

**STERLING, COLORADO
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

**STATE OF COLORADO)
COUNTY OF LOGAN)ss
CITY OF STERLING)**

As required by the Colorado Sunshine Law, the meeting was posted timely in the City Hall lobby more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

Pastor Lew Champ, First Christian Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Desormeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance. The City Council of the City of Sterling, Colorado, met in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Mayor Desormeaux called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmembers present:

Mayor	Desormeaux
Councilmembers	Angell Blecha Delgado Haynie Janes

Councilmember absent:

Councilmember	Ritter
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Also present:

City Manager	Blankenship
City Attorney	Richardson
City Clerk	Forbes
Fire Chief	Ritter
Police Chief	Kerr
Public Safety Communications Director	Lybrand
Human Resources Director	Mentzel
Paralegal	Welsh

Citizens present: 17

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Janes made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Angell seconded the motion. By a six-yes vote, the motion was approved.

Items on the consent agenda were: City Council minutes of September 12, 2023 and an application for renewal of lodging & entertainment liquor license for Ice Lanes located at 208 North 10th Avenue.

COMMUNICATION AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF NON-SCHEDULED CITIZENS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Present to address Council was Michele Mendoza, 623 Hamilton Street. Ms. Mendoza had concerns regarding dog problems. The Humane Society only has two employees and they do no enforcement. Ms. Mendoza cannot allow her child to walk dog because of the loose dogs in her neighborhood.

Next to address Council was Mr. Dave Greeno, 1120 Beattie Drive. Mr. Greeno also had concerns regarding dog problems.

Next to address Council was Ms. Lauren Diede, 306 Poplar Street. Ms. Diede is the Postmaster in Sterling. She also had concerns regarding the dog situation and does not understand why the Police cannot help with the safety of people. Ms. Diede advised Council that two postal carriers have been attacked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET:

City Manager Blankenship advised Council the proposed 2024 budget was handed out to Council on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. In accordance with Section 5-7 of the City Charter, a public hearing on the budget shall be held by the Council two (2) weeks after its submission. The required notice of the time and place of said hearing was properly published.

Mayor Desormeaux opened the public hearing.

Mayor Desormeaux advised she had one item on page 17. The non-profit donation would be split between Meals on Wheels, \$1,500; Family Resource Center, Help for Abused Partners, Baby Bear Hugs, Early Childhood Education, Under the Umbrella and Cooperative Ministries would each receive \$2,500 for a total of \$16,500.

Councilmember Delgado had questions regarding the \$185,400 that is being contracted for the Humane Society.

Councilmember Angell advised the audience that Council is looking very seriously at the dog matter.

Mayor Desormeaux advised that Councilmember Ritter had a concern regarding snow removal, how the amount was only \$20,000 for next year.

Present to address Council was Rachel Schwayder, Chambers Drive. Rachel explained the amount for the Humane Society was not just for the salaries of the two employees. The amount is also for other expenses as well.

Councilmember Angell had a question regarding Service Center Gas and Oil for \$28,400. City Manager Blankenship advise that amount should be \$5,500.

There were no further comments.

Mayor Desormeaux closed the public hearing.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

- Sales and Lodging Taxes – September 2023
- Water Production/Demand – August 2023
- Audit presentation
- Logan County Humane Society Update – City Manager Blankenship advised the Humane Society is allowing him to attend the Board meeting on October 9.
- WWTP Loan Application Discussion – City Manager Blankenship advised Council regarding the Resolution that is on the agenda this evening is a vital piece of the loan for Wastewater.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS, LIBRARY AND RECREATION BOARD:

Mayor Desormeaux made a motion to appoint Denise Rogers Piel to the Parks, Library and Recreation Board. Councilmember Haynie seconded the motion. By a six-yes vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-5-23, SERIES OF 2023 - A RESOLUTION BEFORE THE CITY OF STERLING, LOGAN COUNTY, COLORADO APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STERLING AND PHILLIPS COUNTY FOR THE COUNTY OF PHILLIPS TO UTILIZE AND RECORD ITS LAW, FIRE, AND EMS RADIO TRANSMISSIONS ON THE CITY OF STERLING'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AIS RADIO LOGGER:

City Manager Blankenship advised Council the City and the County of Phillips entered into an agreement that allows the County of Phillips to utilize and record its law, fire, and EMS radio transmissions on the City's AIS radio logger, and that agreement has expired. The County of Phillips wishes to continue this arrangement. This Resolution approves a new agreement under the same terms as the present agreement. The County of Phillips shall share the annual maintenance expenses for the City's SECC radio logger, based on the previous year's "Call for Service" numbers for the City and the County.

Councilmember Delgado made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9-5-23, Series of 2023. Councilmember Blecha seconded the motion. By a six-yes vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-6-23, SERIES OF 2023 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE RATES AS REQUIRED IN CITY CODE CHAPTER 21, UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV, SEWER SYSTEM:

City Manager Blankenship advised Council City Code Chapter 21 requires that City Council set certain rates which apply to sewer service. This Resolution is provided in two options.

Option No. 1 increases the minimum rate for all in-city sewer accounts by \$15.10 monthly per equivalent residential and commercial groups, and \$18.43 for outside-city rates.

Option No. 2 increases the minimum rate for all in-city sewer accounts by \$15.13 per month per equivalent residential and commercial groups, and \$18.73 for outside-city rates, but such increase taking place in one-year increments over a 3-year period.

The increase in rates in Option 1, based on the current number of taps, is estimated to generate an additional \$915,000.00 in revenue in 2024. The increase in rates in Option 2, based on the current number of taps, is estimated to generate an additional \$448,000.00 in revenue in 2024; and additional \$580,000.00 in revenue in 2025, and an additional \$915,000.00 in revenue in 2026.

Councilmember Delgado made a motion to approve Option No. 2 Resolution No. 9-6-23, Series of 2023. Councilmember Janes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Angell had questions regarding the Tap Fees. He advised he feels those need to be brought up.

Councilmember Delgado advised he talked with citizens in his area and they were against the rate increase and wanted to know what it would be spent on.

City Manager Blankenship advised on the loan. The State is requiring the increase so there is revenue to make the loan payments.

By a six-yes vote, the motion was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL BUSINESS:

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

Councilmember Haynie had a concern that they are doing the water line on Delaware Street and the fire hydrants ran the entire day. The citizens felt this was a waste of water. City Manager Blankenship advised he would look into the matter, but it could be they were flushing the line.

Councilmember Delgado asked if the water pressure was consistent all across town with the hydrants. Fire Chief Ritter advised there have been changes made and they are all three hole hydrants with a six-inch line and he did feel that the pressure was sufficient.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: FOR DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(f) AND NOT INVOLVING ANY SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE REQUESTED DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER IN OPEN SESSION; ANY MEMBER OF THIS BODY OR ANY ELECTED OFFICIAL; THE APPOINTMENT OF ANY PERSON TO FILL AN OFFICE OF THIS BODY OR OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL; OR PERSONNEL POLICIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE DISCUSSION OF MATTERS PERSONAL TO PARTICULAR EMPLOYEES:

Mayor Desormeaux made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) and not involving any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees. Councilmember Delgado seconded the motion. By a six-yes vote, the motion was approved.

Council went into executive session at 6:22 p.m.

Council came out of executive session at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor Desormeaux advised the participants in the executive session were: City Council and City Manager. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, she asked that they state their concerns for the record.

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before Council the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK