

DECEMBER 16, 2021, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (104 E. 6TH AVE)

Council Members in attendance were Matt Greemore, Nolan Frandsen, and JB Klyap. Jordan High arrived at 7:41 pm. Scott Holbrook was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Joe Willauer, Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse and Maintenance Supervisor Sam Novich.

Guests: Danette Snyder, Madison County Sheriff Phil Fortner, Lori Harshbarger (Town Attorney), and Pat Bradley (Madison County Planning Board)

Mayor Willauer called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items): No comments

NEW BUSINESS

Danette Snyder (Business Sign at 401 S. Madison St): JB made a motion to approve the sign for Danette Snyder. Matt seconded the motion. Nolan asked how far back the sign would be from the fence. Sign would be right next to the fence. It is a temporary sign that can be easily moved if it is needed.

Mayor Position: Clerk Treasurer Kristi Millhouse reported that an advertisement has been placed in the paper for the vacancy. It should run for the next two weeks with closing date of January 5th. At that time if there is any interest the Council will form a committee to interview the candidates and then make their recommendation to the rest of the Council. Kristi also asked for approve to pay Matt Greemore the Mayor wages since he will be stepping in as the acting Mayor until a new one is found and sworn in. JB made a motion to approve paying Matt Greemore the wages for the Mayor while acting as interim Mayor. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote

Library – Baldy Mountain Construction Contract: Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse commented that the library is doing finish work at the library which includes trim, paint, shelves, etc. They need the Council's approval to move forward and to have the Town Attorney put together the contract for Baldy Mountain Construction. Matt made a motion to approve Lori Harshbarger writing up the contract between Baldy Mountain Construction and the library for \$3,882. Nolan seconded the motion. Discussion occurred. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Clean Up of Town Easements and Right-A-Ways: Matt Greemore asked Phil Fortner what the Sheriff's Department's process was for abandoned vehicles. Sheriff Fortner responded that they would tag them if they were abandoned. An individual has 24 hours on the highway to have the vehicle removed and 5 days on other streets to remove the vehicle otherwise the Sheriff's Department has the vehicle towed away. Discussion occurred on what the Town's best options are for dealing with the situation. Kristi commented that she has received comments from individuals wanting to know what is going to be done as they want to see the junk cleaned up around Town. Council agreed to put a letter together requesting individuals to move their items on to their property. The Town will start with Madison Street as we have a project starting up this Spring that will require the street easement to be cleared off. Sam will take photos with date and time of the vehicles that need to be removed and provide them to Kristi include in the letter. These will get reviewed and mailed to individuals.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff Phil Fortner reported that they received twenty-eight calls for service and 2 civil services calls for the month of November. There was a drug arrest on 8th Street this month which will be on the December report. Matt thanked Phil for having the officers by the school in the morning it has helped with the speed of the traffic. Matt also asked that with winter basketball going on could someone be present after games to watch the one-way street.

Sheriff Fortner also reported that there is a national alert item that they had just received about a post on Tik Tock that is going around to promote school violence tomorrow December 17th. There will be an officer at the school tomorrow and the school is aware of the situation.

Madison County Planning Board: Pat Bradley made a report to the Council on behalf of the Madison County Planning Board. The Planning Board has hired Cody Marxer from Ennis area as Planning Division 1. Still asking for applications for Alex Hogel's position. There will be no meeting in December. The planning board is revising their Subdivision Regulations which will be revised to conform with State statute.

Library Director's Report: Written Report.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Lori Harshbarger reported that she has reached a settlement for the Copyright Infringement issue. The company agreed to allow the Town to pay the \$50 a month fee for the license to use the graphic. Total cost for the Town would be \$385. Attorney Harshbarger is recommending the Town pay the \$385 and close the issue out. Matt made a motion to pay the fee of \$385 (\$55 per month) to settle the copyright infringement issue. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Lori will be moving to Main Street in Twin Bridges the first week in January. Her office will now be in Town.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Willauer has been working with the County for a grant application for the arena at the Fairgrounds. He is hoping it will be submitted by next month. Joe also commented that even though he is leaving as Mayor, he will still be available to help with funding for projects of the Town. Mayor Willauer also thanked Sam, Kristi, and Matt for the extra help.

Maintenance Report: Sam reported that they are finally caught up with summer and fall projects. They will be working on the Shop and getting the Library cleaned out. He would like to have everything cleaned up by January.

Sam also reported that the Water table over by the football field that they check is low. This is the first year that he has seen the ground water in that check spot go dry. It is starting to fill up again. Sam is concerned with the low water levels and our pipes only being five down he is concerned about the water lines freezing up this winter. Is it ok to allow individuals to run water with a break in charges if things start to freeze? Council agreed that this could be done to prevent other issues from occurring.

Started filling up the ice rink with water today to start saturating the field so they can get a good base. Sam gave a report on the water testing that is done every month. Normally everything tests fine, but the Town did have a hit last month for a bug in the water. It was not E. coli but something else. It could have happened when they were pulling the sample, or something got stirred up when they cleaned. Sam and Rick immediately flushed the water around the football field and the northern end of Town at which point they pulled five more samples at the source. Those samples have met the criteria of DEQ and passed their tests. Water was tested again in early December, and it passed.

Safety Report: Safety Plaque has been received from MMIA. It is sitting on Kristi's desk.

Clerks Report: Kristi commented on the letter that was received regarding the Ambulance District that is being created by the County. She needs direction on whether the Town wants to support the district or not. Discussion followed. Item is postponed until January meeting.

The Water PER needs final approval from the Council. Dan McCauley would like a meeting with the Council to go over funding scenarios and options for water improvements. What date and time will work best for the Council? Council agreed to have the meeting January 11th at 6:00 pm.

Claims Approval: Nolan made a motion to approve the Payroll Checks 5846 and 88646 to 88673 and claim checks 21481 to 21508 and 89755 to 89757. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Minute Approval: Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from October 12, 2021, and November 14, 2021. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

UB Adjustment Approval: Matt made a motion to approve the November UB adjustments. JB seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Council Review: Oath of Office. Matt Greemore, Nolan Frandsen, and JB Klyap took their oath of office for the term of office January 3, 2022, to December 31, 2025. Jordan High took the oath office to finish his term expiring December 31, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

ATTEST:

Kristi Millhouse, Clerk/Treasurer

Matthew Greemore, Council President