

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Las Animas, County of Bent, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the City Council chambers on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The City Council meeting was in person and on Facebook live. There being present at roll call were the following members:

- Mayor: Scott Peterson
- Council members: Troy Abdulla
Andrew Montoya
Cassandra Siefkas
Robert Smith
Lynette Wolfe
- Absent: Joseph Frazier
- Youth Advisor: Grace Gardner

Mayor Scott Peterson declared a quorum present.

Others Present:

- Robert Bayshore: Bent County Sheriff's Office
- Brandon Dittman: City Attorney (by zoom)
- Ronald Clodfelter: Interested Citizen
- Richard Blake Elliott: Public Works Director
- Richard Gallegos: Deputy City Clerk
- Teresa Garcia: Santa Fe Trail Day Committee
- Tony Jones: Animal Control Officer
- Jerry Maupin: Las Animas Light & Power Board
- Carlton McKay: Pastor of the Nazarene Church
- Charmaine Tripp: City Clerk & Treasurer
- Lynn Wright: Superintendent of Light & Power

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scott Peterson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve the Consent Agenda including the Regular Minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting, the February 2023 vouchers and to add to the March 14, 2023 Agenda item C. Teresa Garcia under Citizen Participation and under the Mayor item K. possible appointment of Steven Martinez to the Park and Recreation Board On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

BENT COUNTY SHERRIFF'S REPORT

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Deputy Robert Bayshore. Deputy Bayshore gave a report on the statistics that were provided to the City Councilors and answered questions from the Councilors. Animal Control Officer Tony Jones also gave a report stating that he is talking with Citizens and letting them know that he is the new animal control officer. Mr. Jones is reaching out to the community to give them an opportunity to meet him. Mayor Scott Peterson thanked the officers for their report.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: a. Carlton McKay, Pastor of the Nazarene Church

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Pastor Carlton McKay from the Nazarene Church. Mr. McKay asked the Councilors if they would be willing to reduce the cost of \$2,442.00 for the house demolition at 7th & Vigil. Mr. McKay stated that the church would develop the property and clean it up and use it as a parking lot. Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Seifkas seconded to release the special assessment for \$1,800.00. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

b. Teresa Garcia-Santa Fe Trail Day Request

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Teresa Garcia. Ms. Garcia asked for approval of the modified Santa Fe Trail Route. The Route is as follows: Poplar Avenue to Sixth Street, Sixth Street to Locust Avenue, Locust Avenue to Third Street, Third Street back to High School. The route was modified due to less space available downtown due to business activities. Councilman Andrew Montoya moved Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve the Santa Fe Trail Day parade route as presented. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Upon recommendation from the Public Works Board, Councilman Andrew Montoya moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to approve the pay requests from G M S Engineering, Inc. and the Final Change Order request prepared by G M S Engineering, Inc. The amounts of the requests are \$26,309.92 and \$276,217.25 and give direction to the Mayor to execute the documents. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

Upon recommendation from the Public Works Board, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve the surcharge relief due to a water leak at 914 Locust Ave. for Herbert Garcia in the amount of \$12.70. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION SCHEDULED

Mayor Scott Peterson scheduled a City Council work session for March 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Public Works Department equipment, vacant housing and salary increases to the Mayor and City Council.

AMERICORPS GROUP

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas reported that the Americorps Group will be here May 27 through June 17, 2023 to help with City projects.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LAS ANIMAS LIGHT & POWER BOARD TO REPEAL TARIFF SHEET #17, PRIMARY GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Upon recommendation from the Las Animas Light & Power Board, Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilman Andrew Montoya seconded to repeal tariff sheet #17, primary Governmental Institutions-Department of Corrections. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried. City Attorney Brandon Dittman will prepare a Resolution for the next Regularly scheduled City Council meeting in April.

ORDINANCE NO. 736, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO AMENDING REGULATIONS CONCERNING VACANT PROPERTY/BUILDING REGISTRATION

A Public Hearing concerning Ordinance No. 736 was opened at 8:20 p.m. Mayor Scott Peterson asked if there were any public comment on the Ordinance. After a brief pause Mayor Scott Peterson closed the public hearing at 8:22 p.m. Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilman Andrew Montoya seconded to adopt on second reading and have published by title only in the Bent County Democrat Newspaper ORDINANCE NO. 736, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO AMENDING REGULATIONS CONCERNING VACANT PROPERTY/BUILDING REGISTRATION. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR PETE'S FAN ZONE

Upon recommendation from City Clerk & Treasurer Charmaine Tripp stating that the license was in order and the fees attached, Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve the tavern liquor license renewal application for Pete's Fan Zone. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE \$250.00 IN SUPPLIES FOR A PICKLEBALL COURT

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve \$250.00 to purchase supplies for a pickleball court. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried. The Bent County Recreation Committee will be asked to match the \$250.00.

COUNCIL GIVES CONSENSUS FOR A WARD 2 CLEAN UP DAY

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe asked to host a Ward 2 clean up day. The City Council gave consensus to allow a dumpster to be placed in Ward 2 for Citizen use. Dates will be determined.

APPROVAL OF A DONATION TO THE POST PROM COMMITTEE

Councilman Troy Abdulla moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to donate \$100.00 to the Post Prom Committee. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE TAC CONCERT AND BOUNCY HOUSES FOR JUNE 9, 2023

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve up to \$1,000.00 for the Tac concert and bounce houses for June 9, 2023. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR COUNCILWOMAN LYNETTE WOLFE TO ATTEND THE CML CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY PAYING THE EXPENSE

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilman Troy Abdulla seconded to approve the expense for Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe to attend the CML conference. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION OF PARTICIPATION OPTING IN TO THE OPIOID SETTLEMENTS

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve continuation of participation opting in to the opioid settlements. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried. The funds will be given to RESADA once received.

DISCUSSION OF GROUP MISSIONS CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2024

City Attorney Brandon Dittman stated that the contract would need to go out to bid and then a contract will need to be written and approved by City Council. Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas will work on a "request for proposal" for bids. Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to table the item until the next regular City Council meeting on April 11, 2023. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF RAISES FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

It was decided to add this discussion to the Council work session on March 29, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTIONS 24-6-402(4)(e) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS WITH REGARD TO THE CITY'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:13 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS WITH REGARD TO THE CITY'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried. The City Council came out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. and resumed the regular City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN MARTINEZ TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Troy Abdulla moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to appoint Steven Martinez to the Parks and Recreation Committee. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: The City Council gave consensus for Mayor Scott Peterson to send a letter of concern pertaining to supporting railroad safety to the National League of Cities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Colorado Department of Transportation denied the second phase of the downtown grant.

Councilman Robert Smith gave an update on the proposed grants for recreation. Councilman Smith stated that there is a \$10,000.00 grant match. Councilman Smith stated that one of the buildings at the baseball field will need work. He will be putting the project out for bid and asking Bent County to split the cost of the repairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilman Troy Abdulla seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

Charmaine D. Tripp
City Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

Scott Peterson, Mayor