Public Hearing Growth Policy Plan December 11, 2023

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

Guests: Stephanie Haag, Dave Haag, Stephanie Kruer, J B Chandler, Kevin Pearce, Karen Talley, Lee Michaels, Janis Hansen, Chris Roberts, Candice Mauseth, Dorie Hilliker, Gary Hilliker, Julie Ward, Jeff Gerth, Zach Thompson, Kaylie Theis, Bob Stump, Brad Koon, Michael Douglas, Kay Colwell, and Frank Colwell.

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Edwards read the changes that were submitted to Madison County Planning Board. The changes are a clarification of our zoning planning. Currently the Growth Policy Plan states Sheridan doesn’t have plans to do zoning, and the changes will say we are looking at zoning. The changes need to be made so we follow the Growth Plan. Tammy questioned the annexation still being in there, and the only change being made is changing will to may, thus not making the town obligated. Jan wanted a discussion with the council members about the subdivision regulations. There are already subdivision regulations at the town office. 2021 growth policy adopts the Madison County regulations, which was Jan’s primary concern.

Comments from the public: None

Public hearing was closed at 6:10pm

Regular Town Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Oath of Offices were recited for Mayor Edwards, Council Member Michael Zielinski, and Council Member Tonya Romkema.

Ex-Partee communication: Jan spoke with Julie Ward about ~~her~~ Julie’s perception of the lack of consideration of the subcommittee for the growth plan and how it was handled and disbanded. Nothing from Mike or Tonya. Tammy, there are still concerns about the snow removal on the sidewalks.

Approval of minutes from November 13 and 30, 2023: Jan “I would like to make a motion to approve the minutes from November 13 as modified.” Tonya seconded, all in favor and motion carried. Tammy didn’t receive minutes from November 30 and would like to abstain and make corrections later. Mike “I would like to make a motion to accept the minutes as amended”. Tonya seconded the motion. Tammy abstained, Tonya yes, Mike yes and Jan yes.

Public Comment not on the agenda: Bob Stump would like to know when the town is going to fix the sewer charges for the residence in town from July? The change affects everyone on the water/sewer system. No further comments

Public Comment on the agenda: Karen Talley would like clarification on public comment on when public comment should be discussed. She has the understanding that public comment comes after an item on the agenda. From the training the town recently had, the issue is presented, questions to the presenter, then public comment, and then the council will have discussion prior to making a motion ~~make a motion and have discussion amongst themselves~~. No further comments.

Department Reports:

Sheriff: Tyler Mursch gave the sheriff’s report. There were welfare checks, 911 hangups, suspicion of someone around the school, traffic stops, abandoned vehicles, motor vehicle accidents, and false alarms. There were 32 calls of service, 6 ambulance calls, and 2 civil service calls.

Library: there was a successful event with 7 authors doing book signing. The library would like to continue doing this every year.

Attorney: following up on public request for citizen advisory committee for the names, meeting minutes and meeting agenda’s for the town council. Moving forward with that to meet with Madison County attorney.

Fire Dept: one fire call. Stephanie Kruer got the letter out to the ~~resident~~ landowner on Mill St regarding the fence in front of the fire hydrant. Landowner is out of town and the conversation will continue.

Public Works: Report is on file.

Finance: Report is on file. Tammy passed out a form of a simplified version of the budget the council would like to see in the future instead of the budget revenue vs actual and budget expenditure vs actual and would like to have a list of the venders already paid.

Mayor: Still working on the ARPA reimbursements, the state wants the original invoice not a copy. The mayor is working on finding all the invoices to submit. On Thursday O’Keefe will be here to start the drilling on the redundant well. JDL will be here to help also. Jan had questioned before the meeting about the hospital and the County MOU and the collaboration with the road. There was discussion with the county, and it is dependent on the CBDG grant with the county. This will be a while and as soon as they know about the funding of the project we will sit down and talk with them. Until they know about the grant there isn’t anything to talk about till then. There was another question brought up about retainer contracts with Stephanie Kruer. There isn’t a retainer contract, but there is a contract with her on the rates and how we will work with her. There is an opening on the Madison County Planning Board. There was an application forwarded from one of the County Commissioners, and someone came into the office with interest in being on the planning board.

Town Council: Jan spoke about her and Judy talking at the office for a couple of hours to discuss how they can make the meetings more pleasant and to build a better working relationship. There were a couple of things that we didn’t agree with but will continue to work on them. Jan had discussions concerning the MOU with the hospital administration and Madison County. The CBDG grant isn’t specific to the roads but instead the sidewalks and curbs in front of the nursing home. Which will likely change the drainage of the road and would like to extend it out and look at all of Madison St south of Crofoot. Nothing to report from Mike. Tammy is concerned about the expenditure for the attorney and has a question for Ty about the cold patch on how it is working. Ty reports back that it is working out better than the millings. Special road/street allocation on the finances at 80,000 and would like a reminder of what those funds are for. The funds from two different gas tax accounts were combined and that is the funds left. Tonya had nothing to report.

MSIT: Nothing new at this time. In January they will get together and decide what they want to do for 2024. They will be looking at fundraising at that time also.

Park Board District: Karen Talley isn’t sure what to report. She noticed they are on the agenda and doesn’t know why. Would like to put on next month’s agenda for the swimming pool liner as Sheridan/Alder Park Board District. There is an open position for a new board member.

SCCF: Kaylie Theis, the Christmas Stroll was a success and would like to thank everyone for their support.

