

Proposed Minutes

ELKINS COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Virtual

June 18, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Elkins Common Council met in regular session in the council chamber of city hall. Present were Mayor Van T. Broughton; Councilpersons R.C. Chenoweth, M. D. Cuonzo, C.H. Friddle, III, J.A. Guye, G.M. Hinchman, C. L. Metheny, D.C. Parker, L.H. Vest, and K.L. Wilmoth; City Attorney G. S. Roberts; City Clerk J.R. Sutton (acting as recording secretary); and Inter-Mountain Reporter A. Gaynor.

Councilperson C.C. Lowther; City Treasurer T. Judy; Fire Chief T. W. Meader; Police Chief T. Bennett; Operations Manager R.P. Pingley were absent.

For the purpose of clarity during this audio-only virtual meeting the Clerk was directed to conduct a roll call vote for every matter of business a vote was called for.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Good, resident of Elkins, submitted the following comment:

People of the council and in this room I want you to keep the following quote by philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer in mind which reads as follows: "All truth passes through 3 stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self evident." The Council will have you believe that the Black community is just fine here in Elkins, while there are Black people marching everywhere in this country for the right to breathe. The young White people in this town tried to have a similar demonstration, for whatever their reasons were, and we saw what would have been another Charlottesville. Thusly, proving we must work to fix racism in our own backyard.

How do we do that? If you want to help the Black community, I have some options for you. Watch Black movies, Shop at Black owned businesses, do not support racist comments or theories, record and stop any death by modern day lynching by any and all means necessary, and do not vote for racist politicians either in local or major elections. These are a few things you yourselves can do today.

The people of the council would like us to ignore racism away like we are ignoring the racism of the war on drugs. But I do not see a solution to this in the near future. Support a thriving Black community and culture to unify us in solidarity as we all spiritually march to a better tomorrow.

What can the police and city council do? I believe it would be in our best interest to require the police wear body cameras so that is never an officer's words against a civilians, as well as a yearly racial bias screening. I am here to tell you today, as a white man, that the Black community does not feel safe or heard and neither do I because of the systemic racism that has plagued this country for over 400 years. We must all work together with one another as a community to fix this issue.

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In summation:

- >I will notify the Mayor of upcoming marches
- >Body cameras for the police at least 3
- >Racial bias and racial training for the police
- >Reform for the rules of engagement for the police to protect the citizens more
- >This city has got to do a better job of hearing Black voices
- >We will hold you accountable
- >Let's get to work
- > Randolph Facebook should post meeting times, hours, and agendas reminding us to take part in the community instead of hiding away on your website.
- >Thank you for hearing us today.

Willa McWhorter, resident of Elkins, submitted the following comment:

I'm a resident of the 5th ward of Elkins. Proud Elkinite, born and raised.

I'm a young working woman here in this town who has traveled all over and every time I come back I have such a strong connection to the town and I really think during this incredibly revolutionary and trying time that it is essential we address the accountability and safety of our community and what it means to hold ourselves accountable and actually be a welcoming and open community to the world.

We are a small and collective place, however it does not mean we cannot open and visible to the world. It also doesn't mean that we shouldn't be powerful and have a strong basis. I also think it's important we recognize and address our safety practices and how we address problems in the community and that we all have the ability to listen, to make a lasting impact and to establish and sustain a safe environment for all of the residents of Elkins including the small black community that we have. It's important that they all feel safe. And we also must create a safe outlet for the oppressed and report harassment and concerns and hold those who are scared to stand up, hold those who are doing wrong accountable for their actions and understanding that it may be uncomfortable and it may be a long road, but its' worth it.

Thank you so much for your time.

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MINUTES

Cw. Wilmoth, **MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALL COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2020.** The motion carried.

R. Chenoweth	Yes	M. Hinchman	Yes	L. Vest	Yes
M. Cuonzo	Yes	C. Lowther	absent	K. Wilmoth	Yes
C. Friddle, III	Yes	C. Metheny	Yes	Mayor V. Broughton (in case of tie)	n/a
J. Guye	Yes	D. Parker	Yes		

NEW BUSINESS

Cw. Cuonzo, **MOVED APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 1326: ACCEPTING CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT BETWEEN MITCHELL TREE CARE, LLC AND LANDSCAPE CONSULTING, LLC AND THE CITY OF ELKINS, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT.** The motion carried.

R. Chenoweth	Yes	M. Hinchman	Yes	L. Vest	Yes
M. Cuonzo	Yes	C. Lowther	absent	K. Wilmoth	Yes
C. Friddle, III	Yes	C. Metheny	Yes	Mayor V. Broughton (in case of tie)	n/a
J. Guye	Yes	D. Parker	Yes		

City Clerk J. Sutton presented a plan for a phased return to in-person meetings, including limiting on the number of attendees, requiring facial coverings and social distancing and ensuring access to the public, press and additional officials. The plan is contingent upon the installation of software to join the council chambers sound system directly to the virtual platform, which is expected within the next few weeks. Once this is achieved and if local conditions relating to the coronavirus pandemic or guidance from the Governor’s office still allow, council is in favor of the proposed plan.

