

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
Monday, February 5, 2024

Mayor Pam Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Council members Don Steveson, Ann McColley, Daren Downs, John Butts, Tom Voss and Tyrel Owens. Also present were, City Attorney Dublin Hughes, Police Chief Derek Thompson, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff and Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ann McColley moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tom Voss moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2024. Motion carried.

SWEARGIN IN: Mayor Gualtieri swore in Police Officer Justin Breon.

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: None

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING:

1. Mark Williams submitted an application for appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this application. Motion carried.
2. Kathy Levasseur submitted an application for appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board. Ann McColley moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve this application. Discussion was had. Motion carried.
3. Apex Mechanical request for Plumbing/Electrical License – Master Plumber: Justin Strong, Journeymen Plumbers: Josh Boyer and James Burton, Master electrician: Gavin Ketterling, Apprentice Electrician: Colby Bessler, Adam Baumberger. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to approve this request. Motion carried.
4. Walker's Electric request for Electrical License – Master Electrician: Sherman John Walker, Apprentice: Alec Walker. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. Motion carried.
5. Marisol Gonzales requested sewer forgiveness in the amount of \$247.20 due to a leak. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. Discussion was had. Motion carried.
6. Mayor Gualtieri read letters from the following requesting sewer forgiveness: Felicia Dilts – \$165.61; Abygail Bock – \$105.00; Steve Bau – \$581.69; Jacinta Domini – 132.00. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve these requests in the amounts provided. Motion carried.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS VERBAL: Shane Kirsch and Chris Beltz with Campbell County EMS were present to give a year in review update on call volumes and discuss options for sustainable EMS Services.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: Mayor Gualtieri referenced the Black Hills Energy franchise agreement. Black Hills Energy plans to attend the next meeting for a presentation starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Gualtieri also reported that a couple young ladies who have started a coalition to help the youth in our community will be presenting at the next meeting as well.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Tom Voss inquired about the status of the lawsuit with UBC Precast. Attorney Hughes stated that he will not have an update until after the hearing set for February 27, 2024. Councilman Tyrel Owens expressed concern about the order of the agenda, stating that the committee reports may need to come before the department head reports. Attorney Hughes will look to see if the statutes will allow for this change. Councilman John Butts inquired about the proposed monument to be placed in the park at the top of Main Street. Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff stated that he did not find anything statutorily that would not allow the monument, but cautioned the Council allowing anything in the parks that was not park orientated. Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty will research who provided the land for the park. Councilwoman Ann McColley inquired about deer; Supervisor Stumpff stated that 37 deer had been harvested this year.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

1. Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff requested the signing of RESOLUTION 1, 2024, for 2025 improvements projects, entitled A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A FEDERAL MINERAL ROYALTY CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF NEWCASTLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF WATER AND SEWER REPLACEMENT. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Tom Voss to sign resolution No. 1,

2024 amending the date to reflect February 5, 2024. Discussion was had. Motion carried. Supervisor Stumpff then referenced the contractor's agreement for the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Improvements project. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the agreement and move it to the mayor for signature. Motion carried. He then requested Sanitation and Personnel committee meetings; dates to be determined. Mr. Stumpff reported that Public Works had received 23 calls for frozen lines during the recent cold spell. The loader was delivered and will be in service next week. Councilman Owens stated that he would check into Community Facility grants to help with the cost of a garbage truck. Supervisor Stumpff stated that with the closing of the landfill DEQ has cease and transfer money that was offered to help with the purchase of a new tuck, the dollar amount is unknown at this time. Councilman Voss reference the repair of the retaining wall on S. Summit, funding has not been found.

2. Police Chief Derek Thompson reported on calls of service since January 17, 2024 to date: NPD 210, WC Sheriff 90, Upton PD 41, NVFD 14, WCFPD 38, UVFD 1, Newcastle Ambulance 33, Upton Ambulance 0. Chief Thompson requested to promote Office Nick Kaminski to the rank Sergeant at the rate of \$29.42/hr. effective immediately. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. Motion carried. He then requested the Councils approval to trade or sell out of date firearms and ammunition; Proforce offered \$3,220.00 in credit for the out dated firearms; possibly asking Moorcroft PD for \$1,000.00 for 2,500 rounds of ammunition. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to move forward with the trade or sale of outdated firearms and ammunition. Discussion was had regarding the possibility of auctioning the items. Tabled, Chief Thompson will contact Badlands Armory. Chief Thompson updated the Council on the Canine Program, Buster has been purchased and a contract with WC Peace Officers is being worked on; Officer Moran will attend a six (6) week training for the program in May. Chief Thompson referenced a power point presentation for an administrative assistant/advocacy program position that he would like to implement. Jewel Parrish was present to help with this presentation, Jewel was previously the director of a victim services and child advocacy center in Montana prior to moving to Newcastle. Don Steveson motioned, seconded Tyrel Owens to support the proposed position. Moton carried. Personnel Committee meeting will be scheduled. Councilman Voss inquired about the staffing of the PD; currently an investigator position is open. Chief Thompson stated that ordinance enforcement needs to be reevaluated. Chief Thompson reported that interviews for the director position of the Joint Powers Board were been held last week. While the Dispatcher's are employees of the City the Joint Powers Board will reimburse their wages and benefits until retirement details can be worked out.
3. City Attorney Dublin Hughes referenced the renewal of a lease with Wyoming Community College. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to renew the lease with allowance for inflation allowed by statute. Motion carried. Attorney Hughes then referenced the Collins Communications lease. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to allow Attorney Hughes to negotiate the renewal of the lease. Discussion was had. Motion carried. Attorney Hughes then referenced a franchise agreement with Charter Communications did auto-renew under the terms of the agreement, section 14.10. Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff stated that are issues with unburied cables, unrestored public ways along with other issues. Attorney Hughes recommended sending a notice of violation, Mayor Gualtieri sent contact phone numbers to Supervisor Stumpff. Mayor Gualtieri referenced the MOU for Bent Sprockets; Attorney Hughes will work on this for the next Bent Sprockets meeting.
4. City Clerk Treasurer Stacy Haggerty referenced Wyoming Community Gas Project Designation in the amount of \$5,743.66. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Tom Voss to designate the \$5,743.66 to the Dow Park restrooms. Motion carried. She then asked for the designation of a voting member for Wyoming Community Gas; Councilman Butts asked where the meetings were held, Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty will report back. She then referenced an email from the Department of Audit regarding a self-paced Public Officer training. Consensus was to attend the previously scheduled in person training on March 11, 2024. She then reminded the Council that with the President's Day holiday the next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 with a Black Hills Energy presentation starting at 6:00 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: Tyrel Owens reported on a Water/Sewer committee meeting held on January 29, 2024. He reported on the new requirement of the State SRF and the intended use plan. If approved for \$1,000,000.00 in MRG funds requested on the signed Resolution the City will pay \$1,093,512.02 for the Delaware, York, N. Sonora, and E. Wentworth water and sewer project. It is believed that a Capital Improvements plan would be more beneficial than the original plan to submit for funding for a wastewater and stormwater master plan. They reviewed and operations and maintenance manual supplied by Supervisor Stumpff. Current loans were discussed along with paying some off early. Councilman Butts asked about the progress of the rate study; information is still being sent.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to pay the claims against the City dated February 5, 2024. Daren Downs abstained. Motion carried. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Claims: Advanced Communications, phone case, \$60.00; Advanced Drug Testing, random testing, \$31.20; Alpha Communications, tower rent/support, \$1,295.00; Ameri-Tech, sweeper parts, \$1,560.73; AT&T, PD cell phones, \$484.44; BCN, long distance, \$109.39; Camille Bench, mileage, \$376.54; Black Hill Energy, services, \$14,748.09; Bomgaars, supplies, \$22.98; Cambria Supply, supplies, \$1,479.13; City of Newcastle, wa/sw/ga, \$284.04; Dakota Testing & Engineering, S. Summit, \$1,458.74; Jeremy Deal, deposit refund, \$23.98; Double D, battery, \$107.78; Doug Dumbrill, municipal judge/mileage, \$1,091.00; Energy Lab., testing, \$264.00; Engineering Assoc., services, \$16,056.28; Farnsworth, portable sanitation, \$200.00; Ferguson, supplies, \$8,370.00; First Northern Bank, vac truck payment, \$21,698.05; William Giles, deposit refund, \$31.99; Justin Holden, deposit refund, \$120.16; Makenna Howen, deposit refund, \$64.19; Hughes Law, attorney fees, \$3,500.00; Taylor Ide, mileage, \$325.62; John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles, PD vehicles, \$112,837.00; LinkTech, IT services, \$108.78; Marco, copier fees, \$730.49; Amber Martinez, deposit refund, \$197.12; Municipal Emergency Services, supplies, \$1,130.88; National Volunteer Fire Council, membership, \$756.00; Newcastle Equipment, repairs, \$4,325.00; NFVD, training/supplies, \$2,226.56; News Letter Journal, ads/legals/supplies, \$1,136.23; Petty Cash, reimburse postage/title work, \$323.40; Pinnacle Bank, loader lease down payment, \$50,513.80; Powder River Energy, services, \$1,437.68; Salt Creek Water District, sewer services, \$555.00; Logan Spears, deposit refund, \$200.00; Bryand Streeter, airport wages, \$1,333.33; Lucky Tiegen-Grummons, FD cleaning, \$300.00; Uline, equipment, \$3,043.86; USA Bluebook, supplies, \$454.94; Verizon, cell phones, \$437.79; Becky Vodopich, cleaning, \$300.00; Western Water Service, water haul, \$120.00; WC Health Services, HC collection, \$40.00; WC Road & Bridge, FD fuel, \$271.00; WC Treasurer, handling charge, \$230.07; Wilder Graphics, deposit refund, \$100.00; Wy. Dept. of Transportation, plates, \$10.00; Wy. Machinery Co., supplies, \$118.44; Wy. State Fireman's Assoc., annual dues, \$75.00

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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Clerk/Treasurer