
 - Planning Commissioner Alric Miller presented a report from the Planning Commission addressing mostly the size of lots if a resident would like to build a smaller home, or a long-term use facility. The report is the Commission's recommendations to the council. Councilmembers should forward any comments or concerns to City Planner Kurt Danison by Friday, July 23rd . Once City Planner Danison incorporates any council comments the City will advertise in the local newspaper and open 60 day public review period.

- BLS Contract
 - The City is required by the Department of Revenue to move the awarding of their Business Licensing online by the end of 2021.
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve City Clerk Nevsimal to sign the DOR Business Licensing Services Agreement on behalf of the City of Electric City
M/S (Slater/Buche) CU
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated DOR recommended changes to the Electric City municipal code where the City's business licensing process is referenced.
M/S (Hoffman/Buche) CU

- New Volunteer firefighter
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve Gary Skorheim as the 25th volunteer fireman for the City of Electric City's Volunteer Fireman Department.
M/S (Redfield/Buche) CU

- Grant County EDC Contract
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the Grant County Economic Development Council 2021 Municipal Services Agreement.
M/S (Buche/Redfield) CU

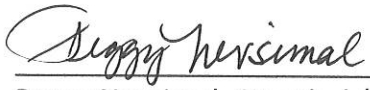
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Proclamation
 - A motion was made and seconded to sign a Proclamation declaring September 2021 as Childhood Cancer Awareness month.
M/S (Rupe/Redfield) CU

Reports

- Fire Chief Payne briefed the councilmembers on fireworks activity in the area over the 4th of July weekend. With only one troublesome group on McNett Street the City was largely quiet and there were no fire starts anywhere in town.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

M/S (Slater/Redfield)



Peggy Nevsimal, City Clerk/Treasurer



Diane Kohout, Mayor