CITY OF BENKELMAN

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting. Present: Mayor Tammy Buffington; Council Members JoAnn Decker, Barb Pinkerton, Deb Stamm, Nicholas Baney; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt; Sheriff King; City Superintendent Tim Smith; City Attorney Tawna Holmstedt (by phone). Others Present: Deputy Mike Buffington, Trevor Horner and Doug Christiansen; Five Rule Planning (by phone).

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Buffington called the meeting to order and stated that we follow the open meetings law, which is posted on the south wall by the main entrance.

Mayor Tammy Buffington thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Buffington thanked the city employees for getting the Christmas Lights up and down in a timely manner and using the nice weather to accomplish this. Mrs. Buffington also thanked the Benkelman Volunteer Fire Department for thinking of them and inviting them to their Christmas Party, it was much appreciated. Mayor Buffington also commented on the new awnings at the Municipal Building, they look very nice.

Council member JoAnn Decker has been looking into Zoning Laws, concerning things being put up and taken down without having permits. She has been looking into the State Regulations dealing with what fines can be handed down to the violators. Mrs. Decker discussed a stop work order being sent out to them. The council wants to work with people, but they want the rules to be followed dealing with Building Permits.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the annual fee for ATV/UTV/GOLF CART LICENSES. This year you will get a license plate with a yearly sticker just as you would with your other vehicles. The first year when you receive the license plate the fee will be $35. Each year after, assuming you don’t need a new license plate, it will be $25. A federally approved bicycle safety flag which extends not less than five feet above ground needs to be attached to the rear of such vehicle for safety reasons.

Doug Christiansen; Five Rule Planning was present by phone to give an update on the VPR. Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-1-15 #1 to File Notice of Special Assessment and Lien Against Properties for Violation of Vacant Property Registration Ordinance, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Baney, Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; nays: none. Motion passed.

CRA minutes enclosed in the packet. Trevor Horner was present and gave his report. Meetings with the new members will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at BWTelcom Conference Room. The next meeting of the CRA will be on February 12, 2024.

Sheriff King gave the Sheriff’s Report.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm, Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

* Approve Minutes of December 18, 2023, Regular Meeting.
* Approve Treasurers Report.
* Approve Bills.
* Approve & have Mayor sign Loveland Area Projects Firm Electric Service Contract No. 14-RMR-2548 – Updates for October 1, 2024.
* Approve Mayor’s Appointment of Gary Clark to the CRA Board.
* Approve and have Mayor sign the SDL for Uppa Crik Hops LLC for Weight Buffet Fitness Center on February 17, 2024.
* Approve and have Mayor sign City Attorney Agreement.
* Planning Commission: No meeting, no applications for Wednesday January 10, 2024.

Enclosed in the packets was a Water Report that was submitted by Jeremiah Unger (attached to these minutes).

Enclosed in the packets was an Electric Report submitted by Paul Castillo (attached to these minutes).

City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Rosenfelt gave her monthly report (attached to these minutes).

City Superintendent Tim Smith gave his monthly report (attached to these minutes).

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

 Tammy Buffington, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk