

Bennington City Council
Regular Minutes
05/08/2023

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion from Brian Davidson second by Laura Bowers. Motion Carried.

Additions to the agenda were: Lochner/Schwab Eaton Bids, Bernie Regnier/Fireworks permits, Lead/Copper Standard, Meeting times, Recycle Center, Rodeo arena rental fees, executive session.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Brian Davidson to approve the minutes as written and the printed list of bills. Motion Carried.

Present at the meeting was Mayor Ward Stockamp, Judith Swagerty, Jeff Scheele, Brian Davidson, Laura Bowers, and Dennis Kelley.. Adrienne Luthi was also present. Visitors were Mark Walker, Rani Kinderknect (left at 7:15), and Donna Polich (left at 7:15).

Jeff Scheele addressed the council and updated them on current violations and permits.

Rental fees for the arena were discussed. The amount we are currently charging does not pay for the electricity they use and the city makes no money for rentals on the property. There is also concerns that have been brought up about the renters not providing the city with liability insurance to insure that if any accidents should occur, the city would not be liable for it and that if any damage should occur to the arena or grounds, the city would be compensated for such a loss. Adrienne will send information to Aaron Martin and see what he says about the situation. Adrienne will also inform all renters that these new stipulations on renting the grounds will start next season. Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Laura Bowers to increase the rental fee for the arena to \$200.00 per weekend, this covers Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday during the day. Rental price is set at \$200 whether they stay one night or two. Motion Carried.

The fireworks permit and firework display for Bernie Regnier were discussed. Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Jeff Scheele to approve Firework sales and the fireworks permit to sell at the residence from July 1st through July 4th and for the annual firework display located at the Bennington Bible Church on July 4th or July 5th in case of inclement weather. Motion Carried.

A resolution for GR Parker was discussed. Motion by Jeff Scheele, second by Brian Davidson to approve resolution 2023-06 for GR Parker for the Street Party after the Rodeo on Saturday, June 3rd. Motion Carried.

A resolution and Special event permit for the Bennington Saloon was discussed. Motion by Jeff Scheele, second by Brian Davidson to approve resolution 2023-05 and the special event permit for The Bennington Saloon for the Street Party after the Rodeo on Saturday, June 3rd. Motion Carried.

2023 annual resolutions for the City of Bennington were discussed. Motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Laura Bowers to approve resolutions 2023-1, 2023-2, 2023-3, and 2023-4. Motion Carried.

The SMG unlimited quote for a new computer for Adrienne Luthi was discussed. Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Brian Davidson to approve the SMG unlimited quote for a new computer for \$965.34. Motion Carried.

A portable hydrant meter for the city was discussed. Motion by Brian Davidson, Second by Laura Bowers to approve purchase of a portable hydrant meter at a cost of \$1769.00. Motion Carried.

Mayor Ward Stockamp discussed with the council the possibility of a new municipal software since NA will not be supported by Microsoft any longer after the end of the year. No action was taken at this time, the talks are still ongoing with the software developer.

Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Judith Swagerty to go into executive session for non-elected personnel from 8:01 to 8:11. Motion Carried.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Brian Davidson to resume the regular meeting at 8:11 with No Action Taken.

Annual pool employee raises were discussed. Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Jeff Scheele to approve yearly \$.25 cent raise for all returning lifeguards for the 2023 season. Motion Carried.

The two bids that were received from Lochner and Schwab Eaton for the infrastructure planning for the City were discussed. Motion by Jeff Scheele, second by Judith Swagerty to hire Lochner for \$10,000 to do the project study for planning. Motion Carried.

Motion by Laura Bowers, second by Brian Davidson to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion Carried.

Addendum to the minutes from May 8th, 2023

The resolutions listed in paragraph 10 are further explained as 2023-1: GAAP Waiver, 2023-2: Payment of accounts to avoid penalties, 2023-3: Signing all accounts payables with three signatures and 2023-4: Appointment of the City Clerk as Freedom of Information Officer.