

Public Hearing on Growth Plan Policy Modifications Monday February 12, 2024

Present: Jan Bowey, Mike Zielinski, Tammy Todd, Tonya Romkema, Mayor Judy Edwards, Public Works Director Ty Gerth, and Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Meacham.

Guests: Michael Douglas, Anne Wentz, Doris Hilliker, Gary Hilliker, Jeff Gerth, Bob Stump, Stehania Haag, Dave Haag, Brad Koon, Corey Theis, Kaylie Theis, Kate Rose, Dianne Kaatz, Stephanie Krueer, Karen Talley, John Magnus, Michelle Van Dyke, Janet Doornbos, Miranda Wheeler, and Nicholette Picken.

Call to Order

2nd Reading of the modifications: The Growth Plan Policy modifications were read previously, and no one wanted to hear the reading of the modifications again. There was no public comment, the council opted for discussion and a vote. Mike, “I motion to approve the modifications of the growth policy plan” Tonya seconded. The council members discussed the modifications. An appeal came from Jan so she could continue to discuss her issues with the growth policy plan. She was asked to stay on track and move forward. The mayor yielded the floor back to Jan. Jan continued with what she was saying. Vote: Mike-yes, Tonya-yes, Tammy-no, Jan-no, the mayor (chair) broke the tie with a yes vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment

Adjourn: Public Hearing adjourned at 6:07 PM

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Called to order at 6:07 PM

Pledge was recited.

Public Comment not on the agenda: Bob Stump, from a recent letter from the mayor, the mayor described four driving principles, he would like to get three or four examples of each. [Mayor to respond at the next meeting.](#)

Julie Ward's questions from the ~~last~~ **previous** meeting were addressed as to whether or not the advisory committee's work was sent on to Triple Tree Engineering, and it was submitted. She also asked when the Interim Zoning Ordinance would expire and that would be October 2025 and in response to her asking where the money for Triple Tree will be coming from within the budget. The funds could come from multiple different locations within the budget, there are funds in the bank, grants, and other unexpected revenues coming in.

Ex Partee Communications of the Town Council: All council members were approached concerning snow removal. Tammy was asked about the 30-day request for information from the Town Hall. Tonya had a conversation with Jeff Gerth from the fire dept. Mike heard that someone on the council was asking around for a replacement for the mayor to run the town council meetings. He was also approach questioning if there was an open vacancy for the town council as someone approached him about becoming a member, and about someone who is always parked in front of a fire hydrant on Water St.

Department Reports:

Sheriff: There were 11 ambulance calls, 7 civil service calls, and 38 total CFS.

Library: No report

Attorney: Stephanie got together with a couple of council members and mayor to look at a work session/retreat about conduct, content of meetings, etc., and suggested to contact Ashley Kent from MSU Extension Local Government. Continuing with the investigation with the Sheriff's office of the misconduct of council member who refuses to give public records.

Fire Dept: 7 calls, 2 chimney fires, and 5 CO2 calls. The town fire engine died. The fire engine needs to be updated from class B foam to Class A system, the cost would be around \$20,000 for the update and not sure if it would work. There are water and air leaks that need to be fixed. Jeff was unsure if it would even pass inspection. He is looking at new or used fire trucks. As soon as the weather breaks the fence on Mill in front of the fire hydrant will be moved to behind the fire hydrant.

Public Works: Flow meter arrived and in contact with the manufacturer for installation guide. Blue Conduit is the identified contractor for state sponsored free engineering service that will assist with [Lead Copper Rule Revisions/Lead Copper Rule Improvements](#) LCRR/LCRI. They will be coming to Sheridan and will look at everything and help with moving forward. With the 4-wheeler being down, the leaf blower will be utilized more. Looking for another 4-wheeler.

Clerk/Treasurer: Discussed the sewer usage charge from July 2023 is difficult and would take time to get done and recommend that it not be fixed. Discussion with Bob Stump, Jennifer will be looking at getting the charges for July 2023 ~~fixed~~ [resolved](#). The request from the auditor for FY 22 and FY 23 has been sent in. Currently working on the bank recs and working on clerk/treasurer certification.

Boards and Committees:

MSIT: Goal is to continue to beautify Sheridan. Renewed the lease for the Welcome to Sheridan sign, looking at mending and replacing the park benches in town, cleaning up the Main Street Park, membership drive, Christmas Stroll, business grants for the community, and looking at new projects for the year.