Council discussed the possible issuance of a statement related to the recent death of George Floyd caused by a Minneapolis Police Officer and the subsequent national, state and local responses. Several councilors spoke in favor and against the issuance of a statement and what the content of such a statement would be,

Cm. Chenoweth, **MOVED APPROVAL OF A COUNCIL STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO RECENT NATIONAL EVENTS TO BE DRAFTED BY THE CITY’S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST BASED ON COUNCIL INPUT AND RETURNED TO FOR REVIEW AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.** The motion carried.

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R. Chenoweth	Yes	M. Hinchman	Yes	L. Vest	Yes
M. Cuonzo	Yes	C. Lowther	absent	K. Wilmoth	Yes
C. Friddle, III	Yes	C. Metheny	No	Mayor V. Broughton (in case of tie)	n/a
J. Guye	Yes	D. Parker	Yes		

APPROVAL OF VENDOR INVOICE PAYMENTS

Cm. Friddle, **MOVED APPROVAL OF THE INVOICES PRESENTED.** The motion carried.

The invoices in question were as specified on the following list, which is attached and made part of this record:

- Accounts Payable check transactions for the period June 8 – 12, 2020

CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS

Council received the following correspondence and notifications:

- Issued building permits

The following building permits have been issued since the previous regular council meeting.

ISSUED BUILDING PERMITS				
Permit	Applicant	Location	Description	Value
200112	Johnson, Sheila	1 Williams St	Roof	5,000.00
200113	Stemple, Stephen	116 Vector Ave.	Bathtub & Shower	7,983.00
200114	Summerfield, James & Diana	112 Whisperwood Dr.	Build Roof Over Existing Deck	13,780.00
200115	Mullenex, Logan	239 Boundary Ave.	Install New Water Lines	100.00
200116	Mullenex, Logan	239 Boundary Ave.	Complete Rewire	2,500.00
200117	Grindle, William	12 Dent St	Install New Shower and Faucets	8,329.00

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200118	Isenhart, Brandon	105 Adams St.	Install New Metal Roof	2,000.00
200119	Judy, Tracy	311 Scott Ford Rd.	Install New Metal Roof, Soffit & Fascia	4,200.00
200120	Romero, Beverly	124 Riverview Dr.	Install New Siding	4,000.00
200121	Band, Berry	123 Sunset Dr.	Replace Sidewalk	2,000.00
200122	Lester, Ann	133 Vector Ave.	Replacing 8 X 10 Deck	1,500.00
200123	Nottingham, Adrienne	185 Summit St.	Re-Roof	5,000.00
200124	Lambert, Robert & Julia	105 Pleasant Ave.	Install Carport	1,426.00
200125	Stevenson, Julia	109 Wayne Ave.	Install New Metal Roof	6,760.00
200126	Marstiller, Mitchum	127 Barron Ave.	Build 10 X 20 Deck and Install Electric Service	3,200.00
200127	Heatherly, Ronald	103 Mountain View Dr.	Re-Roof	13,000.00
200128	Spencer, Melissa	111 Central St.	Build Storage Building	2,400.00
200129	Talbott, Mark	112 High St.	Sidewalk & Patio	6,500.00
200130	Corcoran, Amethyst	512 Central St	Privacy Fence	2,500.00
200131	Fair, Matt	214 Bridgewater Dr.	Stand By Generator	7,678.00
200132	Kessler, Herschel	227 Lough St.	Install 5 X 8 Sidewalk	2,000.00
200133	Lambert, Joseph & Brenda	16 Moore Stg.	Repair Roof and Electric Service	1,500.00
200134	Tomblyn, Mark	100 Ellis Ave.	Replace Sidewalk	3,000.00
200135	Smith, Patrick	115 Third St.	Replace HVAC	10,000.00
200136	Phares, Susan	23 High St.	Re-Roof	15,345.00
200137	Harris, Scott	1220 S Kerens Ave.	Fence	1,500.00

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200138	Barton, Robert	123 Weese St.	New Electric Service	800.00
200139	Huffman, Aaron	85 Pleasant Ave.	Build Deck	1,400.00
200140	Calain, Ed	145 Robert E Lee Ave.	Replace Siding	2,500.00

Cm. Chenoweth, **MOVED ADJOURNMENT.** The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

*Approved by council at the meeting
of MONTH DAY, YEAR*

Van T. Broughton, Mayor

Attest:

Jessica R. Sutton, City Clerk