

**MEADVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 9, 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 Kinder was absent. City staff present were Manager Maryann Menanno, Recorder Darla Boca.
<b>Public Comment on Agenda Items</b>	None.
<b>Notice of Executive Session Meeting</b>	None.
<b>Approve Minutes</b>	<p>Councilmember Roha moved to approve minutes from the March 19, 2024, meeting. Councilmember Myers seconded.</p> <p>The roll call was unanimous.</p>
<b>Communication to Council</b>	None.
<b>Manager’s Report</b>	<p>RTKR Update Ms. Menanno noted there have been 21 Right to Know Requests for 2024. Fees total \$1600.</p> <p>General City Updates Ms. Menanno reported that the new body-worn cameras for the police department have been placed into service effective April 1, 2024. Deputy Mayor McKnight inquired if there was a policy in place for usage. Ms. Menanno answered that the department is using the standard policy from the Department of Justice, that the policy is not unique to Meadville.</p>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p>Motion – Move City Cleanup Day from May 18, 2024 to May 11, 2024</p> <p>Ms. Menanno reported that the Beautification Committee has created an entire week for city-wide cleanup running May 6 to May 11. This week would end with the City Cleanup Day a week prior to when Council originally approved. Ms. Menanno continued that while this is Allegheny’s graduation, most students will have moved out already. So, this shouldn’t cause much disruption.</p> <p>Councilmember Myers gave a shout out to Sarah Chapp for contacting the various businesses that will be conducting refuse/recycling efforts throughout the week.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel wanted to make sure that the HOPE Initiative in 5<sup>th</sup> Ward was included in the events. Ms. Menanno indicated that the city would co-ordinate with them for their efforts in that part of the City.</p> <p>After the discussion, Council decided to amend the date to align with the Beautification Committee’s efforts.</p>

<p>Ordinance – Third &amp; Final Reading – Amending Fire Retirement &amp; Pension Fund to Add Provisions Establishing a Retirement Window for Certain Long-Serving Employees</p>	<p>Councilmember Vogel motioned on approval of the Ordinance Amending the Fire Retirement &amp; Pension Fund to Add Provisions Establishing a Retirement Window for Certain Long-Serving Employees. Councilmember Myers seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Menanno indicated that a slight change in the dates of the window, other than that, the Ordinance remains the same as previously put before Council.</p> <p>The call of roll was unanimous.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>Resolution – Authorize Signatures – License Agreement for Outdoor Seating – City of Meadville &amp; JT’s Steamtable</p>	<p>Councilmember Roha motioned to authorize signatures for License Agreement for Outdoor Seating between the City of Meadville and JT’s Steamtable.</p> <p>Ms. Menanno indicated that this is the same agreement and insurance requirements as in years prior for Java Tree.</p> <p>The call of roll was unanimous.</p>
<p><b>Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items</b></p>	<p>Mr. Michael Wood is asking for a reevaluation of parking. His tenants that are at 962 S Main Street and had a verbal agreement with Andy Walker, former mayor, that they could use parking passes issued by the city to park in the area on S Main Street away from the businesses, at no cost. Mr. Wood stated that his tenants had begun to receive parking tickets. When discussed with parking enforcement, was told that the agreement was no longer valid and they would issue tickets. Mr. Wood indicated that it was an issue as he had several young women as tenants and that they did not like to park too far from their apartments, that they often returned home later in the evening and didn’t feel safe walking such a long distance. Part of Mr. Wood’s lease agreement is that they would have access to parking that was in a reasonable distance from the building. He continued that Mr. Walker had agreed that those living in the business district shouldn’t be penalized for being a within a certain block, while free parking was available another block over. His point also being that the permits were issued by the city to the tenants and not directly to him or his business. The current passes are dated with an annual renewal for the tenants and there are 3 passes for his 4 tenants, as one does not drive.</p> <p>Councilmember Roha asked when the enforcement time frame is for meters. Ms. Menanno answered 8:30am to 5:30pm. His concern is if we start a program that everyone will want on street parking no cost. None of the business owners want to have spots in front of their businesses tied up with unpaid parking.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel remarked that this is an agreement that was unique to the situation. That there is nothing on the books, that one can’t apply for</p>

a pass downtown and that we are trying to address parking needs. If we continue the agreement, we have to make a program that is available to others. Councilmember Vogel continued that she heard what Mr. Wood was saying about his tenants and the verbal agreement that was made on the parking.