Park District Board: Nothing at this time.

SCCF: Bingo at the Stockman on Monday February 19th to raise money for Sheridan Days.

Old Business:

Triple Tree Engineering with Proposed Zoning Task Order: Brad Koon from Triple Tree discussed Zoning Task order Phase 1 which was approved by the Town Council and is now complete. Phase 2 will cost approximately \$53,000 and will take about a year to complete. Dylan from WGM Group discussed impacts of development to include land use planning, Growth Policy, and Zoning. Dylan [Pippinich](#) recommends zoning first, then sub regulations, and finishing with an annexation policy. Zoning works best with community participation. There was a discussion between Dylan and the council members about the zoning plan. Brad talked about the Zoning Phase 2 plan which includes services to establish a joint Town and County Planning Board to include a community outreach process. Tammy motioned "to accept the Zoning Phase 2 contract proposed by Triple Tree Engineering." Seconded by Jan, all in favor, motion carried.

Preliminary Engineering Report (PER): Brad spoke about grant funds. An application was sent in for \$40,000 for the MCEP planning grant which will pay 80% of incurred costs. Tonya motioned "to accept the proposed 2024 Sheridan water PER from Triple Tree." Seconded by Mike. The council had a

discussion with Brad concerning grant funds and a plan for future improvements. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

Legal Services for Town of Sheridan regarding commercial advertising: Spoke with MMIA and Leagues of City/Towns. MMIA said that advertising on Main Street would have to be the same for everyone. If one can't then others are not able to. It doesn't matter if the advertising is fastened down or not, if it cannot be brought in at night, then it is a permanent structure. Leagues of City/Towns said it depends on what kind of speech is on the sign. Silverman Law about \$500 an hour and Bill Brooks \$200 an hour. Stephanie sent out a waiver memo that Philly was waving for conflict of interest on certain information to save the town money. What Stephanie will be able to do will be discussed further during an executive session. Jan motioned "we meet with Stephanie in executive session at a time coordinated with council members and Stephanie", Mike seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

Lisa Bowland, Clarification on variance on connecting to town water system: The Bowland's were given a variance since they were not notified when they purchased their property that they needed to connect to the town's water system. Discussion was heard about who needs to pay for the water line to the meter pit, the hook-up fee, and from the house to the meter. Stephanie will draw up a draft Resolution for the March Council Meeting. Jan motioned "we provide the landowner a draft Resolution prior to council making a decision, and if there is a sale pending before the next meeting, we meet in a special session to make the decision." Tonya seconded. Discussion among the council members was made concerning why to get a copy for the landowner. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

HB355 Funding Allocation, Sheridan pool: Karen Talley presented on behalf of the Park District Board for the HB355 grant funding for the Sheridan Pool. Went over the application and the requirements are to receive the funding. At this time there is no estimate, however there was an estimate done last year for \$140,000 - \$160,000.

Renewal of Lease to Sheridan/Alder Parks and Recreation District: Tonya motioned to "table the renewal of the Sheridan/Alder Park Recreation to the March meeting." Seconded by Mike, all in favor motion carried.

Council discussion and determination on Resolution 2024-1, a Resolution of the town council of Sheridan, Montana, calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review: Every 10 years there is a ballot for the voters to determine if the citizens would like to examine the type of government for Sheridan, either Mayor/Council or Manager/Council. There was discussion between the council members. Jan motioned "we propose the study commission for three members" Tonya seconded. All in favor, motion carried. There was discussion with the council and mayor on whether or not to use funds from the general fund or to add mills onto the citizens taxes. Jan motioned "to fund the study commission if approved by the electorate with 11.2 mills and the resolution read (approximately \$18,000)" Tonya seconded. All in favor motion carried. Motion to pass Resolution 2024-01 the Resolution of the Town of Sheridan, Montana, calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so Tammy motioned "to accept Resolution 2024-01" seconded by Tonya, all in favor, motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Jennifer went over the claims and payroll for January. The council questioned some items in the claims report. Tonya motioned “to accept the consent agenda on claims” Mike seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn: There was discussion on adjournment due to the lateness of the meeting. Jan motioned “to hold a special meeting that all the calendars coincide with to go over the remainder of tonight’s meeting”, Tonya seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Jan motioned “to adjourn this meeting”, seconded by Tonya. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Meacham
Clerk/Treasurer