

**WHITEFISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2015, 4:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Ken called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present were Rebecca Norton, Turner Askew and Vanice Woodbeck, recording secretary. In the audience was Charlie Abell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MAY 27, 2015

Rebecca made a motion, seconded by Ken, to approve the May 27, 2015 minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlie Abell feels these meetings are important and he tries to get to as many as possible. He still feels that wards would be better then maybe there would not have single user groups on the council.

Ken said he had done up a spread sheet for the populations growth from 1990 to 2013 for Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Kalispell and Flathead County. He said he also called the School District to see if they could give him an estimate of the population in the School District. Ken said he has given the spreadsheet to Dana Smith, Finance Director of the City to edit and when he gets that back from her he will send it out to everyone again.

NEW BUSINESS

Comments and Discussion from Council Work Session and City Directors: Ken said he was disappointed in the Council representation. Rebecca said the council is comfortable with the current form of government. She felt they all would like to get stipends and also health benefits. They talked about how much time they put in and what some of the other towns receive.

Turner said they would not be able to pay enough so somebody would have to work elsewhere. They would need to have a place of employment that would be very understanding of all the hours they would have to put in. Rebecca said instead of paying them they could offer them ski passes, golf passes or memberships at the Wave. Turner said it is a challenge to spend as much time that is needed to become a Councilor but we also do not want somebody to run for office just to get free passes someplace.

The committee talked about the pros and cons on having wards established again. Some felt they could maybe work and others felt that it would divide the council instead of them all working together.

Meeting with the Department Directors: Rebecca said Necile mentioned that Kay Beller always said that City Manager form of Government was better then Mayor form as she had worked with both.

City Manager Stearns said the council does get a lot done every two weeks. He thinks maybe meeting every Monday instead of having a work session before the regular meetings might help on addressing issues but that would be up to the council. Stearns said the land use applications do take up a lot of time.

Some of the directors felt paying the council something would help offset the cost to them and we might get more candidates to run.

The committee talked about the process on how land use is being done between the Planning Board and City Council. They feel that the applications are changed from Planning Board and what they see compared to what the Council receives. This can cause the applicant to have to start over or they can move forward with something different than what was seen by the Planning Board.

Establish our meeting State of the "FISH": Ken said he would like to have the bankers, Chamber and Visitor Bureau attend the State of the "FISH" as he has talked to them about this at an earlier time. He would like to set up July 8, 2015 for the State of the "FISH" and July 20, 2015 for a community Public Meeting with the times from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Ken asked Vanice to check into maybe having the meeting held at the O'Shaughnessy Center.

Update on survey: Vanice said the surveys went out in the water bills and emailed to everyone that has their bills emailed to them. They were also going in the employee paychecks this week and she has received around 80 as of today.

Ken would like on the agenda for the next meeting for them to decide who they want to invite to the State of the "FISH" and which member would be talking to which group prior to the meeting.

COMMENTS

Public Comment: None

Commission Comment: Turner said he also was disappointed in the turnout of the Council and Department Heads. Vanice said that all of the department heads were at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.