

August 5, 2014 **August 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, Schraufnagel, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. Thieme was absent. Also present were Mayor James Schmidt, Clerk Connie Gurtner, DPW Hingley, Engineer Mike Voss and citizens at large.

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

Minutes of the July 8, 2014 council meeting were pre-read and reviewed. Motion was made by Schraufnagel, seconded by Hederer 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 O'Brien to approve the bills in the amounts as follows: General Fund \$202,372.40; Water Department \$39,366.00; Sewer Department \$22,436.60; Net payroll \$26,871.91. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission met on July 14th.

The commission approved minutes and expenditures.

Health Insurance Coverage for Employee's Spouse: Chief Gosse informed the board that employees automatically get kicked off regular health insurance at age 65 and are required to take Medicare and a supplement. When Sandy Kocian's husband turned 65, the commission did not agree to pay 80% of the Medicare plan, but Chief Gosse doesn't understand why the department wouldn't pay that. He also informed the commission that his wife is now turning 65 and wonders why they would not get reimbursed for the 80% of their Medicare premium. Currently, employees that do not take the department's health insurance are offered a payout of \$350/month. Motion was made by Henaman, seconded by Werner to table this item in order to investigate the legal aspects. Motion carried with a voice vote. Gosse voted no.

Discuss Vacation Time: Gosse said this item does not need to be discussed at this time.

Contract Negotiations: The commission received a letter from business agent of the Professional Police Association stating that they are getting ready for the negotiations for the new contract. The old contract expires on 12/31/14.

Chief Report: Chief Gosse said that we received a bill from Johnson Block for \$2,400 for the audit and wondered if the commission would like to see an audit every year. The commission agreed that every three years is sufficient.

Chief Gosse asked the commission their opinion on purchasing a K-9 before our K-9 officer – Chris Brandner is off probation. There was some discussion on a contract to guarantee that once the officer is trained, they would be required to work for the department for a specific time. They asked to get the budgeting numbers together for the dog and the training. Officer Brandner will be off of probation in March 2015.

There are new computers in all of the squads. He said that he is looking at a central printer in order to save on ink cartridge costs. He said the printer will be color so that we can get better quality prints for cases.

Chief Gosse said that he would like to get rid of the pick-up truck they use to transport animals and get a van of some sort in order to put an animal box in the back.

Personnel/Labor Relations met on July 22nd.

This meeting was held in closed session to investigate charges of lack of employee performance with respect to wastewater treatment facility duties.

Public Works Committee met on July 24th.

Surface Options for the South 1st Street Project: Many citizens voiced their opinion and would like to see Cheese Day's stay downtown and would like to donate money to surface South 1st Street in a way that we can still use that street for the Cheese Days pulls. A lot of discussion was held in favor of keeping Cheese Days where it is currently located. The committee voted to recommend to the council to the city change the surface of the downtown area of South 1st Street to concrete from blacktop and solicit donations to help pay for it. The original estimate was \$80,000 for a full concrete street which the actual cost has now come in at \$219,532. There is another option to have a 30 foot strip of concrete at an additional cost of \$151,016 and an overdesigned asphalt pavement of \$69,291.56. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Hederer to approve a change order to the 2014 Street Project to Option A at an additional cost of \$219,532 to taken from TIF funds and also to continue getting donations. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Henaman, O'Brien, Schmidt, Schraufnagel, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. Noes – none. Thieme was absent. Motion carried.

Options for Ditch Mowing: It is hard to find someone to mow ditches in the city. We need to look at other options and possibly purchasing some equipment. Abbotsford and Curtiss are both in the same situation, so maybe we would have an option to work with them by purchasing some equipment or contracting with someone. Motion was made by T Schmidt, seconded by Hederer to write up a bid and publish something in the paper to see if we can get someone to bid. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mayor Schmidt: Mayor Schmidt reported on his meeting United Communities of Clark County.

The Mayor reviewed the cemetery meeting from July 15, 2014. The association is trying to determine a fair way to fund the expenses that are not covered by perpetual care. At this meeting it was agreed that the city could have more representation on the board because we would have to pay more, but since then the city received a letter from the two Town Chairpersons suggesting that the City of Colby pay 47% and the Town of Hull 26.5% and the Town of Colby 26.5% and keep the representation equal on the board. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to stand by our original letter and withdraw from the Colby Memorial Cemetery Association effective July 1, 2014. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – O'Brien, Schmidt, Schraufnagel, Oestreich, Hederer, Kaiser, Henaman. Noes – none. Thieme was absent. Motion carried.

DPW Harland Higley: The following building permits were issued: Harmony Country Coop, 708 S Main St, raze house; Harmony Country Coop, 708 S Main St, parking lot; Leokadia Fildes, 516 N 3rd St, replace roof; Ken LaVenture, 101 S 3rd St, driveway; Leane Hodd, 408 N 4th St, patio; Mary Lou Feirer, 305 N 1st St, roof; Jackie Young, 518 N Division St, roof; Rock River Laboratory, 108 S Division St, projecting sign; Robbie Smazal, 109 S 1st St, taking siding off & replace windows, door and fix brick.

DPW Higley reported on the precipitation and flows for July 2014 at the STP. He also reported on the pumpage of water for July 2014. The lawns on North 3rd Street have been re-seeded. The South 6th Street Park is completed. There is a new parking lot at the East Street Ballpark.

Engineer Mike Voss: The utilities on the First Street Project, south of Clark Street are completed. The project is moving along right on schedule. He stated that we should have a pre-construction meeting for the Well #14 and Well #15 project.

Operator's License: Applications for operators' licenses were received from: Susan Hilber, F2394 Elderberry Rd, Colby - motion was made by , seconded by to approve. Bonnie Brodhagen, 204 N 2nd Ave, Abbotsford - motion was made by , seconded by to approve. Maricia Schmidt, N14085 Badger Ave, Colby - motion was made by , seconded by to approve. Motions carried with a voice vote.

Picnic License: Applications for Picnic Licenses were received from: Knights of Columbus, 205 S 2nd Street, September 14, 2014, fall festival - motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Kaiser to approve. Colby Puller's Club, Spence Street Pullers Track, August 8-10, 2014, tractor/truck pulls - motion was made by Henaman, seconded by O'Brien to approve. Motions carried with a voice vote.

Committee meetings for August: Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission will meet on August 11, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. at the Police Department. Public Works Committee will meeting on August 14, 2014 at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Henaman to adjourn at 7:35 P.M. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Approved _____
James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest _____
Connie Gurtner, Clerk