Mr. Wood stated that it was a verbal commitment from Andy, that it had nothing to do with business ownership or employees but based on residency. The assigned spaces do not necessarily tie up another business's spaces based on where they are at.

Councilmember Vogel stated that there is a need to think about a program as we want to have more residents in the downtown area. Understand that it is urgent to Mr. Wood, however it is opening a larger issue. To balance parking with the desire to rent out the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor space above businesses.

Councilmember Roha indicated that no one on current council was there when this was arranged. Didn't know it existed until a few weeks ago – if we had more people living downtown, where would they park?

Mr. Wood continued that if the parking isn't within reason, he will lose tenants. That one is already looking to move to Conneaut Lake – so that the city would lose and so would he as a source of income.

Councilmember Roha indicated that there are several private lots that they may investigate such as the bank, Meadville tribune lot.

Mr. Wood indicated that there would be an additional cost to his tenants for reserving either with the city or a private lot and the distance to those spots was not close enough for his tenants.

Councilmember Vogel interceded, saying is there a way to honor the agreement for the current tenants' lease terms while we work to figure out the situation.

Councilmember Roha asked if there was a period of grace given to those affected? Ms. Menanno indicated June 1<sup>st</sup> as that date.

Councilmember Myers asked if there are other agreements? Would Peter know what the usage rate is in the area that we are discussing?

Mr. Wood stated that there are not many events in that area that require parking to be a concern. Not a lot of visitors come and go throughout the day to those spaces, it is closer to Arch than it is to the Diamond.

Councilmember Vogel asked Mr. Wood what agreement he would like to see. Mr. Wood stated that the agreement that was set forth by Andy Walker. There are 8-hour meters at the end of S Main near Arch, but those are at a distance from the apartments.

Ms. Menanno indicated that these are actual metered spaces vs reserved. Peter would need to look at what's available .

	<p>Deputy Mayor McKnight stated to table until a conversation with Peter could be had, that we understand where the spots are and give us time to work on parking downtown. Understand the commitment and want to help but not encourage other landlords to seek the same resolution.</p> <p>Mr. Wood then indicated he would like to see this for his tenants, that they should be grandfathered and maybe not for new tenants.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor McKnight stated the desire to help but not create a wildfire. Grandfathering current might be an option. Will need to talk with Peter about reserved. Can't make the decision right now.</p> <p>Mr. Wood further indicated that he would be willing to attend or join in to other meetings that are about parking. He said that the meters are outdated, that this is no longer 1970's Meadville, there aren't the stores that used to be that required control systems for parking. Now begging people to come into town to do business. Customers feel penalized for coming into town to do business.</p> <p>Councilmember Vogel stated that there was a town hall a few months ago that discussed parking. That Peter was collecting feedback for the parking plan. Would share this with Peter to balance the needs of the city with the needs of the people coming in.</p> <p>After no additional comments, the subject was tabled.</p>
<p><b>Councilmember Statements</b></p>	<p>Councilmember Roha: <i>Nothing this evening.</i></p> <p>Councilmember Vogel: <i>It was a great weekend in town. On Saturday Common Roots had self-guided tours around town. Lots of exciting possibilities if the funding requested comes through for 6 new owner-occupied residences at the site of the old Humphrey's /Jones Plumbing site on Water Street. People came through and learned about the project. This is part of the housing action plan that Council has.</i> <i>The eclipse was cool. It was great to see many in town to watch from the top of the parking garage – and also to see the current condition of the structure. Being in the path of totality made it a special event. Thanks to all that came to Meadville and that we were able to put our best foot forward.</i></p> <p>Councilmember Myers: <i>Thanks to Mike Crowley(Meadville Tribune writer) for his coverage of the eclipse. The MARC had a great turnout for the event. Congrats to Meadville EMS for celebrating their 1-year anniversary. Thanks to Councilmember Roha for stopping by the department for a ride along, even though there were no calls during his visit to the station!</i></p>

	<p>Deputy Mayor McKnight:  <i>Thanks for those that showed up on Saturday and appreciation Meadville as an enjoyable place to live. Also, to the vendors that were there over the weekend – showing Meadville coming together for all we have going on.</i></p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<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 6:38 p.m.</p>

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Maryann Menanno, Interim City Clerk

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Jaime Kinder, Mayor