

**MEADVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 20, 2024**

<b>Call to Order</b>	The in-person meeting of City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Deputy Mayor McKnight. Councilmembers Gretchen Myers, Jim Roha and Autumn Vogel answered on the call of the roll. Mayor Jaime Kinder was absent. City staff present were Manager Maryann Menanno, City Planner Peter Grella, Finance Director Tim Groves, Community Development Director Renna Wrubleski, and Recording Secretary Darla Boca. Junior Councilmembers Tatum Gorney and Elias Ramsey sat as representatives for the evening. Junior Councilmembers Agatha Crowley and Daniel Servey were also in attendance.
<b>Public Comment on Agenda Items</b>	None.
<b>Notice of Executive Session Meeting</b>	None
<b>Approve Minutes</b>	Councilmember Roha moved to approve minutes from the February 13, 2024, meeting. Councilmember Myers seconded. The roll call was unanimous.
<b>Communication to Council</b>	None.
<b>Manager’s Report</b>  RTKR Update  Hosing Plan Update – Renna Wrubleski	Ms. Menanno noted there have been 13 Right to Know Requests for 2024. No pricing from Knox at this time.  Community Development Director Renna Wrubleski followed up on the timeline that was presented for review and adoption of the Housing Plan. Planning Commission had received at the beginning of February to have a chance to read through it. Council received it last week. The Redevelopment Authority also received, reviewed and provided feedback at their meeting last week. Not a lot of substantial feedback that would lead to any major changes in the plan, just a few points of clarification and word editing. Largely in support of it. Had some concerns about the ambition of the plan and capacity but feel confident that this will become my job directive moving forward, as far as the RDA is concerned. I feel confident that we can create at least a solid foundation for that plan throughout this year. The Planning Commission will provide their feedback at their March 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Then at the March 12 <sup>th</sup> Council study session, Peter and I will have synthesized that feedback from the different groups to present to Council and also for Council to have another opportunity for any feedback, revisions, etc., Feel free to provide that feedback at any time. Then March 19 <sup>th</sup> , would be an opportunity to adopt the plan via resolution if Council so desires. As far as public input is concerned, based on conversation from last week’s study session, it sounded like Council was pretty pleased with the process of creating the plan and how public facing that was and the different outreach methods we had during the creation of it. If desired we could do some public info sessions,

	<p>education awareness around the plan after adoption to lay out what the plan is, what this means. Peter and I have already spoken to the Housing Coalition to have a chance to present it at their next quarterly roundtable in April.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel asked if the drafted plan online already for people to see. Even if we don't do a live event session, it would be a "here's what's in the plan." Ms. Menanno indicated that it would be posted online.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel stated it would be online for people to see. If it was a big plan, I would want an event that is helpful, but this particular plan is every succinct and straight forwarded. Easier for people to read and make sense of. Ms. Wrubleski shared that folks could reach out to her directly if they had questions.</p>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <p>Discussion – WalkWorks Grant Application</p>	<p>City Planner Peter Grella shared the collated responses from the WalkWorks session. Ther is a categorization of themes that you see, lots of things about walking safety. The CATA bus system. If you have any observations about what you struck you as particularly surprising or influential to how you are thinking about the systems, I'd like to hear them for putting together the application for the Active Transportation plan. I'm putting an application together with the Environmental Advisory Committee. They met last week as well. Towards a pseudo-safety and complete streets system study for 6 routes that radiate from the center of the city, centering around the Meadville Mall and bus stops. There is only so much that \$30,000 can do, the most useful thing that can do is to buy traffic and engineering services to study. That would be a good first foray into an active transportation plan. Also thinking in the future about how to leverage this a part of a strategy so that transportation planning does not stop at an active transportation plan, but it is networked into a full system of what the whole transportation network that we have no prioritization on the books for right now.</p> <p>Councilmember Myers questioned that was the \$30,000 going to a traffic study. Mr. Grella answered for the studies and concepts for complete street styles, which means pedestrian, cycling, alongside cars for up to 6 routes around downtown. There are some things that if we want to put in new or different traffic control devices, anything on the roadway, we need to justify things through studies to PennDot. Best to package in those studies as well, so that we don't have unjustified concepts.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel clarified that the \$30,000 that we are hoping to get is a planning grant, that it's not for implementation of anything, just the planning. It sounds like you're saying we are trying to do as much of that in house and use the \$30,000 where we have to set us up for other infrastructure things. Mr. Grella agreed.</p> <p>Councilmember Myers asked if there are 6 routes in mind. Noticed there were some places that came up again and again in the recap. Mr. Grella said yes. The routes thinking of are originally most influenced by the responses to examine the maps and select which routes based on the that. Plotting out what those routes could be. Trying to avoid PennDot roads and state roads because of trying to limit things to what might be most directly under our</p>

control and our influence before throwing out ideas that might spin out of our control.

Councilmember Vogel stated that made sense. There was someone from DCNR at the event and she made it very clear that if there is work that we want to see happen that it should be included in our plans, and we could point to it when we go for funding. Is there a way that we can recognize that we included the sate road thing, that it's not really in our power to put a plan in place to get it done, but it is part of the vision we have for transportation in town so that DCNR or PennDot would maybe, one day when they ask, offer money. Mr. Grella indicated that he is hoping to build out a justification for a larger system of incremental planning – step by step – so that things that Ms. Wiley from DCNR, said that she could help with are set as placeholders in there to acknowledge the forethought, even if we can't or don't have the resources yet to act on it. That would at least put evidence on paper for potential funders and future plans that we do have a system we are working towards, and we are not doing this as a discrete effort that will just begin and end with this funding. If there are no objections, I will present those ideas to contacts at NW Commission, PennDot, County, all those that who should be signing off on the commentary on this idea.

