

MINUTES
Wyoming City Council
February 21, 2023

The Wyoming City Council met in regular session on February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Monich called the meeting to order. In attendance were:

Council Members:

Dan Driehaus
Grant Hoffman
Melissa Monich
April Robles
Sarah Stankorb Taylor
Jodi Woffington
Chris Woodside

Others:

Rusty Herzog, City Manager
Emily Supinger, City Solicitor

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda carried with all voting yes:

- January 17, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- January 23, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Authorizing the Then and Now Certificate
- Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Fred A. Nemann for the Compton Road Improvements Project
- Proclamation Declaring the Month of March 2023 as Women's History Month

The Proclamation for Women's History Month was read out loud by the Mayor.

SPECIAL REPORTS/MINUTES:

No comments were received.

VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Herzog reported on the annual mulch ordering process. All information and instructions on how to place an order can be found on the home page of the City's website.

The City is accepting applications for seasonal Public Works Maintenance Workers, Seasonal Summer Camp Counselors, and Volunteer Firefighters. All information can be found under the Human Resources tab on the City's website.

Applications are being accepted for volunteer positions on the Civil Service Commission, Environmental Stewardship Commission, Promote Wyoming Commission, and a Board Member

position on the Wyoming Community Foundation. Additional information and the application to apply can be found on the Volunteer Opportunities page on the home page of the City's website.

The November 7, 2023 general election represents a Wyoming City Council election year. Petitions and instructions for candidates for City Council are available at the County Board of Elections, 4700 Smith Road, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Questions must be directed to the staff of the Board of Elections at 513.632.7000 to receive necessary guidance. The deadline for filing is 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2023.

REPORTS OF STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

No reports were received.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

No reports were received.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

No comments were received.

BUSINESS:

A. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Aggregation Program Agreement with a Supplier to be Recommended by Energy Alliances, Inc. to Supply Electric for the Wyoming Electric Aggregation Program: Ms. Cathy Deters, Sales Director for Energy Alliances, was present and stated that she is here before Council to answer any questions they may have about the Electric Aggregation program.

Ms. Deters explained that the City of Wyoming is currently in both a natural gas and electric aggregation program. The electric aggregation contract will expire in July 2023. She explained that rates are currently experiencing a downside in the market and Energy Alliances would like to be able to capture the best and lowest rates possible for Wyoming residents.

It is anticipated that Duke Energy's next rate hike will be an upwards of ten cents per kWh. This will likely open the opportunity for suppliers to bid on the electric service for Wyoming at a lower rate. Energy Alliances is currently starting the process of bidding for the aggregation communities, and it has received positive numbers. It is hopeful that if the City enters into the new agreement a rate can be locked in and will be able to provide price stability to residents during this volatile market.

Mayor Monich asked clarification to what the current rate Wyoming residents are paying if they are part of the program. Ms. Deters stated that the current rate is 4.89 cents which is the rate that was locked in when the market was at its lowest, which is market driven. Due to situations between Covid and environmental issues, for example, the market has increased at least 40

percent over the past year. Currently, the rates have come down which offers the opportunity for Energy Alliances to find the best rates possible for Wyoming.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor asked what kind of terms communities are locking in. Ms. Deters stated that Energy Alliances is recommending that the new agreement not exceed 24 months starting in July 2023. There is some risk at locking in a new agreement for a longer period rather than a shorter, 24-month period. The longer the agreement terms are the more risk a provider needs to build into their rate because the commodity is market driven and the aggregate is available to help stabilize the rate charged to the resident as the market fluctuates. Additionally, because this is a higher market, if a 24-month agreement is in effect we know what the capacity rates are through 2025. Ms. Stankorb Taylor asked if there are one-year agreements available, Ms. Deters stated that there are.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor asked Ms. Deters to walk through how Energy Alliances would go about deciding what the best offer to the residents would be. Ms. Deters explained that the prices for the terms that would be provided will be given based on 12, 24, 36, and 48 month terms. From there, you would decide what the best option for the residents is based on Energy Alliances' recommendation considering the City's risk appetite and whether you feel like the market could potentially come down over the course of the next year or not. There are many variables to consider and over the last two years, the market has been very volatile. Trying to determine what will happen with rates in the future is hard to do. The only thing that can be done at this time is to make decisions based on the facts that are known now.

