



MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

July 16, 2024

A regular meeting of the Montrose City Council was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Elks Civic Building. Said meeting was posted in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

PRESENT

J. David Reed, Dave Frank, Judy Ann Files, Doug Glaspell, Ed Ulibarri, Bill Bell, Ann Morgenthaler, Chris Dowsey, Greg Story, Lisa DelPiccolo, Tim Cox, Blaine Hall, Jace Hochwalt, Shani Wittenberg, Dan Payne, Chris Ottinger, Erin Maxwell, Jody Moreland, David Bries, Jim Scheid, Greg Stunder, Matt Magliaro

GUESTS

John Brown, Jeffrey Krebs, Cindi Olinghouse, Ron Smith, Doug Snyder

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

City Attorney Chris Dowsey reported that Item 12, Ballot Question for November 2024 Coordinated Election, was added to the agenda following a work session discussion.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

John Brown, Dr. Jeffrey Krebs, Ron Smith, and Cindi Olinghouse spoke in favor of a non-sanctuary city declaration.

Mayor J. David Reed stated that the City of Montrose is not a sanctuary city and by default, legally, is a non-sanctuary city. Mayor Reed stated that there is no intention or desire to become a sanctuary city. Mayor Reed said that the Montrose Police Department and other resources confirm that there is no credible evidence of an increase in the number of undocumented migrants into the Montrose community. Mayor Reed recommended contacting Health and Human Services to further verify the number of undocumented migrants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council considered the minutes of the July 2, 2024, regular City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Dave Frank, seconded by Doug Glaspell, to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2024, regular City Council meeting as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA RENDEZVOUS DEVELOPMENT UTILITY FEE WAIVER REQUEST

City Council considered tap fee waivers totaling \$121,737.80 for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous development project at 2366 Robins Way in Montrose, Colorado.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt reviewed the request for utility tap fee waivers for a project to create 52 affordable housing units for residents aged 55 and older making 30 to 60 percent of the area median income. Mr. Hochwalt said the \$22.5 million project includes the renovation of 30 existing units and the construction of 22 new units on vacant land.

Mr. Hochwalt said water-related fee waivers total \$31,814.80 and sewer-related fees total \$89,923.00. The enterprise funds would be reimbursed from the General Fund balance, similar to other recent projects. Mr. Hochwalt corrected the amount of administrative fee waivers presented during the works session discussion. Mr. Hochwalt said VOA is exempt from construction use tax as a nonprofit entity. The correct amount of the building permit and plan check fee waivers is \$48,400.69.

Mr. Hochwalt recommended approval of the utility fee waiver request. Doug Snyder, with Volunteers of America, was present to answer questions.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Dave Frank, seconded by Judy Ann Files, to approve tap fee waivers totaling \$121,737.80 for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous development project at 2366 Robins Way as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2024-09

City Council considered Resolution 2024-09, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file an application for a Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant through the 7th Judicial District Victims Assistance Board for the total of \$55,150.00 to cover a portion of both the current Victim Advocate's Salary and a new Victim Advocate's salary; authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as required; authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police and Finance Director to sign the grant application and reporting documents.

Police Chief Blaine Hall reported that the VALE Board notified the Police Department that this funding source will likely face cuts and this request may not receive the full funding amount. Chief Hall said that the Police Department is looking for additional grant funding, possibly through opioid grant programs. Chief Hall requested adoption of Resolution 2024-09.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

Chief Hall confirmed that the Montrose Police Department has been using this grant program for many years to help fund the statutorily required victim advocate position.

A motion was made by Ed Ulibarri, seconded by Doug Glaspell, to adopt Resolution 2024-09 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2024-10

City Council considered Resolution 2024-10, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Montrose, Colorado, authorizing the filing of a Colorado State Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Grant application for the purposes of procuring partial funding for a City Forester position in the Parks Division of the City of Montrose, Colorado.

Parks Superintendent Dan Payne reported that the grant funds would be used to partially fund a city forester position to focus on urban forestry within the city limits over a five-year period.

Mr. Payne stated that the forester would be a certified arborist who would manage the existing Tree Trimming and Replacement Program, oversee contractors working on city trees, facilitate community outreach in accordance with the Tree City USA program, monitor crew and volunteer hours, and create a tree planting program for city parks.

