

Regular Town Council Meeting December 14, 2021

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Robert Stump, Council members Rahn Abbott, Emilie Sayler, and Mike Walter were present along with Clerk, Ginger Galiger and Duke Gilman, Public Works. Z. Wade Hampton was absent.

Guests: Mike Dietrich, Curtis Green, Tamara Todd, Phil Fortner, Dean Waltee and Rick Hecker

Pledge

Dean Waltee – Urban Deer Management Discussion

Dean Waltee is a biologist for Fish Wildlife and Parks. He came tonight to discuss solutions to the high population of deer in town. We would like to implement a town management plan, but we first need some kind of scoping to see how the public feels about it. There are a couple options from trapping the deer, putting them down and having them tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. If the deer doesn't have CDW, it can be processed, and the meat given to a food bank. This is a labor intensive and costly option. A simple plan management can be done throughout the regular hunting season. The regular big game season is from August 15th through February 15th and people could use their current tags. Bow hunting in town is not illegal.

Attractants play a big part in deer living in town. The apple trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens attract the deer. Many deer that have been born in town never leave. Some people feed the deer which is illegal.

When bucks are in rut or a doe has fawns, these deer could be dangerous to people.

Dean also talked about the problem with Chronic Wasting Disease in a very high number of our deer population between Duncan District Road and Sayler Lane. With an estimated amount of 2000 deer in that area during the low cycle of the deer season. Fish Wildlife and Parks have been collecting samples, and just under 46% of the doe's and 60% of the bucks have tested positive for CWD. He is certain the deer in town also carry the disease.

Mike Walter would like to designate safe areas on the outskirts of town where safe, ethical hunters that are good archers could help eliminate the deer problem in town. Public education on CWD and what kind of plants to grow and letting people know that it is illegal to feed the deer would help prevent the problem from returning.

Public Comment Not on the Agenda – Rick Hecker asked if we have heard anything more on Todd Dahlman's development. Mayor Stump stated no.

Department Reports

Sheriff - Phil Fortner briefly reviewed the 24 calls in the month of November and asked for any questions. Most of the calls were traffic stops, a couple suicide threats and welfare checks. The number of DUI's have gone down. Questions were asked about the recently passed law of legalizing marijuana and if it will be legal for people to smoke in public. Sheriff Fortner stated that it will not be allowed in public. Their concern is not having a field sobriety test like there is for people driving under the influence of alcohol.

Library – Kelly Fogel has been hired as a part time employee under the Experienced Works program.

Attorney – None

Fire Department – The Fire Department received zero calls in the month of November. The planned burn was cancelled due to the high winds.

Public Works – Duke reported that he has been exercising main valves. They put a couple meter pits in on Flick Lane. Maintenance on the small engine equipment. Our water samples have been good.

Clerk Treasurer – Craig Shephard has submitted the AFR to the State and we are onto the audit. Ginger was contacted by Sheri Shepherd from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, to take part in the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The temporary program would provide low-income households assistance in paying their water and wastewater bills. If an applicant is approved for the energy assistance program (LIEAP), they are now eligible for LIHWAP. The program is funded by ARPA funds and go from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023. Ginger will submit the contract tomorrow.

Currently Emilie Sayler is a designated signer on the checking account and tonight is her last night on the Council. I would like to designate Rahn Abbott as a signer on the Town's main checking account at Opportunity Bank. Rahn Abbott agreed that he would be a signer.

Boards and Committees

MSIT – The tables for the Main Street Park will be here soon. The team decorated the park for Christmas.

Park District Board – None

Fire Station Committee – Nondi Harrington's contract was up in October, and she plans on retiring at the end of this year. Ted Woirhaye has also resigned from the Association.

Public Comment on the Agenda – None

New Business

1. Resolution 2021-7 To Cancel the November 2, 2021 General Election of Certain Municipal Officers
Mayor Stump read the resolution out loud. There was no discussion. Emilie Sayler moves to approve Resolution 2021-7. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Sayler voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes and Mike Walter voting yes. The motion passes.

