

Regular Town Council Meeting August 8th, 2022

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Robert Stump, Council members Mike Walter, Rahn Abbott, Tammy Todd and Z. Wade Hampton were present along with Clerk Ginger Galiger and Public Works, Duke Gilman.

Guests: Kate Rose, Duncan Hedges with Madison County Sheriff's Office, Kaylie Theis, Steve Dobb, Gary & Doris Hilliker, Tom Roberts, Mike Dietrich, Suzi Hampton, CeCe Weldon, Cory Hardy, Doris Fischer, Judy Edwards, Lon Seidel, Jeff Gerth and Luke Cordingley were present.

Pledge

Managed Growth Teams reports

Tom Roberts spoke for the group working on the "lack of water issues". This group feels that the town needs to be looking more toward a growth plan that includes one mile around the town limits and what the town will need in the future.

1. Water Capacity

A. The Sheridan water supply does not have source(wells) capacity based on current demand. The potential solution to this issue is (a) the Town council to consult legal counsel to determine its options for handling proposed developments before a thorough assessment of Sheridan's water and wastewater current and future needs has been conducted by a qualified third-party engineer. (b) Town council should retain a qualified third-party engineer to evaluate the current water and wastewater systems and recommend solutions, including priorities and estimated costs, to meet current and anticipated future system demands based on the breakdown of actual and likely future land uses (e.g., residential, commercial, public facilities).

B. The Town has water rights on Indian Creek that are not being fully utilized. This source has 260 gallons per minute decreed capacity. This should be covered in the engineering analysis listed above including valuating the Indian Creek water rights held by the Town and to include the costs of restoration, plumbing, and treatment.

C. Well #5 and well #6 pump 50 gallons per minute less when both wells are in service. This too should be covered in engineering analysis listed above.

2. Water Distribution

A. It is unclear what the condition and capacity of the Town's distribution system is. Neither WWC nor RPA evaluated the Town's water distribution system in their report and assumed that the distribution system was adequate. The Capital Improvements Plan identifies several "high priority" water distribution needs. The engineering analysis should consider the 2021 CIP items and once the comprehensive engineering analysis is completed the CIP should be revised to address the short term and long-term priorities.

B. Since the non-metered and beneficial use is combined with known leakage, when calculating the difference between water pumped and water sold, we know of, but cannot quantify, actual leakage. All use, regardless of purpose, should be metered. Only then can actual leakage become understood. One that has been done, it is recommended that leaks be identified using every available technology.

3. Water Storage

A. Fire Flow- Water storage (300,000- gallon tank) for fire flow may have been underestimated and therefore has significant impact on the evaluation. The 800 gallon per minute value lacks technical validation and may not accurately reflect the true requirement. Retain a qualified third-party engineer to update water system requirements based on 1,500 gallons per minute for two hours.

4. Wastewater

The aerated pond volume on construction drawings design criteria is 9.2 million gallons, this volume has been determined to be incorrect per as-builts 4.86 million gallons is the correct volume. It is reported that the collection system has substantial inflow and infiltration issues mainly in the summer when groundwater levels are high and irrigation ditches are in use. There are contradictions between Northern Rockies Engineering and WWC regarding the capacity of the wastewater system. Cover in engineering analysis listed above and validate the actual built capacity by proper measurement and see if/how that affects capability.

Note: This letter references retaining a qualified third-party engineer to perform analysis/assessments. It is recommended that the engineer be retained by the Town of Sheridan and have no past within the past five years or current contracts with developers planning developments in Sheridan.

Luke Cordingley spoke on behalf of the School Impact Committee. The potential problems are **attracting talent**. A potential solution would be for the school district to provide housing assistance or acquire property. Proactively keep classes small and provide aids before legally required. **Behavioral and Mental Health** – More counseling, community mentorship and role models along with discipline. **Class size** – Deny out of district students and hire more staff. **Excessive class sizes** – Combine Twin and Sheridan schools. Rent existing buildings in other areas of Sheridan for emergency classroom space. **Funding** – Community engagement to pass bonds and/or mill levies. **New required instruction** – 1:1 aides more special education classes.

