

October 1, 2013 **October Council**

The regular meeting of the Colby Common Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor James Schmidt. On roll call: Henaman, O'Brien, T Schmidt, Thieme, Schraufnagel, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. Also present were Mayor James Schmidt, Clerk Gurtner, DPW Harland Higley Jr, and Kirk Skoog from MSA.

Agenda was posted by the clerk. The agenda will stand as the order of the meeting.

Minutes of the September 3rd council meeting were pre-read and reviewed. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Schraufnagel to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Financial Statement and Bills were discussed. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Kaiser to approve the bills. The amounts approved are as follows: General Fund \$104,119.55; Water Department \$46,002.47; Sewer Department \$42,077.68; Net payroll \$17,777.95. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Kirk Skoog, MSA Engineering – TIF Presentation: Kirk Skoog did a presentation on TID Funding for the council. He showed an example of a tax payment comparison between a property in a TIF District and one not in the TIF District.

Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission met on September 9th.

The commission approved the minutes and expenditures.

2014 Preliminary Budget: Chief Gosse went through the preliminary 2014 budget and explained the changes. Gosse stated that we are underfunded in the Sick leave payout account, which will pay retiring officers for their un-used sick leave. Schraufnagel questioned the investigations budget amount and wondered if that number could be cut some, considering we spent around \$800 in 2012. Schmidt discussed the Metal Plate Fund. He would like to see \$10,000 of the money from that account put into the underfunded Sick leave payout account and another \$5,000 put into a contingency fund. He also didn't like the miscellaneous expense account and wondered if it could be called something else or categorized a different way. Chief Gosse stated that the department could use another officer. The committee expressed cost concerns with adding another officer to the department. Committee members agreed to look over the budget and bring questions and concerns to the next meeting.

Chief Report: Chief Gosse stated the department is now driving two squads from the Clark County Sheriff's office. He did not know when the department's squads would be returned, it is dependent upon when the Officer Rennie's vehicle is released from the investigation.

City Planning Committee met on September 18th.

Banners for the Colby School District on Highway 13: The Colby School District is interested in purchasing approximately 4 banners to put on the city street lights on Highway 13. Dr Kolden would work with the city to get a design that would work with the city's banners. The committee agreed that if the school purchased the banners, they did not have any concerns with the school having banners on the highway.

Cemetery Ordinance: The Mayor has been researching the composition of the current cemetery board. According to his research, the board is currently not a true board since it has members from two different counties. The board had voted to assess municipalities on a per resident basis rather than a fixed amount. This would change the City of Colby's contribution from \$2,500 to approximately \$5,200. But since this change was voted on by the cemetery board and the Mayor doesn't feel that they have that authority to make this vote, the city is not going to pay this new amount at this time.

Rental Fees for City Hall/Park Shelters: The committee discussed the rental fees for municipal buildings. There have been instances when the lessee has too many people for the facility. Also, there are problems with mess and damage to property. Motion was made by Schraufnagel, seconded by Henaman to charge rental of \$50 for S 6th Street, \$50 for the Community Room and \$75 for the Ballpark. The deposit will be \$150 for all uses and will be returned once the property is inspected and the key is returned. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Public Nuisance Ordinance for Commercial Districts: Chief Ron Gosse asked the committee to consider changes to the junk vehicle ordinance and public nuisance ordinance to help enforce clean up at a property on North Highway 13 and also the Willner Property. It was determined that the city needs to start immediately to get these properties clean up. The committee voted to have Mayor Schmidt work with William Gamoke to send letters and enforce the current nuisance ordinances to get these two properties cleaned up.

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee met on September 11th.

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee met in closed session to discuss wages for Water Operator and Act 25 employee residency changes.

Finance Committee met on September 30th.

2014 Budget: Paula Ruesch and Dan Brost from the Area Chamber of Commerce reviewed the activities of the chamber with the council. The chamber is asking the council to include \$4,500 in our 2014 budget to help fund the office staff in the chamber office. It was discussed to ask the Colby Economic Development Corporation to pay the amount next year and to use the remaining 2013 budget to pay this year. Ron Gosse from the Colby-Abbotsford Police Department presented the council with three different budget proposals, including two budget amounts adding an additional officer on 1/1/14 and one adding an additional officer on 7/1/14. He presented comparisons and statistic explaining his request. Clerk Gurtner reviewed the entire budget with the council. Mayor Schmidt explained that the library budget request has increased because the Town of Colby has decided not to contribute to the library. He also explained that the city has received a bill from the Cemetery Association for \$3.00/resident and we had only budgeted \$3,500 for 2013. It is still unresolved on how

the municipalities are going to pay to fund the Cemetery Association or if they need to contribute. It was suggested to continue to budget and pay the \$3,500. The council discussed how to fund an extra officer and if it would be possible. It was suggested to look at the possibility of contacting Dorchester and Unity about sharing manpower. Mayor Schmidt also presented two requests for funding – one from Alice in Dairyland and the other from The High Ground. The council decided that we don't have funding for these two items. It was decided to discuss the 2014 budget again at a future meeting.
Mayor Schmidt: Mayor Schmidt gave a report on the United Communities of Clark County meeting and the Ruder Ware Law Seminar.

Clerk Gurtner: Clerk Gurtner reported that Stratford Sign is still looking at the issues with communication with the city signs.

Harland Higley: The following building permits were issued: DuWayne Sheets, 106 N 3rd Street, black top driveway; Dave Ensign, 704 W Spence Street, fence.

DPW Higley gave water and sewer reports.

He reported on the progress of the North 3rd Street project. He also updated the council on the Spence Street re-paving progress.

Operators' Licenses: The following Operator's License was received: Jody Apfelbeck, 100 W Pine Street, Abbotsford - motion was made by Kaiser, seconded by O'Brien to approve. Motions carried with a voice vote.

Picnic Licenses: Motion was made by Schraufnagel, seconded Oestreich by to approve a picnic license to the Abbotsford Sportsmen's Club, Lion's Shelter, October 3-5, 2013. Motion carried with a voice vote

Committee meetings for October: Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission will meet on October 14, 2013 at 6:30 PM. at the Police Department. Finance Committee will meet on October 10, 2013 at 6:00 PM. Personnel/Labor Relations will meet on October 10, 2013 immediately following Finance Committee. Public Works Committee will meet on October 29, 2013 at 5:30 PM. Parks/Rec/Recycling Committee will meet on October 7, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Adjourn: Motion was made by T Schmidt, seconded by Hederer to adjourn in closed session at 7:40 PM. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Approved _____
James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest _____
Jessie Polivka, Deputy Clerk