

MEADVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 2, 2024

Call to Order	The in-person meeting of City Council was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Jamie Kinder. Deputy Mayor McKnight and Councilmembers Gretchen Myers, Jim Roha and Autumn Vogel answered on the call of the roll. City staff present were Manager Maryann Menanno, City Solicitor Bob Zaruta, City Planner Peter Grella, Finance Director Tim Groves, Community Development Coordinator Renna Wrubleski, and Recording Secretary Darla Boca. Also in attendance were Junior Councilmembers Agatha Crowley, Tatum Gorney, Elias Ramsey and Daniel Survey.
Public Comment on Agenda Items	None.
Meeting Notices	Ms. Menanno noted that there was an executive session held on January 2, 2024, at 5:00pm to discuss personnel and litigation.
Approve Minutes	No minutes to approve as they were approved at the Final Council meeting held at 5:30pm January 2, 2024.
Communication to Council	None.
Manager’s Report	
Hiring of PT Property Inspector	Ms. Menanno stated that the 3 rd property inspector has been hired and looking forward to them starting soon. This role is intended to do interior emergency inspections when the fire department is unable to, as well as other requests. This position will be paid for with CDBG funds.
Tribune Person of the Year	Ms. Menanno announced that Evan Kardosh, Meadville Fire Department Deputy Chief/EMS coordinator was named the Meadville Tribune’s person of the year for his contributions to the new EMS program.
Old Business	
Discussion/Motion – 2024 ABC Appointments	Environmental Advisory Committee – Brenda Costa, Peggy Mogush Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to accept these appointments. Councilmember Roha seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Housing Authority – Cena Kneubehl Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to accept this appointment. Councilmember Vogel seconded. Roll call was unanimous. MARA – John Zigler, Donna Cessna Councilmember Roha moved to accept these appointments. Councilmember Vogel seconded. Roll call was unanimous.

Market Authority – Mark Richmond
Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to accept this appointment.
Councilmember Myers seconded. Roll call was unanimous.

Planning Commission – Jack Harkless, Lee Scandinaro, Julie Wilson, Sally Guzick
Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to accept these appointments.
Councilmember Myers seconded. Roll call was unanimous, with the exception of Councilmember Vogel, who abstained.

Streetscape Committee – Jed Miller, Scott Sjolander
Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to approve these appointments.
Councilmember Myers seconded. Roll call was unanimous.

Shade Tree Commission – Scott Sjolander
Councilmember Roha moved to approve this appointment. Deputy Mayor McKnight seconded. Roll call was unanimous.

MASA- Ms. Menanno stated that there were two candidates for the appointment, Tim Groves and Marcia Yohe. The recommendation was for Marcia Yohe from the Chair of the Committee and Councilmember Roha, who is the liaison. There was some suggestion from staff that this should be discussed. Councilmember Roha indicated that he has known and worked with Ms. Yohe for 30 years and that she is knowledgeable, has been very diligent, conscientious and what MASA needs. In addition to that when we have members of the public interested in serving, I think that we should accept that service.

Councilmember Vogel said that we are thankful for Ms. Yohe’s service, however we have heard from City staff that there may be a reason to accept a different appointment. Would be most comfortable not moving on with the appointment until we better understand and hope to have some conversation around this.

Financial Director Time Groves indicated that there is a 250,000 annual contribution as well as a \$12 million loan that the City had signed on for the MASA. Councilmember Myers indicated that it is in the best interest of the City to ensure the best appointment.

Ms. Menanno stated that there are two candidates, and it is up to Council to decide between the two for who to appoint. Councilmember Vogel stated she would like to hear from the MASA Chair, Rachel O’Brien.

Deputy Mayor McKnight said that it might be a good idea to open up for candidates, as maybe there is someone out there that is a better option. Stressed transparency to the public on such a decision.

Mayor Kinder indicated she would be happy to discuss, do interviews to make the best choice. Would be happy to appoint Tim Groves but would also be okay with further review.

It was determined that the appointment would be tabled pending additional conversation within Council.

Councilmember Vogel moved to table the appointment. Deputy Mayor McKnight seconded. Roll call was unanimous.

Discussion – Beautification Committee Ordinance	<p>Ms. Menanno indicated that there was a draft ordinance to be reviewed. It had been sent to the Committee for review and feedback. Further stated that they had only heard back from one committee member, Sarah Chapp, as the December meeting had to be cancelled, so it wasn't discussed at a meeting. Ms. Chapp was in favor of the draft with the exception that the board be opened to non-resident business owners.</p> <p>City Planner, Peter Grella indicated that the majority of the board will be turning over in February. Ms. Menanno stated that this could go to the first meeting in February and still have it in place prior to the new appointments.</p>
Discussion/Motion – Zoning Ordinance	<p>Ms. Menanno reviewed the summary of revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. Followed that the Ordinance could be voted on at Study Session and the ordinance could go into effect on February 6th.</p> <p>Councilmember Roha moved to approve revisions. Deputy Mayor McKnight seconded. Roll call was unanimous.</p>
New Business Discussion/Motion – Council Liaisons to ABCs	<p>Ms. Menanno referenced the list of Council Liaisons within the packet, as they were in 2023. Need to decide to stay the same or make changes.</p> <p>Changes were made to the following Liaisons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAWA – Councilmember Myers • Shade Tree Commission – Councilmember Vogel <p>Councilmember Vogel stated she would like some more clearly defined roles for the liaisons. Set the expectations for participation, and growing relationships.</p> <p>Mayor Kinder questioned the differences/similarities between Beautification and Streetscape. Ms. Menanno responded that the Beautification committee is regulated. Streetscape is for a larger expanse. There are Trusts set up for each, so overlap would need to be reviewed within those Trusts.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel moved to approve the Liaisons for 2024. Councilmember Roha seconded. Roll call was unanimous.</p>
Discussion – 2023 Council Priority Recap	<p>Ms. Menanno reviewed the 5 overarching priorities from 2023 in consideration of what has been accomplished. The 2024 Priorities were put together, based largely on the unfinished priorities from 2023.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel said that there was value in reviewing the 2023 priorities. Established a BLS service for the City. We are moving forward with the Zoning Ordinance. We have a condition assessment for the Market Square Parking Garage. Need to address bridge repairs within the City. We still need to do a comprehensive plan for further out, but we have a 2024 budget that is very healthy. Gretchen has been making strides with changes to the Act 511 service tax. Have not done ABC roundtables, and we talked</p>

	<p>tonight about what it means to be a Liaison and best practices. Our housing plan is in the works as is our Redevelopment Area Plan. So mix of things that are accomplished, things in progress.</p> <p>With no further questions or discuss, Mayor Kinder moved to the next discussion item</p>
<p>Discussion – 2024 Priorities</p>	<p>Councilmember Vogel reviewed the 2024 Priorities with points on how to move them in a positive way based on a brief description of the priority as well as a list of who should be involved in moving the items forward.</p> <p>City Planner Peter Grella indicated that the last comprehensive plan was done in 2013 and should be reviewed every 10 years or updated as soon as reasonable or necessary. Followed that could not suggest a timeframe now but should be flexible and look to have a skeleton of what we are looking for. Not to be a giant plan that isn't efficient, what staff can work on instead of including everything all at once. Planning can be updated over the course of the year.</p> <p>Ms. Menanno said that the stormwater plan needs to be updated every 5 years.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel continued with review of the additional priorities. Mayor Kinder indicated that sounds like a lot of work, it seems very large. Development of workforce with other commitments. Not trying to add additional stress to staff.</p> <p>Councilmember Myers indicated that the subdivision and land development need to connect as part of the plan.</p> <p>Councilmember Roha agreed with the four points however called them aspirations instead of priorities.</p>
<p>Resolution – Authorize Signatures –Rainbow Dam Rehab Amendment #5</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor McKnight motioned to authorize signatures on the Rainbow Dam Rehab Amendment #5. Councilmember Vogel seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Menanno stated that the Supplemental Watershed Plan Agreement No. 4 was signed on July 2, 2019, it has become necessary to modify that agreement to carry out the installation of the plan. As a result of the additional dam deficiencies realized during design, construction costs have escalated beyond that anticipated through the planning process.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel explained the project and locale to the Junior Councilmembers and the purpose of the Rat Lake Dam to the City.</p> <p>Roll call was unanimous.</p>