Summary: Even if no new, large-scale subdivisions are developed in Sheridan, student enrollment is growing organically. In the past 5 years (2017-2022) total enrollment increased 25%. In the 2022 school year the kindergarten and 2nd grade classes were only four students away from the school being required to provide additional personnel in the classroom. Sheridan schools share statewide issues around attracting talent. Some of Sheridan's current advantages which include smaller classes and a four-day work week for teachers would be put in jeopardy by accelerated growth plans.

Doris Hillker reported for her group that worked on the fire suppression concerns. She wanted to make it clear that by her helping, she is not agreeing in anyway to the Crossing Subdivision.

- A. Water Supply (capacity and delivery) Solution: Town achieving IFC and Montana fire code status, additional storage, and adequate water mains.
- B. Recruitment and retention. Solution: Public education and programs.
- C. Funding limitations. Solution: Impact fees on developers and/or new construction and or a fire tax.
- D. Street width. Solution: Developers need to plan for street widths that allows for on-street parking.

Gary Hilliker reported on the traffic impact study. The traffic count done on Water Street and Poppleton Street was done on January 24th through January 30, 2022, in the dead of winter. 1/2 day on Tuesday had data, all of Wednesday and 1/4 of Thursday had data. This is not acceptable because it is totally incomplete, not representing the actual normal amount of traffic and done during the wrong time of year.

On page 9, the signal warrant analysis for the intersections of Water Street with Main Street and Poppleton Street with Main Street was not conducted. One big concern with the huge increase in the population and traffic congestion is there will be additional children at these intersections as they go to and from school which for safety purposes, there will be the need of crossing lights across highway 287, Main Street.

Another concern is Water Street and Poppleton Street will not be improved to handle the additional traffic flow and congestion plus no sidewalks to safely accommodate pedestrians.

Solution: Delay the approval of The Crossing Subdivision until a complete, appropriate, and competent traffic impact study is done.

Cory Hardy reported that the group to discuss the zoning issue, was unable to meet prior to this meeting.

Public Comment Not on the Agenda

Judy Edwards has offered her services to update portions of the Capital Improvement Plan regarding work that has been completed, what is being worked on, timelines and funding options.

Tom Roberts thanked the Mayor and Duke for all the work they did in the park, it looked great. The amphitheater is beautiful, thank you Kaylie Theis.

Doris Hillker referred to meeting minutes from June 13th when Mayor Stump made the statement, "If we just reject the plan, we will get sued." Doris asked the council if they are worried about being sued? "The issue of being sued should not be held over your heads. Reminding everyone, the Crossings subdivision has not been approved yet. It will be solely the Councils decision.

Gary Hillker is requesting again that the meetings be recorded. Mayor Stump said, "it will be put on the agenda for next month."

Judy Edwards said that after meeting with the "fire" group, it raised much concern when it comes to public health and safety. She read MCA 76-2-306 **Interim Zoning Ordinance**. (1) Except as provided

in 76-2-340, the city or town council or other legislative body of the municipality, to protect the public safety, health, and welfare and without following the procedures otherwise required prior to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, may adopt as an urgency measure an interim zoning ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated zoning proposal that the legislative body is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time.

(2) An interim zoning ordinance may be applicable only within the city limits and up to 1 mile beyond the corporate boundaries of the city or town and takes effect upon passage if a hearing is first held upon notice reasonably designed to inform all affected parties. A notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days before the hearing.

(3) An interim zoning ordinance is no longer in effect 6 months from the date of its adoption. However, after notice pursuant to 76-2-303 and pursuant to public hearing, the legislative body may extend the interim passage. No more than two extensions may be adopted.

Doris Fischer suggested consultation with the town's attorney regarding options for the town, primarily in regard to public health and safety.