Mr. Payne recommended adoption of Resolution 2024-10. The application is due on July 31, and awards will be announced on September 1.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Judy Ann Files, seconded by Doug Glaspell, to adopt Resolution 2024-10 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

MUNICIPAL COURT SOFTWARE PURCHASE

City Council considered the purchase of Tyler Technology Software for Montrose Municipal Court for the total first-year cost of \$79,419.00.

Municipal Court Judge Erin Maxwell reported that the proposed purchase of the software will benefit the Court, the Police Department, the Legal Department and citizens by facilitating access to information. Judge Maxwell stated that the legal team reviewed the contract for the purchase, and no concerns were brought forward.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Doug Glaspell, seconded by Judy Ann Files, to approve the purchase of Tyler Technology Software for Montrose Municipal Court for the total first-year cost of \$79,419.00 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

IT NETWORK FIREWALL HARDWARE AND LICENSING PURCHASE

City Council considered a non-budgeted IT purchase to upgrade network firewall hardware and licensing for both the City Hall and PD networks for the total amount of \$70,127.82.

Information Systems Director Greg Story reported that the City's firewall vendor would like to upgrade all customers to the current generation of hardware and is offering substantial discounts. Mr. Story stated that the upgrades will enhance security and ongoing licensing will be discounted

as well. Mr. Story said that \$40,000.00 is included in the 2024 budget for licensing and the additional cost will likely be covered by the current budget.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Dave Frank, seconded by Doug Glaspell, to approve a purchase of IT equipment and licensing totaling \$70,127.82 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

BALLOT QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER 2024 COORDINATED ELECTION

City Council considered whether to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey reported that this item was a late addition to the agenda following the July 15 work session. Mr. Dowsey stated that to place a question on the November ballot, the City is required to take formal action 100 days prior to Election Day and notify the County Clerk in writing. Mr. Dowsey said the 100 day mark is July 26 and this is the last meeting prior to that date. The required action can be in the form of an ordinance, a resolution, or a motion, and Mr. Dowsey stated that a motion is appropriate in this circumstance. Mr. Dowsey said the next steps are for the City to enter into an IGA with the County Clerk and to set the ballot language.

Mr. Dowsey confirmed that the ballot language will be set by ordinance. The public will have the opportunity to comment during the hearing on first reading of the ordinance, and again when the ordinance is considered on second reading.

A motion was made by Doug Glaspell to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

The motion was seconded by Judy Ann Files. All voted yes. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg provided a sales, use, and excise tax report for the month of May 2024. Ms. Wittenberg reported that total sales and use tax collections were up 1.3 percent as compared to May of 2023 with a positive budget variance of 3.1 percent. Year-to-date collections were up 5.4 percent with a positive budget variance of 6.8 percent.

City Hall Façade Update

Public Works Director Jim Scheid presented an update on the City Hall Façade Project. Mr. Scheid reported that the west wall on Cascade Avenue has the original façade from 1947 that was covered during renovation in the 1960s. Mr. Scheid said the wall is in good condition and will be retained to highlight the history of the building and incorporate an additional visual component.

Mr. Scheid stated that incorporating the historic façade will result in some cost savings, but new windows will be installed and interior ceilings will need to be raised. Mr. Scheid said that the final design is being completed and there will likely be no change to the cost of the project. Mr. Scheid said the project is on schedule with completion in November.

Mr. Scheid said work on the second floor of the back of the building will likely be delayed to relocate or work around existing power lines.

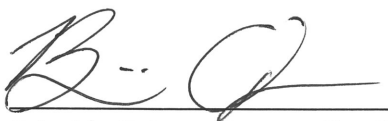
CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

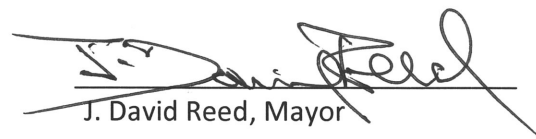
No City Council comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 p.m., a motion was made by Dave Frank to adjourn the meeting with no further action taken.

ATTEST:


Briceida Ortega, Deputy City Clerk


J. David Reed, Mayor

