

**CITY OF CUSTER CITY  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS- REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2007**

Mayor Harold D. Stickney called to order the first regular meeting of the Common Council for the month of April, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Present at roll call were Councilpersons Schleining, Pischke, Culberson, Boyer, Starr, and Chris Beesley, City Attorney. The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

**AGENDA**

Councilperson Schleining moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilperson Pischke, the motion unanimously carried.

**MINUTES**

Councilperson Culberson moved, with a second by Councilperson Starr, to approve the minutes from the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Board of Equalization & Regular meeting. Councilperson Boyer abstained from the Board of Equalization meeting. The motion carried.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts were stated.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD DISCUSSION**

Bob Morrison, Public Works Director, stated that Clean Up Day Weekend is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>; the Fire Department would like to participate by washing the Streets down; and the Chamber will be holding a team challenge with the winners getting \$100 Custer Cash.

Bob also discussed that Corbin Herman, YMCA Director, mentioned redoing the baseball infield; Hills Material has offered to donate ½ of the material needed.

Bob discussed resigning from Southern Black Hills Water Association Board due to a conflict of interest with proposed rates for the City; but he will continue to be involved with the Association. Bob presented a pricing grid based on their proposed rates for Custer City to tie into the project. Bob discussed the base increase cost per resident for SBH versus if the City developed a well and treatment plant within a 10 mile radius. Bob has contacted a company regarding a hydrology study so we may have a better determination of our present water source and supply. Councilperson Boyer questioned access to the Madison Formation. Bob stated that it would be quite a distance to access that. Bob also mentioned that the Mayor attended a DENR meeting and that other communities have water rates in excess of \$35 to \$40; our rate is approximately \$29. Grant money is available but only if water rates are over \$20 for 5,000 gallons of usage.

Rex Harris, Community Development Director, discussed the need to explore the water situation due to the possible growth within the next 5 to 10 years; 300 plus homes. Custer will probably be a major player in the Southern Hills.

Rex discussed the FEMA Katrina mobile homes that are free of charge except for the delivery. There are 80,000 units available including travel trailers. Discussion was held on the possible use of some for the new proposed street shop area. Rex also mentioned the FEMA Mitigation Grant which will probably be channel clean up.

**SOLID WASTE CONTRACT & SANDER SANITATION SERVICE**

The bid opening for the Solid Waste Contract was held March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with only one bid received which was from Sander Sanitation Service. The bid amount per resident is \$9.86 and \$500 per month for the City's collection. Tim Sander deeply thanked the Council for their support over the last 25 years. He then discussed the truck weights and distributions for the single axle and dual rear axle; the corners are what suffer the most. He also mentioned the difference between the side load trucks and the rear load which are hard to meet any weight limits. Tim did request that if the City is restricting their weights, then please restrict all other companies. Tim discussed Clean Up Day and that Edgemont wouldn't take the trash but Rapid City Landfill would. He would request that the Council consider not strictly restricting use to Edgemont. If Custer can coordinate with Rapid City's Clean Up, the fees are usually waived. Also, Edgemont won't take the screenings from the Treatment Plant; so it's usually mixed with other trash going to Rapid. The Mayor discussed the permit change so now there should be fewer problems; they are hiring an additional person; the fencing is being addressed; and the road is being fixed. Tim discussed the bid specs which included a fuel adjustment using AAA Rating; however the fuel price is different in Custer and he buys 90% of his fuel locally. Tim wondered if there would be an alternative to figure the average fuel price. Councilperson Culberson moved to accept Sander Sanitation contract at \$9.86 per residential unit per month. Seconded by Councilperson Boyer, the motion unanimously carried. The Mayor thanked Tim for working with the Council on various repair issues.

**WAY PARK USAGE REQUEST**

Jim Frank, Magic Banjo Show, submitted a request to use Way Park on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm throughout the summer; this would be an entertainment and educational performance. Councilperson Boyer

wondered about the liability issue with insurance coverage. Discussion was held on this being a scheduled but not invited event. More information will be obtained for the next meeting.

#### **SEWER ASSESSMENT EXEMPTION REQUEST**

Scott Engstrom, Habitat for Humanity Housing Project, requested a sewer assessment exemption for property within the Homestead area. This project provides decent housing for those who otherwise could not afford a home; the owner contributes sweat equity and then pays for the construction material on a repayment plan. There will be over 2000 local hours that will be donated towards the building and they would appreciate the City's assistant by waiving the additional assessment fees. Everyone felt that this is a good project but as Rex pointed out, the Ordinance is in place. Councilperson Starr stated that the Council has been abiding by the fees structures and not waiving any of those that are in place. Councilperson Boyer wondered about the City donating to the Habitat Organization from the Mayor & Council's contingency fund. Councilperson Culberson wondered how fees were in other cities and if the property was in the County, they would have to put in a septic system which would cost more than the assessment. Scott stated Custer's fees are competitive except for the sewer assessment portion. Councilperson Boyer moved to not allow an exemption and to have the General Government Committee consider a donation to this Organization. Seconded by Councilperson Culberson, the motion unanimously carried.

#### **HARBACH PARK USAGE REQUEST**

Corbin Herman, YMCA Director, submitted a request to use Harbach Park for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Councilperson Culberson moved to approve this request. Seconded by Councilperson Pischke, the motion unanimously carried.