Old Business:

Triple Tree: Brad Koon from Triple Tree Engineering talked about the Sheridan Zoning - Proposed Engineering Services Task order and what they proposing to do. Triple Tree doesn’t do much of this type of work, but they have someone else who does. They spoke with WGN Group since they do a lot of this work and Brad proposes that they do this work. What WGN Group recommends is to work through all the old plans, policy and existing documents that are out there. Get a map of the one-mile radius of the town to get an idea of what the existing uses are. Then meet with the council and the mayor to see what direction the council and mayor want to go in. It is recommended to look at the three areas of zoning: ordinances, subdivision regulations, and annexation plan. Once the direction is decided a phase plan will be done and an estimated cost and timeline of what it will take to get there. The third step is to identify grant funds to apply for. WGN Group believes it would take from 8 months to 1 year to finish. If the town wants to apply for grant funding, then it would take longer. The approximate cost to finish would be an estimate of $50,000 to $60,000. They will use as much documentation available to help keep the cost down.

The floor was open for public discussion, Frank Colwell wanted to know what the annexation plan is. Currently there isn’t one and that is one thing we are looking at getting. Nothing further from the public. Mike “I would like to make a motion to proceed with Triple Tree Engineering with the proposed zoning”. Tonya seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

Commercial Advertising: Council would like to move forward. Philly Saxon was unable to make it to the meeting but sent in a letter. Mayor Edwards read her letter and is on file. MSIT had nothing further to discuss. Bob Stump discussed why the signpost was put up, the Goldthwait’s wanted to put up the signpost because the business sits back off of Main Street and Philly having the signpost there now is no different. Karen Talley would like to say that there should be minutes from meetings as to whether there is an easement or not. Kay Colwell doesn’t want to single out Philly or anyone person for advertising on town property, the main objection is that the signpost is there and MSIT believes it to be trespassing because she has not obtained permission from the town council to have it there. No further comments from the public.

The Town Council had discussion on whether she has the legal right to have the signpost there since she purchased the signpost when she purchased the property. If the signpost is left, it sets precedence for anyone else who has a business on Main Street or side streets. Jan “I would like to make a motion that we submit in writing to Philly asking her to either remove the signpost or request permission from the council to keep it in its current position and Philly will maintain it prior to the January meeting.” Tonya seconded. Town council discussed what they wanted in the letter to Philly. They would like to add in the letter that Philly provides liability protection. Tonya would like to propose that we discuss leasing the property to Philly. No one has seen paperwork as to whether the sign was sold to Philly, however Tammy was told by Anne Goldthwait that she sold the sign with the property to Philly, with the advice she goes to the town council for approval there was no documentation of Philly doing it. With no more discussion a vote was made, all were in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

School Signage: The superintendent of the Sheridan schools, JB Chandler and the school board, has safety concerns about the students crossing the street in front of the school when they are arriving and leaving school. The school asked if a crosswalk could be put in the middle of the street in addition to the corner crosswalks, but Ty said that wouldn't work well. JB and Ty spoke about portable stop/yield signs. Other ideas would be the signage of a no drop off zone on the west side of Madison Street. The council discussed with JB another option; one thought was to make a drop off zone in front of the school. Discussion of whether or not a motion needs to be made. No vote is needed at this time and will be continued until it is brought back from the school and further discussions with Ty and the school board members on a recommended action.

Water/Sewer adjustment for 16 Wisconsin Creek Rd: The Hamstra’s were not present. Jennifer presented the adjustment of their water/sewer account for them. Jennifer figured an average for the year prior to the leak and then figured a monthly average of what they have been paying for 30 months and it equaled to $694.50. They are looking for an adjustment up to but not to exceed $694.50. They are seeking an adjustment because the town replaced their old line in April 2021 and a leak formed after the new line was placed in. The new line was not leaking when it was hooked up according to Bob Stump. Their meter was moved from the house to the curb where their neighbor’s meter is. The explanation of why the meter was moved was because if the meter to their neighbor’s house was shut off it shut both of their water off. The line was replaced when the water project was done on Wisconsin Creek Rd. The leak has been recently repaired. Jan “I would like to make a motion that we not make the requested adjustment to the water bill.” Tammy seconded. Discussion of a letter to be sent to them about the line from the meter to their home is their responsibility. Tonya mentioned a parliamentary error then Jan amended the motion “I would like to make a motion that we deny the requested adjustment to the water bill.” Tammy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Swimming Pool: Karen Talley asked that it be put on next month’s agenda because the agenda item wasn’t properly worded.

HB 355 Funding Opportunity: there is a broad range of where the funds can go to: roads, water, sewer, or infrastructure. The process is that we submit to the Department of commerce some ideas of how we want to spend the funds by the end of the month. In January it will be narrowed down. Somethings that have been discussed in house is the fixing the pipes in front of the school under the street, streets could use some fixing, the swimming pool, water main on Crofoot. Brad added that there are plenty of opportunities for water, sewer, and roads funds and to take advantage of using the funds for other areas. There is a 25% match for the amount of funds spent. Sidewalks in front of the school, solar panels at the town office building and other buildings.

Consent Agenda on Claims: The claims are from the previous month, November, and are presented to the council at the December meeting. There are 29 claims totaling $24,528.98. The council went over the claims with the clerk. Tammy, “I so move to accept the consent agenda on the claims.” Tonya seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Mike motioned to adjourn at 8:10pm, Tonya seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Meacham

Clerk/Treasurer