2. SRF Draw Request

The current draw request is for \$323.00 to pay Great West Engineering for work done in September. The reimbursement will come from the grant portion of loan A. Mungas has not returned to finish the paving project and fence repairs, but we would like to wrap up this project. No further discussion. Rahn Abbott moves to approve the draw request. Emilie Sayler seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Sayler voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passes.

3. ARPA Grant Status

Mayor Stump wanted to discuss our options for additional ARPA funding and to get the council's feedback. The Department of Commerce has signed a \$3000 contract to pay WWC to revise the competitive grant. The first time the town paid approximately \$15,000 for the competitive portion but we did not make the cut. We intended on using the grant money in our sewer fund. At this time, Mayor Stump is not too concerned with our wastewater capacity. He is however concerned about the water, we have had very little precipitation and talk about an additional 3 subdivisions coming in the future, we will need more water. Mayor Stump would like to know if there is any interest from the council to pursue building another well. The new well would be redundant to well #3, it would be close to the manifold building. We have budgeted \$50,000 for the past 3 years to rehabilitate well #5. The cost estimate for this well is \$350,000.

Mike Walter talked about imposing an impact fee to the developers for the potential subdivisions coming in. Additional people have an impact on the roads, water and sewer system and the fire department. The lack of moisture this year is very concerning.

Oath of Office

Mike Walter, President of the council, swore in Robert C Stump who will serve a 4-year term as the mayor. Mayor Stump swore in councilman Rahn Abbott who will serve a 4-year term as a Council Member. Mayor Stump also swore in Tamara Todd who will serve a 4-year term as a Council Member. Congratulations to all.

Consent Agenda Items

The minutes from November 8th will be approved next month.

The financials and utility delinquent reports were reviewed. Rahn Abbott moves to approve the financial and delinquent reports as presented. Emilie Sayler seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

Council Report

Emilie Sayler reported on the vaccination clinic that was held at the Senior Center yesterday. They had 51 people attend.

Mike Walter thanked Emilie for her time served on the Sheridan Town Council.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stump would like to postpone the January council meeting by one day as Mike Walter will be out of town. We will plan our next meeting on January 11th, 2022.

Emilie Saylor moves to adjourn tonight's meeting. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Warrants December 2021

CAROL DELISI	559.57
GINGER GALIGER	3,034.50
DUKE GILMAN	3,596.17
ROBERT C. STUMP	3,005.87
WILLIAM TALBOTT	1,751.68
EFTPS ENROLLMENT PROCESS	3,876.07
DEPT OF REVENUE	686.00
DEFERRED COMP	228.06
PERS	1,950.37
STATE OF MONTANA DEPT OF UI	123.81
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATION	209.85
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	152.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	77.95
MONTANA RAIL LINK INC.	100.00
SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS	47.64
SHERIDAN AUTO PARTS INC	344.85
SILVERTIP PROPANE	619.36
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	12.74
WEX BANK	376.71
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS (L)	91.05
CITI CARDS	731.42
EIGHORN FENCING, LLC	625.00
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	22.00
HEADWATERS RC & D AREA, INC	360.88
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	737.42
MILLER LAW, PLLC	2,311.20
MMIA	79.00
NORTH WESTERN ENERGY	276.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	66.12
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY-DECORATIVE LI	118.66
NORTHWESTERN ENGERY-SEWER	1,954.61
TAMI BURNEY	210.00
THE MADISONIAN LLC	89.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	69.04
WALTER'S ACE HARDWARE	49.87
B & D KEYLOCK	110.00
CORE & MAIN LP	705.51
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	1,693.93
POSTMASTER	218.00
U.S. BANK TRUST SPA LOCKBOX CM969	16,270.81
MMIA HEALTH INSURANCE	1,477.15

MMIA WORKERS COMPENSATION

642.27

TOTAL

49,662.14

Approved: Mayor Robert Stump

Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger

