Town Council Meeting 9/10/2024

Council members in attendance were: Scott Holbrook, Jordan High, Matt Greemore, JD Klyap, Nolan Fransen. Also in attendance was Mayor Patricia Hayes, Public Works Director Richard Zahn and Town Attorney, Lori Harshbarger.

Meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

**NON AGENDA ITEMS**:

1. **Verta Dorseth** is concerned about lot next to museum. The weeds are high and it smells. Appears abandoned.
2. **Twin Bridges Community Association (TBCA**): Came to find out about the City lift to put up Christmas and banners, etc…What avenues are open to them to use that? Rick Zahn, Public Works Director, stated that the lift was deemed unusable. There is no lift at all. Rick is going to get ahold of a rental facility to get a lift rented or rent from an individual, Tim Corrigan. Kathy Moeykens stated that Tim Corrigan is willing to allow the Town to use it and he will keep insurance on it. He just wants to make sure that he has no liability. He has concerns about loaning it out to the Town.
3. **TBCA Containers**: They report they are getting pressure from the Library to vacate the containers. The Christmas decorations are stored in there. Association has been told that Library is not happy with where the containers are at and that it is an inconvenience. Ms. Moeykens explained that they followed the proper channels and Town approved placing them where they are at.

Library called to use one of their containers to store things. TBCA is hoping to be completely out of the back of the library by the end of the month. TBCA is frustrated as they have tried to cooperate and relocate out of the library building. There was never a timeline.

If Library is upset about this, they should come to Council meeting and voice their concerns.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

1. **Clerk/Treasurer Job Description**: Mayor included the old job description as well as the new one.
2. **Request/Explanation on Water/Sewer for Lawn Sprinkling**: A resident in town expressed concern regarding sewer fees claiming that irrigation water does not go into the sewer so should not be charged.
   1. Public Works Director provided usage from last year reflecting sewer and pump usage compared to current year. There is significantly more water being used than running through the sewer. Council discussed how fees were determined in the past. Council discussed the need for a work meeting to make changes in the billing. Suggested more information be provided with regard to usage. Should try to have work meeting before next billing cycle.
3. **Recommendation of Claudine Strittmatter for Library Board**: They are recommending her for Board and are also asking for a cell phone for Library and to be added to Town plan. They have offered to pay the cost.
   1. **Scott Holbrook made motion to approve their recommendation for Library Board**. Matt Greemore seconded. Passed unanimously.
   2. **Scott Holbrook made motion to work with Library to get them on the Town cell phone plan**. JB Klyap seconded the motion. Discussion followed and passed unanimously.
4. **Building application for Main Street Montana LLC**:
   1. JB Klyap made motion to approve. Jordan High seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. **Twin Bridges New Medical Clinic**: Jim Gilhouse, CEO
   1. Plan is to use existing foundation and put bump out for lobby and entrance.
   2. Passed out 3D drawing of new clinic.
   3. Using SMA Architects out of Helena. General contractor is Langlas.
   4. Timeline is around to get started around October 1st.
   5. Asking for approval tonight. Discussion followed as well as call with architect, Becky Lawson.
      1. Matt Greemore asked about water and sewer as discussed previously. He had one of the contractors interested in bidding for the job, ask about the connections. They want contractor to bid all of the contract. Want to put a 1 ½ inch water line in and currently is ¾ inch line. That would require a new tap. The tap for that is out in the street. Discussed before with architect that they would need to use the ¾ line.
      2. Becky Lawson, Architect was on call: Plan was to stick to the ¾ inch size that is in the sidewalk then move to 1 ¼ inch when out of highway easement.
      3. Matt Greemore said after get to meter pit, whatever size you use, no problem with that.
      4. Council asked for set of building plans
   6. Motion to approve made by Nolan Fransen on contingency that it follows all ordinances and set backs and that they provide copy of plans before begin construction. Seconded by JB Klyap. Passed unanimously.
6. **SCADA Update**
   1. Public Works Director provided update. Called Great West and they are going to look into what sections of the PER they can use to be able to put money aside for the SCADA system. He called Failsafe and they broke down what they would do with the system. They also said that if Council wanted, they could have a video meeting so they can explain everything they are going to do. A break down has been provided via email to Council. Rick will coordinate with them to come and speak to Council.
7. **Flood Plain Permit Application**:
   1. Mayor reported all posting was done. Madison County has finalized the plan.
8. **CD -Opportunity Bank**:
   1. Matt Greemore made motion to start new CD. JB Klyap seconded. Passed unanimously. Council signed paperwork on renewal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**:

* Representative from Madisonian asked for clarification on the lawn watering issue. System has always been based on base rates for water and sewer. Rather than do massive increases when utility costs go up, Town put in a percentage based on 1000 gallons. Town needed to start paying more and rather than increasing tremendous amount, if using more water, you should pay for more water. Sewer side of the system needs updates and increases because expenditures have gone up. Electricity being primary. If everyone is using it, all should pay for it. At the time, looked at graphs and numbers and decided to do small increase. The users of more water pay more. When folks are using normal consumption during winter months, then when get to summer and usage goes up but it isn’t going to sewer system, they are tied together based upon consumption. This needs to be revisited to make the system more user friendly to all.
* Asked about medical clinic. Mayor explained that when new clinic is built, then Town may occupy location of old clinic. Wondered about why building a new clinic and was told that was a question to ask Ruby Valley Medical Center.

**SHERIFF’S REPORT**:

Deputy Braden Tate presented report.

* 32 calls for service in August.
* Many of the calls were due to community events.
* There was concern reported about moose at the Fairgrounds.
* Was a report of vandalism to a vehicle.
* During Fair, deputies patrolled throughout the night.
* Report of juvenile males jumping in front of vehicles.
* Calls regarding dogs being locked in car, locked and erratic behavior.
* Civil service attempts.
* Parental interference.
* Car alarm going off.
* Welfare check
* Vandalism of Fairgrounds during the Fair.

**MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**:

No report was received.

**LIBRARY REPORT**:

Written report was provided in packet. Director asked to be added to High Peaks Credit Union for the Town which was denied as explained by Mayor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**:

Pancake breakfast went well. Served 400-500 people. Have had a string of car accidents that responded to. Helped out with a fire in Beaverhead County and stayed there with a water tender for over a week. Have not gotten called out to Mill Creek fire.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**:

Matt Greemore made Motion to modify agenda to move Attorney report to end. Seconded by Jordan High. Approved unanimously.

**MAYOR REPORT**:

Mayor reported she will be done at the end of the month having tendered her resignation. There is currently no Clerk as the Clerk resigned. Mayor has been trying to do the tasks of the Clerk to fill the gap so she has not been maintaining office hours.

Asked Madisonian to add to report that Town will be looking for an Interim Mayor, someone to complete current Mayor’s term.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**:

Public Works Director reported they have changed out about 60 meters. Bought 4 new tires for the sweeper. The tires were completely bald.

Main sewer line that runs on Fransen property: There is limited cover on that. Going to put a culver across that pipe and bury that so there are no problems with freezing. Dave Banks will help with digging out ditch.

Water testing has been completed. Matt Greemore, Tom Hyndman and Dave Smith participated in the testing so they will get the results.

Nolan Fransen asked about ice and snow melt and if there was a need as it is currently on sale. Rick reported only use minimal amounts.

Council reported Rick is doing a great job.

**SAFETY REPORT**:

Nothing to report.

**CLERK’S REPORT**:

No report

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Executive meeting due to privileged information.

**CONSENT AGENDA**:

July 8, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Jordan moved to approve minutes. JB seconded. Passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Jordan and Scott seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm

ATTEST:

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Council Council