Councilmember Vogel asked what role does the Planning Commission have? Is the Planning Commission the one that would put in the application? Mr. Grella responded no; he is the one that would be doing the application as the timing is a little to speedy. It will go to the Planning Commission at their March meeting, but the Planning Commission is not putting this together. Have reached out to Sally Guzik-Jones, who is on the Planning Commission, to contribute to the application draft, but we are going at this as it was in the EAC's wheelhouse from the start.

Councilmember Vogel further asked that then the development of the plan would transition to the Planning Commission. Mr. Grella indicated that the only specific requirement from the WalkWorks program is that there be a steering committee that includes representatives from public safety, public works, representatives from local planning and can add in others, so Planning Commission can be part of that steering committee.

Councilmember Vogel said that it occurred that Auxiliary Police should have been invited and should have talked to them – we will talk to them in the process. Ms. Vogel continued by asking would it be worth sending it to the Planning Commission, saying that we are thinking about going for these 6 routes, that we are going after comprehensive streets plan and this is what we are going to do unless we hear from you? Mr. Grella agreed and said he could do that. Writing everything as quickly as he can in order to have prepared by the end of next week. Mr. Grella stated that he would share the routes he was proposing with Council so that they had knowledge of them. Once he has them on paper, may need to revise downwards to fit into the money allotted – approximately \$5,000 per route. Once I talk to the grant administrator and find out what a reasonable cost is.

Councilmember Myers stated that Smock Bridge came up and asked how does that work? Ms. Menanno indicated that it is a PennDot bridge and that we have had discussions with PennDot about trying to figure out some thing specific that we could do with the sidewalk and conversations related

	<p>to plowing, but they are not really open as it was more recently done than other bridges in the county. Have had discussions about a fence along the sidewalk but nothing at this time. It does split municipalities, so that is why there are multiple municipalities that help to take care of the bridge. As far as the physical bridge structure is concerned, it is strictly with PennDot.</p> <p>Councilmember Roha asked how we were doing on the Grove Street bridge. Ms. Menanno answered that it hasn't been any further talking with the NW Commission for getting it on the list. They have repaired all of the deficiencies that were more esthetic, but the bridge reports come back as safe.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	None
<b>Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items</b>	None
<b>Councilmember Statements</b>	<p>Councilmember Roha:  <i>The Sewer Authority sent out a letter and photographs to the City, detailing how they are coming along with the sewer plant reconstruction. This is particularly challenging, the last time we had two separate plants – built one and put it in service. The challenge is to keep the plant in service while tearing down and building the new facility. I appreciate the update from them.</i></p> <p>Councilmember Myers:  <i>Vision 2024 had a blurb about Patty DeWalt at the Sewer Authority and her award. I wanted to call that out as I think it is amazing that she received that – Laboratory Excellence Award. It's the MARC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – we have some exciting things planned. We did the Urban Development Advisory Committee, interviewed a lot of people about possibilities with redevelopment and revitalization for Meadville. There is a meeting at Active Aging – Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to 7:30pm. I hope that the public comes. I really enjoyed the interview process; I learned a lot by going to the interviews. Thanks to Andy Walker for putting that together, they are definitely open to everyone's ideas and visions.</i></p> <p>Councilmember Vogel:  <i>Tomorrow is the Beloved Community event. There is also a library book club potluck partnership with the new French Creek Arts Collective. There's a ton of great stuff coming on at the library, there is a session on Green Burial, which is now available at Greendale. Working with some folks to get a MARC garden up and running again for the spring season. If folks are interested in a plot, let me know and we'll get you information on a 4x8 plot that is available for rent for the summer season. Looking at long-term sustainable solutions for management of the garden – which is a very beautiful space and a wonderful asset that we've got. It's the last weekend to see Anastasia at the Academy Theatre. It is very good, it's not a children's show and the spotlight from house left is really on point.</i></p>

	<p>Junior Councilmember Gorney: <i>None</i></p> <p>Junior Councilmember Ramsey: <i>Thank you to everyone that attended the WalkWorks program to find out more on it. Please come and join what is going on in the City, especially the younger generation, so we understand what's going on.</i></p> <p>Deputy Mayor McKnight: <i>Thank you again to the Junior Council for getting involved and volunteering to be on the committee. It really says a lot and thank you for encouraging your friends to come. The library front doors are back open again, they did a really great job remodeling. If you haven't been to the library to see what all it does, it's not just about books – there are a lot of different agencies that their workers use to bring their clients there to play games, spend time, be in the community. It's something that a lot of us may take for granted because we are there, but to watch and see how they interact in the community, it's very interesting. Come and have lunch with us, there are books and things for sale, kids' hour at 10am on Wednesday's. There's a lot more going on at the public library than you might expect. Thank you to everyone, Peter, for all you are doing with your reports, I see a lot of progress and I'm proud of you guys. I'm proud to be a part of this council.</i></p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>With no further business to come before Council, Councilmember Roha moved to adjourn. Councilmember Vogel seconded, and the roll call was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.</p>

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Maryann Menanno, Interim City Clerk

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Jaime Kinder, Mayor