

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 5, 2016
MINUTES**

Mayor Ray Beck brought to order at 6:00 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 and Tony Bohrer. Councilman W. Kent Nielson and Councilman Jarrod Ogden were absent. Staff present were City Manager Jim Ferree, Finance Director Bruce Nelson, Chief of Police Walt Vanatta, Police Commanders Bill Leonard and Jerry Delong, Water/Wastewater Director Mark Sollenberger, Parks & Rec Director Dave Pike, Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Director Randy Call and City Clerk Kathy Larson.

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

Councilman Ponikvar moved with a second by Councilman Bohrer to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The main item of discussion was the current state of the city's budget and how to increase revenues for the city's budget. Finance Director Nelson reviewed, in great detail, the city's revenues, expenses and shortfalls. Nelson then presented Council with some projections of revenues if an increase in sales tax was voted in by the citizens. He offered several different scenarios of the sales tax. He also showed information on implementing a vehicle use tax and what that revenue would be based on motor vehicle sales in 2014.

City Manager Ferree and Director Nelson also showed several different comparisons with similar sized towns related to number of employees, cost of living increases, percentage of sales tax and use tax (if the city/town had one), etc. Following this, a very lengthy discussion was held.

Council then looked at different options for a sales and/or use tax. What percentage? When to place on the ballot? How to market this? After another lengthy discussion, a consensus was reached to have each council member submit names to City Manager Ferree that they would like on a possible committee to meet with and discuss some options for a sales and/or use tax ballot issue. A meeting will possibly occur the last of May or the first part of June.

A discussion was held on various other items. Council specifically talked about how to use a \$15,000 donation from Colowyo Coal Co. Several ideas were discussed and they decided to spend \$4,000 on calendars that will be used to inform citizens of a wide variety of information related to the city. Another \$3,000 will be donated towards fireworks for the 4th of July. The rest of the money will be set aside to use as matching funds for future grants that require matching funds.

City Manager Ferree said that the broadband committee met and reviewed the four proposals that they received for the broadband planning project. They narrowed the field to two candidates and may award the bid for this proposal at the next city council meeting.

There being no further business, Councilman Ponikvar moved with a second by Councilman Bohrer to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.