

Roll Call: Bret Hayworth, Calvin Mellies, John Parks, all present. Jared Rapp and Paul Malm are absent. Parks motions to approve agenda, seconded by Hayworth. Ayes, motion carries. Mellies motions to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Hayworth. Ayes, motion carries. Parks motions to approve the bills and Treasurer’s report, seconded by Mellies. Ayes, motion carries. The council tabled an Urban Revitalization Tax Abatement Plan request.

Guests present include Dave Christensen, Mike Weaver, George Allen, Joe Barnes, Shawntell Epling, Chayse Thomsen, Bud Fast, Dennis Gardener, Chad Thompson, Matt Wise, Kara Robinson, Jim Fisher, Judy Ericsson, Cinda Krause, and Nicole Jensen.

During open forum, Shawntell Epling asks questions about the water systems improvement project and was concerned why hadn’t residents been notified sooner? She stated a concern for elderly family members and how they are to afford a hike in water prices? She asked about other locations where an existing well could be utilized or if an alternate location closer to town was advised? Shawntell also asked the question, why have we allowed this town to grow, well-knowing that adding additional housing would cause a water pressure issue?

Chayse Thompson pointed out that the newer housing and a great deal of residents on the north side of town have timed sprinkler systems that are used on a daily basis to water their lawns and how *that* might pose a challenge in the City’s water pressure? He also asked about offsetting the cost by selling one of the city’s cop cars. Jim Fisher mentioned that other towns such as Kingsley, Correctionville and Schaller are going through similar water improvement projects and that Moville is not the only town experiencing this jolt.

George Allen asked about sewer rates going up and can the city add piping to increase the flow for better water pressure? He also shared his feelings regarding the impending rise in water bills and requested the city to look at other ways to distribute the shock of the expense gradually within the next few years instead of all at once. George also advised the Council, “once you make a decision, don’t look back.” Matt Wise asked the council what’s going to happen with our water rates after the 30 or 40 year loan is paid off and will the rates go back to normal and can that be a guarantee? Mayor Scott Linden and Superintendent Mike Weaver address the resident’s and noted their valid concerns. No one else wishes to speak.

Judy Ericsson of MYRA requests drinking fountains at the soccer field and possibly at the baseball field. The Public Works department will look into the costs. MYRA is willing to pay half of the cost. The Council tabled taking action on MYRA’s request for LED lights at the baseball field until the council has more time to look over their proposal and REC’s estimate. MYRA is willing to split the costs 50/50 with the city on the LED proposal. Judy also mentioned having the city install a new scoreboard.

ISG report update is tabled. No action was taken at this time on the Water System Improvement Project. The Council agreed to table until all members were present for further discussion on May 1st.

Superintendent Mike Weaver gave a brief update on Public Works for the months of March and April. We pumped 4.9 million gallons of water and 3 million gallons of wastewater. They ordered new bulk water meter, purchased a new pick up, put 75 fish in the lagoon. Pat wrote up a new water conservation ordinance and Mike wrote a new water rate ordinance. On April 4th there was a power outage so they took a generator to North lift station and emergency locate on North 4th. Cummins serviced South generator. Plowed 2 inches of snow March 22nd, sanded March 26th, started patching potholes, ran sweeper and graded rock alleys. They opened the baseball concession stand, Main Street Park and Memorial Park. Ordered new playground equipment, welded existing playground equipment, dragged and reseeded Ridge Park and Well #4. They also changed the battery in the siren box.

Mike Weaver discussed adding a water rate ordinance depending on meter size due to rotating water meters every 10 years by charging a slightly increased monthly fee. He added, most homes have a 5/8” meter so the current charge is \$13.80 and the new prorated rate would be \$19.21 per month on a 5/8”meter and continues to list the different size meters plus new monthly rates for service.

Mike Weaver also discussed adding a new ordinance establishing a water conservation plan for the City of Moville. It provides us with water saving tips for our homes, a water warning, where mandatory actions must take place, plus, a water emergency plan in the case of city wells pumping at 95% capacity, level drop or any other circumstances limiting water supply.

Building Inspector Dave Christensen, gave a brief update for the month of March. He had 2 nuisance issues, 2 official notices were done, 1 permit was issued and both Laurens and Schaller were on board and seeing improvements. Totaled billed for services to other towns was \$6,948.98.

No action was taken on the Employee handbook. It was decided by the council to designate it over to the City Hall Committee to complete by the end of May 2024.

Parks made the motion to approve James Hesse as a new member of the Board of Adjustments committee, seconded by Mellies. Ayes, motion carried.

Mayor and Council concerns were discussed. The Council will meet on Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at 6:30pm for the Public Hearing of 2024-2025 Budget. The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

With no further business Mellies motions to adjourn at 8:07pm, seconded by Parks. Ayes, motion carries-meeting closed.

Michaela Peterson
City Clerk

Scott Linden
Mayor