SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 28, 2023, AT TOWN HALL OFFICE

In attendance: Tom Roberts, Tammy Todd, Tonya Romkema, Mayor Judy Edwards, Ty Gerth (Public Works Director) Jennifer Meacham (Clerk/Treasurer)

Other attendees: Jan Bowey, Anne Wentz, Michael Douglas, Jenny Smathers, Ed Smathers, Karen Talley, Nancy Males, Kate Rose, Fred Moranthaler, and Stephanie Kruer

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Pledge was recited.

Tammy Todd, wanted to know why the interim zoning ordinance is new business and shouldn’t it be old business. If it should be moved to the next meeting. Mayor Edwards had some questions and would like to discuss before it goes forward to last reading and voting.

Public Hearing on Budget: The floor was open, Karen Talley asked if the council had seen the preliminary budget prior to now. Karen would like to know about the funding of the town pool, $8,000 is budgeted for the pool. Is there anything different from the last budget. The only thing would have been the money coming in from ARPA fund. Gas tax comes from one source therefore there is only one account. Karen, asked about the park’s capital improvement, because the swimming pool liner is old and needs a new one, there is a quote for $176,000 to replace the liner.

6:13 public hearing on the budget was closed.

New Business:

Swearing in of Jan Bowey, new council member: Jan Bowey came forward to take her oath for council member and was sworn in by Mayor Edwards.

Budget 23-24 Discussion and/or Action: Recommendation was made for a recess if there are any changes to the budget. A final budget can be made the same day and doesn’t need to be placed in the paper again for two weeks. This suggestion is because of a time crunch. Judy Edwards went over the budget. The monthly budget hasn’t been finished so the yearly budget can’t be finished, some of the numbers may be different after the yearly closeout is done. No more than 50% of the budget can be in cash within the general fund. The fire department and the library Scholz funds we don’t do much with, the fire department and library take care of those funds. Water/sewer funds can only be used for water/sewer.

Mill levy comes from the state and is final. The number of mills decreased but the tax value increased. Library fund is an appropriation fund not a transfer of funds. Further discussion was had on the budget. Jan questioned about a 20-minute continuance to finish the budget, discussion was made. Tammy moves that we continue the preliminary budget and resume on Thursday August 31, 2023, at 6pm, Tonya seconds, all in favor, motion passed.

Interim Zoning Ordinance Discussion and/or Action: some of the language and other corrections need to be made to keep it in accordance with ordinance. Ultimately extension should be talked about. differences between uses and additional development. Development is taking use and making something of it. Use is a broader language. The second change that was made at the last Town Council meeting isn’t legal because of the removal of the 1-mile language. Stephanie Kruer read the statue for zoning activities. Discussion was held between council members. Stephanie recommends that we put the 1-mile language back in section 2. Karen Talley talks about the interment zoning ordinance. Need to go through proper notification according to section 76-2-303 MCA. This is more than just water/sewer issues, it also goes to easements, and what is in the best interest of the town. The first and second reading is because they were not properly noticed. Tom mentioned the ordinance will reflect exactly what the statue says 76-2-306 MCA language, seconded by Jan, all in favor, motion passed.

Notice will be made to the Madisonian. The purpose of extending the ordinance passed on February 14th, 2023, for an additional 12 months. Jan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tammy, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm.

Continuance of special meeting Thursday August 31, 2023, at 6pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 13th, 2023, at 6pm.