#### **KLEEMAN HOUSE**

Rex discussed the Kleeman House tour taken by himself and members of the Council which showed that there is a huge amount of work to be completed but the structure seems to be okay; and she has taken down the political signs. Discussion was held on whether there has been a timeline set; how long to wait while the building continues to deteriorate; drainage issues and whether or not it affects the neighboring building; how little repairs could be completed all along; and revising ordinances so that we do not have problem areas and that this is not the only building deteriorating. Dave Ressler, Chamber Director, commented how nice the improvements along main look since several businesses have been getting ready for the summer.

#### **2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Council received and reviewed the unaudited 2006 Annual Report. After some discussion of several line items and what the figures meant, Councilperson Pischke moved to approve and accept the 2006 Annual Report. Seconded by Councilperson Starr, the motion unanimously carried.

#### **WAGE INCREASE**

Bob recommended the new hire of Kirk Johnson & LeRoy Olson as temporary seasonal at \$9 per hour effective immediately and he has one more interview set for tomorrow. Councilperson Culberson moved to approve the two recommendations and the additional one contingent upon the interview. Seconded by Councilperson Starr, the motion unanimously carried.

Bob recommended the off probation merit increase for Tanner Bland to Step 1 \$11.83 per hour effective April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Councilperson Starr moved to approve this request. Seconded by Councilperson Culberson, the motion unanimously carried.

Christine recommended the annual merit increase for Lynnette Merritt to Step 6 at \$12.99 per hour effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Councilperson Starr moved to approve this increase. Seconded by Councilperson Schleining, the motion unanimously carried.

The Mayor discussed a possible inequity in pay rates for two of the Street crew. Discussion was held on the wage scale and not following it and how we ended up here. This item was recommended to go to General Government Committee for review.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Mayor discussed the need to establish a uniform commercial building standard for the downtown business section and that he received information from Hill City and Deadwood.

Councilperson Culberson discussed the National Forest Committee which discussed the intermix of private property and Forest Service land. They are trying to look at selling small tracks close to town and buy other small tracks out in the middle of the forest.

Councilperson Starr wondered about several items as follows:

Are there any thinning projects which Frank Carroll would be able to assist? Rex and Bob stated that there is not at this time and there are not many areas designated as parks so the City cannot do a lot.

Whether or not Golden West will be receiving a reminder letter concerning Custer being brought into the Coop? The Mayor thought this would work well.

How we can shop locally and often to improve our sales tax revenue.

Wondering when there would be fencing around the Harbach Park playground. Bob stated this would be soon since we now have some chain link fencing available.

Discussion was held on the Liquor Store remodel or new building, the land value and location, and not to do just a quick fix.

Ed mentioned the need to address repairs on the YMCA Building such as the windows and bad logs. Bob stated that there are quite a number of restrictions when working on a historical building, but we will get to those.

### **CLAIMS**

Councilperson Schleining moved, with a seconded by Councilperson Culberson, to approve the claims.

The motion unanimously carried.

Mayor & Council, Wages, \$4200  
Community Development, Wages, \$3608.72  
Finance Dept., Wages, \$8344.35  
Public Works Dept., Wages, \$5337.60  
Street Dept., Wages, \$3735.64  
Parks Dept., Wages, \$1763.67  
Liquor Fund, Wages, \$3743.33  
Water Fund, Wages, \$4174.04  
Wastewater Fund, Wages, \$2506.60  
3D Specialists, Supplies, \$523.76  
A&B Electric, Repair & Maintenance, \$89.25  
AFLAC, Insurance, \$360.38  
Alltel, Utilities, \$296.56  
American Business Forms, Supplies, \$1315.14  
Beesley Law Office, Professional Services, \$1231  
BH Power, Utilities, \$1447.19  
Blackhills.com, Advertising, \$120  
Custer Co. Chronicle, Publishing, \$918.81  
Custer Do It Best, Supplies, \$343.34  
First Western Insurance, Insurance Premiums, \$15806  
Gen Pro Power, Repair & Maintenance, \$408  
Hawkins Chemical, Supplies, \$5  
Hillyard Floor Care, Supplies, \$207.66  
Jim Dandy Snack Food, Supplies, \$52.80  
Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, Hard Paving Project, \$12205.67  
Knight Security, Repair & Maintenance, \$516  
Lynn Moran, Professional Services, \$93.75  
Lynn's Dakotamart, Supplies, \$23.96  
Nelson's Oil & Gas, Utilities, \$4711.02  
Okoboji Wines, Supplies, \$260.27  
Petty Cash, Fees, Travel & Conferences, Supplies, \$294.63  
Quill Corporation, Supplies, \$172.10  
Rapid City YMCA, Memberships, \$82.42  
SD Dept. Revenue, Fees, \$50  
Sioux Pipe & Equipment, Supplies, \$58.92  
Harold Stickney, Travel & Conferences, \$55.04  
Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith, Professional Services, \$600  
Geney Ziolkowski, Animal Contract, \$680  
Child Support Payment Center, \$314.54  
Federal Withholding, \$3096.08  
FICA, \$4566.88  
Medicare, \$1068.06  
SD Retirement, \$4651.57  
SD Retailer's Assoc., Supplies, \$40  
Karen Holloway, Deposit Refund, \$50  
JRP Development, 56  
Total Claims \$94,185.75

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mayor Stickney adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CUSTER CITY

Christine Redden  
Finance Officer

Harold D. Stickney  
Mayor