Mr. Woodside moved to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the motion. There being no further comments or questions, the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Aggregation Program Agreement with a Supplier to be Recommended by Energy Alliances, Inc. to Supply Electric for the Wyoming Electric Aggregation Program carried with all voting yes.

B. First Reading of the Ordinance Amending the Personnel Ordinance and Declaring an Emergency: Mr. Driehaus moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to suspend the rules carried with all voting yes. Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Woffington seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adopt the Ordinance Amending the Personnel Ordinance and Declaring an Emergency carried with all voting yes.

NEW BUSINESS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA:

None was received.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Woffington applauded Wyoming Schools and the School Music Association Choir and Band students who are participating in a tour of Disney World, and it takes many hands to help

make the trip a success. Our kids are living their best lives and she is very appreciative for a community that supports them.

Ms. Woffington commented on a sense of community that has been fostered over the past few weeks in residents supporting our staff members and public safety officers around some very challenging issues. It has been admirable watching the levelheadedness, conscientiousness, and dedication that the staff has shown in this situation. She is deeply appreciative for the minds and hearts that are working for our community.

Mr. Hoffman commended Rusty Herzog and Emily Dengler for keeping the community informed of issues that come up. If he hears a popular question or even mis-information going around, he first checks in on Instagram to see if the question has been answered already or if the mis-information has been corrected or when there have been questions about the water situation, he has always been able to find the answer. He stated that Councilmembers sometimes get asked things around the community and he is appreciative that Rusty and Emily have been doing great in getting information out to people in other avenues besides a posting on the City's website.

Mr. Woodside commented that he too knows that we live in a wonderful place and over the last month it has been proven with the leadership of Brooke and Jenn, and their staff involved. Whether you have kids or are elderly or are empty nesters its moments like we have experienced, and we do not want to have to go through again, but when we do, we are very thankful that when we are sleeping, we've cared for, he is very appreciative of that and thanked everyone for that.

Ms. Robles stated that she echoes the same sentiments mentioned and expressed appreciation for everyone else's thoughtfulness before hers.

Ms. Robles stated that she would like to see people getting actively engaged by participating on some of the boards and committees. There are several openings, and we need that support from our community to be involved and to get tapped to help in those committees.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor commented that there are times when communication is something that you can take for granted. Then there are times when people have concerns about water quality, and then look up online or on Instagram or Facebook for an answer. Or it is at a time when it's one of the most emotionally concerning moments in our city's history that she has lived through, but our staff did a phenomenal job getting out as much information as they could through the right channels in the time that they could. Our community showed excellent patience all around a very difficult moment was handled as well as it could be. We've shown a lot of fiber of our staff and she knows it was a difficult time, so she thanked them.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor announced that Rob Nicolls, along with ESC members Lauren Albarella and Chris Pagan, successfully applied for and received a grant through Hamilton County R3source for \$8,974.69 for composting bins that will be placed at Oak Park for the public to use.

Mayor Monich stated that it has been an incredibly stressful month for the City and she reinforced how much Council appreciates its police officers and their team. She is hopeful that tragic things don't happen again forever but the fact that we are in such competent hands makes an enormous difference. Mr. Woodside said it well in that you sleep well at night knowing you have competent professional people caring for your city and she expressed her gratitude.

EXCUSAL OF ABSENT MEMBERS:

All members were present, there were none to excuse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matter: Ms. Woffington moved to adjourn to Executive Session under Section 121.03(b)(1) of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Wyoming to Consider an appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adjourn to Executive Session carried with all voting yes. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Council left Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Woffington moved to appoint Abigail Horn to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ms. Robles seconded the motion. All voted yes, the motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Driehaus moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn carried with all voting yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Martin, Executive Assistant

Karen Zeilman, Clerk of Council

Melissa Monich, Mayor