<p>Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items</p> <p>Linda Peters</p> <p>Jackie Roberson</p>	<p>Introduced herself as the owner of ERA Richmond Real Estate for over 50 years. Gave credit to all those that are serving on Council. Said that over the past years the City has deteriorated greatly and asked why? In Ms. Peters’ opinion it was due to making ordinances and rules that hinder people doing business and Council needs to look at the long-term effects of what is being set today.</p> <p>Ms. Peters indicated that she is a member of Meadville Landlords group. However, speaking only for herself, believes in what Council has done in respect to inspections. Ms. Peters owns Azalea House Bed & Breakfast and feels safe for her property and guests with the inspections. Council states that the inspections are for health and safety of all citizens. Continued that hearing from the Mayor about a standard of living for the City. Asked who the properties were meant for? What income level? Who set \$25k as minimum insurance? Who will pay for that when it isn’t enough to demolish a building? Call out property right next to 352 Randolph Street, stating that it is not insured. Why not owner-occupied buildings as well? Use Saegertown’s plan as an example. I’ll be back to finish at the next meeting as I’m past my time to finish. Last point would like to invite all of Council to do a walk through of an apartment that the tenant has left, Council will see what some think standard of living is.</p> <p>Chair of the MLK Dinner and would like to call upon all of Council to come to the Rediscovering Hope – A Dinner & Community Celebration of Dr Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday. To be held at Shultz Banquet Hall at Allegheny College on Monday, January 15th from 6 to 8pm. Cost is \$25, and tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the FCCA. Mayor Kinder will be speaking. Now is the time for the City to come together and celebrate Dr. King.</p>
<p>Councilmember Statements</p>	<p><i>Councilmember Roha:</i> Welcome to the Junior Councilmembers. Thank you to the members of the public that get involved, it’s what makes the process work. Happy Orthodox Christmas. Also, today was perihelion day.</p> <p><i>Councilmember Myers:</i> Happy New Year. Thanks to those on the ABCs. Want people to know that Council can’t oversee people but can oversee businesses. Thanks to Peter for putting the plan together and we all need to work on it.</p> <p><i>Junior Councilmember Servey:</i> Thank you. I’m excited for the 2024 session.</p> <p><i>Junior Councilmember Crowley:</i> I second that.</p> <p><i>Junior Councilmember Gorney:</i> Looking forward to working together and learning more.</p>

	<p><i>Junior councilmember Ramsey:</i> Looking forward to helping with decisions.</p> <p><i>Deputy Mayor McKnight:</i> Thanks to the community and Junior Councilmembers. We need to pave a path early with guidance and correct information. Proud to see that you are taking the initiative to learn. Thank you for everyone behind the scenes. Thank you to Renna. Everyone stepped up to help with I couldn't be involved due to my health. Happy New Year. Let's make Meadville better.</p> <p><i>Councilmember Vogel:</i> Happy New Year. Step into new beginnings and term with the vote of confidence from our voters. Want to keep doing the work. Am grateful for those that wanted to keep us in service. I love it and I hate it. To Junior Council – excited that you are here. Looking for you to weigh in. We have new volunteers in the community that have the willingness to step up and serve the community. Have appreciation and gratitude at the beginning of the year.</p> <p><i>Mayor Kinder:</i> Happy New Year. Excited to see what is happening. New volunteers and people being engaged. Even when we don't always agree, we do our best to make Meadville better. As a reminder, the only people that make the policy are Council. We don't need people feeling unsafe that are on the staff of this building. I have office hours on Monday and Thursday for anyone to speak to me. Direct that to me and those up-front on Council as they are the ones that can make changes. My door is always open.</p>
Adjournment	With no further business to come before Council, Deputy Mayor McKnight moved to adjourn. Councilmember Roha seconded, and the roll call was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Maryann Menanno, Interim City Clerk

Jaime Kinder, Mayor