

March 14, 2023, Regular Council Meeting (104 E. 6th Ave)

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

Guests: Duncan Hedges (Madison County Sheriff's Department), Tony Horwath, Dean Rodatas (via Go-to-Meeting), Lori Harshbarger (Town Attorney), Danny Gill (Madison County Sheriff's Department), and Kate Rose (Madisonian)

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Tony Horwath – He wants to purchase the parcel of ground that 10th Avenue occupies and is currently empty if the Town decides to sell. At this point in time the Town is not considering selling the parcel but they will let him know if something changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Application – Main Street Montana, LLC (217 S. Main St.) Dean Rodatas – Scott asked if they were going to put the cabins on foundations. They are currently on skids and they had not planned to do foundations per Dean. The cabins are not a permanent plan for the lot but would be a temporary housing fix for the Town. He originally bought the house for a fishing cabin and then he started receiving a lot of calls to rent it. He thought the cabins might be a solution to help with the housing situation. Discussion occurred. The council decided to table the application for now and will have a work session to discuss further and will get back to the applicant. The council will meet on Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00 pm.

Business Licenses – EPCON Sign Group – Nolan made a motion to approve the business license for Epcon Sing Group. Motion was seconded by Matt. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Sign – Opportunity Bank – Scott made a motion to approve the new sign for Opportunity Bank. Motion was seconded by Matt. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Joshua Coughlin (104 E. 5th Ave) – Matt made a motion to approve the fence application with verification of the property lines. Motion seconded by Nolan. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Growth Policy – Patty stated that there will be a start-up meeting on April 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm for the growth policy. This will include Great West.

Committee discussion for growth policy – Council will need to determine what type of committee they want to include for the project. Do they want to have it just the council or do they want to bring in the outside public? Discussion occurred. They will determine what is needed after the start-up meeting.

Town Hall – Patty asked how the Council felt about having someone come into bid the remodeling/retrofitting of the Town building. Discussion occurred. Nolan made a motion to approve getting bids to remodel the Town Hall building with the fire department involved. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Water and Sewer Ordinance – Mayor Hayes asked if anyone had looked at the water/sewer ordinance. Matt commented that he would like to meet with Sam to go over meter costs, etc.. Would like to add what pit/meter and other materials should be used by new connections in the ordinance. Patty would like to get both of these done before Sam takes off.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Duncan reported that the Sheriff's responded to 17 calls for service, 1 ambulance call and 1 civil service. Discussion occurred regarding the speed limit through Town and the Montana Highway Patrol's responsibility. Duncan also reported that they still have a couple of positions to fill.

The Sheriff's Department is working on a contract with Beaverhead County to take prisoners over to Dillon. It will save the officers some time traveling instead of going all the way over to Bozeman.

Madison County Planning Board – Written report received.

Library Directors Report – Written report received.

Fire Department Report – Scott reported that they had two calls of significance. One was the storm and shutting down the road. There was also a fire that burned up a family home, Monday morning. The family lost just about everything.

The fire department is working on getting the items purchased for the fire truck. The fire department is looking into getting a credit card. Kristi commented that we can add them to the High Peaks Account. Matt made a motion to approve adding Scott Holbrook (Fire Chief) to the High Peaks Federal Credit Union Credit Card Account. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Attorney's Report – No report. Patty asked about the Harney account. There is nothing new.

Safety Report – Everyone did a safety fest session this month.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Hayes reported that the town has received the new floodplain maps. The documents that go with the maps are in the office. Great West also has copies of it and is reviewing it.

SB379 – Mayor Hayes reported on SB379. It is not a good bill. She did write a letter to our congressmen. It is taking away all the municipality's rights. Discussion followed.

Children's Center Sell – Mayor Hayes reported that the children's center sell is approximately 99% complete. Should close around the end of May. They are planning to develop it as a business and not a subdivision. Lori asked about connecting to the water/sewer. Patty has received multiple calls from Karen Talley, the realtor, regarding this issue and has told her at this time we cannot provide any costs or what help the Town can provide as we need a plan from the new buyers. Dan McCauley with Great West Engineering has told them the same thing.

Southwest Montana Inventories has contacted Patty to update the list of businesses for the Town. She has completed it and if anyone else would like to look at it and add anything, please let her know.

Maintenance Report – Sam has been working on the lead and copper inventory since the last meeting. It will probably take another month to complete.

Sam discussed the sewer Line behind Andrew Braach and Shirley Braach's as it has an issue of occasionally freezing up during the winter. It was camera'd a few years ago. Shirley is the only one at the end of it. Sam talked to Dan McCauley and asked if they could identify the issue in the Sewer PER. It is a very shallow line and it doesn't have enough movement in the line. Sam suggested that when the Town figures out how to resolve the issue, they should ask for a 5 to 10-foot easement to White Swan Lane from Shirley in exchange for the Town paying for the repair. Discussion occurred.

Sam sent the battery of water tests off today. Did the whole battery on well 1 and what was required for well 2. Next year we will do well 2 and mandatory for well 1. Year 3 will pick up some of the 6- and 9-year tests. This will help with budgeting for the water testing.

Will be working on the monthly reports this next month and as soon as the weather gets nice he will do the roof on the old water tower shop. He has Rick working on equipment right now.

Sam also recommended that we have individuals run water for the month of April.

Clerk's Report – Kristi reported that Jordan and Scott are up for election this year. She has contacted the clerk and recorder's office to find out when applications for reelection are due. Patty also needs to be on the ballot since she was appointed to the previous Mayor's position.

Kristi has also worked on ARPA fund documents for the Sewer PER. Second notices for business licenses and dogs have been sent out. The office has been quiet.

CONSENT AGENDA

Claims Approval – Scott made a motion to approve claims 21876 to 21898, electronic checks 89706 to 89709 and payroll claims 88172 to 88197. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Minutes - Matt made a motion to approve the February 14, 2023, minutes, and March 7, 2023. Motion seconded by Scott. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

ATTEST:

Patricia Hayes, Mayor

Kristi Millhouse, Clerk/Treasurer