

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2016
MINUTES**

Mayor Ray Beck brought to order at 7:30 p.m. a special meeting of the Craig City Council. In addition to Mayor Beck, those present were Councilmembers Joe Bird, Derek Duran, John Ponikvar, Tony Bohrer, Councilman W. Kent Nielson and Councilman Jarrod Ogden. Staff present were City Manager Jim Ferree, Finance Director Bruce Nelson, Chief of Police Walt Vanatta, Water/Wastewater Director Mark Sollenberger and Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Director Randy Call.

All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Councilman Nielson moved with a second by Councilman Duran to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

City Manager Ferree presented a letter of support from Overton Recycling, Inc., for consideration and approval from Council. Overton Recycling is applying for a grant that may help them to provide added recycling benefits to some areas in Northwest Colorado. After a brief discussion, Councilman Bird moved with a second by Councilman Ogden to approve a letter of support for Overton Recycling Inc. for their application for the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund Grant. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

City Manager Ferree updated Council on the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) Grant application. The deadline for the grant application is March 15, 2016. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Bird moved with a second by Councilman Ogden to approve the grant application as amended. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Recently, City Manager Ferree, Mayor Beck, Road and Bridge Director Call and a representative from Yampa Valley Electric met regarding the possible replacement and updating of the street lights from Lincoln Street to Ranney Street. If the project is completed, the City would be responsible for providing the electrical outlets for the Christmas light hookups that will be included as part of the project.

Council and Staff had a lengthy discussion about how to increase revenues for the city. Pros and cons were discussed for several different options for revenue enhancement. Some of the options discussed were more budget cuts, possible formation of a parks and recreation district, sales tax increase, implementing a use tax, and possible staff reductions, among others. The Council then focused the discussion on a possible 1.25% sales tax increase. Several ideas were offered on the process for pursuing this. They reached a consensus to have further discussion on this at a later date.

Finally, Council discussed prioritizing their top three goals for this year. The top three goals they arrived at are: 1) revenue enhancement, 2) Broadband expansion, and 3) sidewalks and curbs and gutters.

There being no further business, Councilman Bird moved with a second by Councilman Ogden to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.