Minutes

Approved

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 26, 2024

The minutes of the Froid Town Council at the Froid Community Center on August 26, 2024. Those in attendance were Council Members Gale Strandlund, Laurie Young, Gregg Labatte, and Tyler Harris. Also present was Mayor, Sheri Crain and Clerk, LeAnn Johnson.

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm (prior to the scheduled 6:30 pm Public Budget Hearing to accommodate guests present). Mayor Crain stated that the regular meeting agenda will be adjusted to allow members of the Froid Fire Department to speak on Unfinished Business for the fire hall addition.

Fire Hall Addition Update: Blake Murray of the Froid Fire Department asked Council to consider approval of an addition for the Fire Hall, as several trucks are currently being stored off-site due to lack of room in the current Fire Hall. He stated an addition would also allow for a meeting room and room for indoor training. He feels the Fire Department is made up of young, ambitious members and is a strong department that also gets called to cover other areas to aid during fires. Council member Tyler Harris stated that Council members have been on-board with plans to expand the current Fire Hall but have been waiting for more details on what the Fire Departments is requesting. Cam Friede of the Fire Department stated that they are not asking the Town of Froid to cover the cost of the project, and they have asked for assistance from the Froid School Superintendent, Steve Mahue, in finding grant funds. He stated more time is needed for them to come up with quotes to determine the scope and cost of the project. Councilman Tyler Harris stressed the support of the Town Council. Mayor Crain also stated that she feels the Community will be generous with fundraising efforts, as they were with the building of the Community Center.

New Garbage Service Contract with Bowker Sanitation: Allen and Russell Bowker were in attendance to discuss the solid waste disposal contract between Bowker Sanitation and the Town of Froid. Allen stated that his costs have increased drastically, and there has been a shortage of parts for his trucks since the COVID pandemic. Mayor Crain stated that the contract price has remained the same for over 10 years, so she feels an increase is only fair. Clerk LeAnn Johnson gave Council and Allen and Russell a copy of the income statement from the previous two years for the Garbage Fund. She feels the Fund could allow for an increase of approximately $700.00/month without having to increase consumer rates. Allen stated that he would like to see the increase eventually be around $832.00 per month but wants to be flexible with the Town as far as what the Fund will allow without putting a strain on the Town budget.

Mayor Crain asked if anyone else present would like to speak prior to calling the Public Budget Hearing to order. Deputy County Attorney, Thomas Bleicher, was in attendance and introduced himself. He stated that he has been the Deputy County Attorney for Roosevelt County for two years and is currently running for Roosevelt County Attorney. He asked those present if they had any concerns or questions for him, and he handed out his business card.

Mayor Crain temporarily adjourned the Regular Council Meeting and opened the Public Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM. (See minutes from the Public Budget Hearing).

Mayor Crain adjourned the Public Budget Hearing and re-opened the August Regular Council Meeting at 7:45 PM. She asked if there were any non-agenda comments or concerns. Allen Bowker stated that he would like to thank the Froid Fire Department for their service and let them know that he appreciates what they do for the area. Minutes from the July 15, 2024 meeting were read. Council member Laurie Young made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Report: Public Works Director, Alan Engelke reported he has been working on maintenance at the lagoon. He sprayed cell #2 and spent two days mowing the area. He stated that if spraying and tree growth are kept up, the maintenance should be much easier. Mayor Crain stated that she feels the total retention ponds have served the Town well and has been a cost-effective upgrade for the Town. Mayor Crain asked Council if they have any questions or concerns for Alan. She requested that Alan fill in the large pothole in front of the post office.

Sheriff’s Report: There was no one present to report on behalf of the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Department. Mayor Crain passed around the latest weekly call summary report that was emailed to the Town.

Unfinished Business:

ARPA Project Update: Clerk LeAnn Johnson stated there was no update on the ARPA project. The Town is waiting for the second draw for reimbursement of funds.

Fire Hall Addition Update: Mayor Crain asked if there were any more comments or concerns those firemen in attendance might have for Council. Cam Friede stated that they will work on getting a couple more quotes for the project and will keep the Council updated on the progress.

HB 355 Application Update: Clerk LeAnn Johnosn reported that the Town recently received the award letter for funding for the Town office roof repairs and for spot repairs to the sewer lines. The Town will need to secure a contract for the sewer line repairs.

Requested Library Improvements: Mayor Crain reported that she had another contractor look at the library project. The contractor will be providing a couple of different quotes. She explained that the rain gutters do not currently slope causing a hazard from snow and ice. Council Member Gregg Labatte suggested having a contractor specializing in gutters look at it. Mayor Crain would like to table the project until more research can be done.

Review of Water, Sewer, and Garbage Accts: Council looked over the delinquent accounts. Door hangers will be distributed, and letters will be mailed to those on the list.

New Business:

**Resolution #2024-3**: Mayor Crain read Resolution #2024-3: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Incorporated Town of Froid to Approve and Adopt the Mill Levies for fiscal year 2024-2025. Council Member Tyler Harris made a motion to pass Resolution # 2024-3 as written, setting the General Fund mills at 207.46. Laurie Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Resolution #2024-4**: Mayor Crain read Resolution #2024-4: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Froid Adopting the Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Council Member Laurie Young

made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-4 as read. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Garbage Service Contract with Bowker Sanitation: Mayor Crain asked if there was any further discussion on the Solid Waste Disposal Contract. Council member Gregg Labatte made a motion to increase the monthly payment to Bowker Sanitation by $700.00 per month to begin immediately and revisit this contract after one year. Council member Tyler Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community center use: Mayor Crain reported that she has been asked to remind Community Center users that the Senior Center and Fire Hall are not available for public use. The Council looked over the Community Center use agreement that has been posted in the kitchen. Mayor Crain also reported that the Town has received a $1270.00 donation from Sheridan Electric, along with a matching donation from Basin Electric to purchase 10 new tables for the Community Center.

Building Permits: There were no new building permits to present.

Review of Claims for Approval of Payment - Council looked over the claims for August 2024. After discussion, Council member Gregg Labatte made a motion to pay the August claims. Tyler Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business: (None)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm. The next regular Council meeting will be September 9, 2024.

Mayor: Clerk: