

July 13, 2021, Town of Twin Bridges Regular Council Meeting (104 W. 9th Ave)

Council members in attendance were Jordan High, Nolan Frandsen, Scott Holbrook, and Matt Greemore. JB Klyap was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Joe Willauer, Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse, and Maintenance Supervisor Sam Novich

Guests: Steve Janzen (Twin Bridges School) and Joe Wiltzen

Public Comment: No comments

Mayor Willauer called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nolan made a motion to move the Vacation Rental (Airbnb's) discussion until the members of the school are available to attend. Scott seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-07 Intent to Cancel November 2, 2021, General Election. Scott made a motion to approve resolution 2021-07. Nolan seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Budget Approval – Discussion occurred regarding the preliminary budget. Matt made a motion to approve the FY2021-22 Preliminary Budget. Nolan seconded the motion. No further discussion. Mayor Willauer called for a vote. Scott – No. Nolan – yes, Matt – yes, Jordan – yes.

Library Board Positions – Jordan made a motion to approve Sylvia Schwartz as a member of the Library Board for a second five-year term. Scott seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Vacation Rentals – Discussion occurred regarding vacation rentals. Mayor Willauer and Matt Greemore discussed a moratorium on vacation rentals for a minimum of a year. Steve Janzen from the Twin Bridges School Board reported that 2016 to 2021 school enrollment was down about 18%. Discussion occurred regarding options to help with the limitation of the number of Airbnb's in Town and what can be done about the housing situation. Clerk Kristi Millhouse reported that there are only 6 Airbnb's in the Town of Twin Bridges, 20 secondary homes, and 60 rentals. She provided the council a copy of Kalispell's Ordinance regarding Airbnb's and suggested that the Town limit them with a percentage of Airbnb's per the number of residents.

Water at the Dump – Kristi reported that Ron Nye called and would like to tap into the Town's Main Water Line and put a fire hydrant up at the dump. Discussion occurred. Matt made a motion to have the County get in contact with Great West Engineering to have the hydrant engineered to make sure that it does not affect the Town's system and all expense for the hydrant is paid by the County. Nolan seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stonebraker/Mountain Building Center (Land Purchase Proposal) – Council discussed Mark and Cristy Stonebraker’s proposal to buy the bull pen alongside Mountain Building Center and the piece of ground behind Mark and Cristy’s house. Council agreed that they are willing to sell the property but will not abandon 6th Ave or the alleyway. Scott made a motion to have Lori draw up a response to Stonebraker’s proposal with the Town keeping the alleyways as public right away. Nolan seconded the motion. Further discussion occurred regarding the alleyway between the Bull Pen and Corrigan’s. Council called Mark Stonebraker for clarification on the alleys. Mark is wanting a 16-foot easement for the back alley for public access. He does not want other alley (6th Avenue Extension) it would be left to the Town. The alley behind Mountain Building Center is currently 28 ft. All the utilities are going through there and all are on the west side of the alley which would prevent any building in that area. The roadway is currently a foot from MT Rail Links property. Sam suggested leaving the alley at the 28ft width. Most alleyways in Town are 20ft. Scott made an amendment to the motion to keep all alleyways intact. Nolan seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Sheriff’s Report – No Report

Madison County Planning Board – No Report

Library Report -

Attorney’s Report – No Report

Safety Report – Kristi reported that the Department of Labor and Industry will be here on Wednesday the 14th at 10:00 am to do a building inspection so we are prepared prior to the surprise inspections.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Willauer thanked everyone for working on the fireworks letter that went out. He received several comments of approval on how the Town handled the situation.

Main Street Master Plan – Joe will be working on funding for the Main Street Master Plan this fall. Twin Bridges is designated as a Main Street Town which opens opportunities for the Town to get funding that is not available to the entire State. Twin Bridges is one of 20 Towns in the State that qualify for this. Jordan asked what kind of things are we wanting to change on Main Street that will be in the Master Plan. Joe commented that he would like to see transportation flow change because of the speeding through Town and sprucing up Main Street. Discussion followed.

Maintenance Report: Maintenance Supervisor Sam Novich reported that they are pulling more wipes out at the school system lift station right now than they were on Second Avenue. He thinks that it is a lot of baby wipes. Sam took a bucket and visited some of the houses that feed into the system. Discussion occurred.

Rick is hauling material from Moss’s, and they will start working on the road in front of Andrew Braach’s this next week. Sam will get it scheduled with RE Miller. After Braach’s road fix he will then start on area in front of bus barn and then go to in front of the gym. He will need help in front of the gym. He is looking at August to start in front of the gym.

Clerk's Report: Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse reported that long grass letters will be sent out with water bills to everyone because of the number of individuals that need to mow their yards and around their property right now is almost half the Town.

Tax lien water/sewer bills notices were mailed out July 1st. Notice will be sent to the Department of Revenue in August.

Water/Sewer Rate increase of 2% will be put into place effective July 20th.

Minutes: Amend minutes for June 8, 2021, to include Nolan Frandsen as being in attendance Scott made a motion to approve the minutes with amends for June 8, 2021, and June 22, 2021. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Claims: Nolan made a motion to approve the claims 89767 to 89769 and 21334 to 21371 and Payroll Claims 88789 to 88818 and 5833 to 5838. Scott seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Council Review: Council needs to set up a work meeting for the housing issue and budget. Kristi requested that budget work session be postponed until she has the information for this year's taxes. Joe will coordinate with school a working meeting and discuss the school changing their meeting date with Thad Kaiser (School Super Intendant).

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.