Mike Walter stated, "the statutory requirement gives the town 80 days after sufficiency review to act on the recommendation from the County Planning Board. The town was given an extension to accommodate the September 12th town council meeting.

Judy Edwards asked the council to consider a future moratorium be put in place on future development/subdivisions. Mayor Stump said, "it will be placed on next month's agenda."

Councilmember Wade Hampton will not be here on September 12th, but he can phone in to the meeting.

Department Reports

Sheriff – Duncan Hedges gave the Sheriff's report for the month of July. They received 8 ambulance calls, 2 civil service call and responded to 50 other calls. Tyler Mersh is starting a program to educate folks on scams and who to contact. Captain Hedges reminds everyone that if you see something suspicious, report it. He also talked about the domestic violence situation that started in Twin Bridges and ended in Sheridan. The original call to alert people went out in error. There were no shots fired and the community was not in danger. They are still trying to hire additional dispatchers.

Library –

Attorney –

Fire Department – Mike Dietrich reported receiving 2 calls in July. One lightning strike, no fire started and a gas leak on Main Street. Mike also reported stepping down as the Fire Chief, but he will stay on the department. There will be a special meeting tomorrow night to vote on the next Chief.

Public Works – Duke reported having 2 new pumps put in the lift station. He has kept busing with mowing and trimming the parks to get ready for Sheridan Days. Bob fixed the back flow preventer at the pool. They launched the boat in the outer lagoon to start irrigating. On Friday they pumped half the lagoon down.

Clerk/Treasurer – I have been working on the budget and have Rural Development reports due the end of August. I also sent the ad to the Madisonian to hire a Public Works person, deadline to receive applications is set for September 9th.

Boards and Committees

Park District Board –

Sheridan Community Charitable Foundation – Kaylie Theis reported on Sheridan Days and the amphitheater near completion other than a few items. The horseshoe pits were moved in time for Sheridan Days.

Public Comment Not on the Agenda – None

New Business

1. Pledged Securities

Mayor Stump read the report which reflects that there is a sufficient amount of pledged securities to the Town of Sheridan as of June 30, 2022. Rahn Abbott moves to accept the pledged securities as presented. Tammy Todd seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was passed unanimously.

2. Plan for BaRSSA gas tax

BaRSSA funds can be used to pay for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of rural roads, city or town streets and alleys, bridges, or roads and streets that the city, town, county, or consolidated city-county government has the responsibility to maintain. In fiscal year 2018/2019, the town received their first allotment of \$5,849.00 with matching local funds of \$308.00 for a total of \$6,157.00 that needs to be spent by this end of this fiscal year. The council discussed the main roads that need the most work to be Crofoot St., Madison St. and widened on Bieler where the culvert is. Mike Walter moves on pursuing bids on road maintenance, possible paving and or road fill. Crofoot St., Madison St., Mills St. and Hamilton St. Z. Wade Hampton seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

The minutes from July 11, 2022, and July 26th, 2022, were reviewed along with claims for the month of June and July. June payroll claims 88522-88530 and claims 177437-17475, 17477-17483 totaling \$87,780.52. July payroll claims 88514-88521 and claims 17482,1748-17519 and 17521 totaling \$72,853.80. Rahn Abbott moves to accept the meeting minutes and claims from June and July. Z. Wade Hampton seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was passed unanimously.

Mayor Stump talked about budgeting for the new public works employee. We hope to have someone hired by October 1st with a 3- month transitioning period and then he plans to be gone the end of December.

Rahn Abbott moved to approve the utility billing delinquent report. Tammy Todd seconded the motion. We will have 3 shut off notices tomorrow. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was passed unanimously.

Council Report

Mike Walter would like to schedule a work meeting to digest the Counties conditions prior to our regular council meeting. Date options were discussed.

Mayor Report

Tomorrow the engineer/surveyor will be at the Senior Center to evaluate the sewer line and figure out a new route.

Rahn Abbott moves to adjourn tonight's meeting. Z. Wade Hampton seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was passed unanimously.

Adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Approved:

Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger