

Regular Town Council Meeting March 13, 2023, at Town Hall

In attendance: Rahn Abbott, Tonya Romkema, Tammy Todd, Tom Roberts, Mayor Mike Walter, Ty Gerth (Public Works), Sarah Hanson (clerk, treasurer), Duke Gilman (Public Works)

Other Attendees: Diane Severance, Monty Simonsen, Kaylie Theis, Zachary Thompson, Jeff Gerth (Fire Chief), Dave Haag, Stephanie Haag, Clayton Barr, Kate Rose (The Madisonian), Stephanie Kruer (Town Attorney)

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

Pledge

Public comment not on the agenda - none

Department Reports

Sheriff: Duncan Hedges discusses targeted patrols. Discussed wanting the deputies to get out in the community. Discussed dog barking complaint. Going to have a complaint that people can sign in order to have things enforced. Discussed other items on the sheriff's report. SAR put their training on in Sheridan and will be going over with them on how that went.

Library: No report

Attorney: No report at this time

Fire Department: Jeff Gerth (Sheridan Rural Fire Chief), Structure fire out at Point of Rocks. Broken pipe on tender not sure what that is going to cost, engine issues with the brush truck, \$5400 for pump and motor, waiting on permit to start building out at property. Spring vote is in June for Mill Levy.

Public Works: Duke Gilman advised one of the cells out at the lagoon was overflowing and had to thaw out the pipes so that they could get it running again. Have been filling potholes and waiting for the weather to change to start down by the railroad tracks. Duke Gilman has put in his resignation as public works director and will be done at the end of the month.

Clerk/Treasurer: Have had a productive month getting things accomplished and moving in the right direction. Vicki Tilstra from the county came for a day and helped sort out some financials and get us prepared going into budget season. We were able to balance the bank rec which was one of the main things that needed to be done since before the clerk started. The main thing we learned with Vicki coming down and helping was we are on the right path and are making great headway and are sitting really well going into budget season.

Boards and Committees

MSIT: Working on additional projects, had annual meeting to put a list of projects done. Trying to figure out the budget and that some projects will include the town and some will not.

Park District Board: no report

SCCF: Kaylie Theis advised she gave the foundation the MOU from last month and they did not feel they needed it. Wanting to know thoughts from the council on the MOU. Since it involves county funding Stephanie would like to talk to the county commissioner. Kaylie advised the foundation is working on Cinco De Mayo in the park, and Sheridan days.

Public Comment on the Agenda - none

Old business

RV/Rental Properties: Mike Walter brings up properties concerning multi-users. Diane Severance from the community speaks on her property. She has two units, and an RV on her property. Mike reads ordinance 118 section 27. Tom Roberts advises this is a challenging one and discusses what has been shared by others in the community. There should be a base rate for each individual dwelling. Discussion on what a dwelling is. Tom Roberts asked if we applied one at a time slowly. Tammy Todd advises that to stay within the ordinance that they would have to do the base price for the two additional structures and the RV.

Tom Roberts moves that in the next billing cycle we increase one of two base fees and in the second billing cycle include the second of the two base fees and not the RV until we know how we are proceeding with that in the future” Tammy Todd seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

New Business

Haag’s – 308 E. Hamilton St: Mike Walter reads Haag’s letter. Tom Roberts advised this seems pretty straight forward as this is a lot that already had development on it. The council discusses that it does not fall under subdividing. Stephanie advises the ordinance does apply as it is a new development. Council discussion.

Tom Roberts moves we approve the proposal to put a single-family dwelling and we find it not in conflict with any change in the land use. Tonya Romkema seconds. No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Knobeloch water Leak: Mike Walter reads letter from Knobeloch and reads ordinance 118 section 24. The actual repair is the homeowner’s responsibility. Tonya asks if we can average from last year this time and to this year for the next two months this time and give her 90 days for the issue to be fixed. Tammy Todd asks if the main break that happened a few months ago would have had any influence on it. Mike advises that it most likely was not because it is a decent distance way and under her house.

Tom Roberts, I move we average the past number of previous twelve bills to this billing cycle and the next two. And we notify her after the third one to come talk to us if it is not fixed. Rahn Abbott seconds. No further discussion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Ordinance 117 Discussion: Mike Walter reads letter from citizen. Simonsen discusses what is classified as a residential city lot and that they are considered platted city lots. Tammy Todd reads some of ordinance 117 section 7. Tammy asks the owner of goats if they were aware of the ordinance when they bought the goats, and he was not but is aware of it now. Tom asks what options he has now that he is aware of the ordinance. The owner of the goats advised he could move them into the back field which would be over two acers. Mike asked if they could give him a time frame to get the goats moved. Tom advises that by the next council meeting it would be good to have a place for the goats. Tonya advises that she does not believe they need to see the lease if the goats get moved to the back field just need to know they have been moved in the allotted time frame. Tammy Todd, I move with a proposal for Mr. Barr to be in compliance with ordinance 117 section 7 by our next town council meeting. Tom Roberts seconds – no further discussion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Well 6 Transmission Line: Stephanie Krueer discusses transmission line on Dale property near Carey Ln. She has additional letters that were asked about. Stephanie discusses letters that have been presented. Continued discussion by Stephanie on agriculture. Stephanie does not believe a decision needs to be made tonight, but since another letter had been received thought the council should at least discuss it. Stephanie hands out letter from October 3, 2019, from the town. Also hands out letter from Northern Rockies Engineering from September 10, 2019. Tammy asks the question where their compromise was on Dale's property. Stephanie advises that there are many claims but do not necessarily pertain. Tom Roberts advises he has walked the property many times before and after the project and does not see what the Dales are looking for. Discussion from the council and Stephanie. Tom Roberts advises he would like to find out what they can do to try and reach an agreement. Tonya asked if they would be able to clarify how they came to the number they gave for the amount of hay that was purchased.

Rahn Abbott asked for a list, so they know what to address. Tom Roberts, I move that we request our town attorney to reply to this letter and to reply for specific facts so we can clearly understand the basis of the claim. Tammy Todd seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Minutes for March 13, 2023: Tom Roberts I move we accept these minutes as presented. Tonya Romkema seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Financials/Utility Delinquent Report: Council discussion on financials and delinquent reports. Mike discusses financials and things learned from the time with Vicki. Tom Roberts asked if the council could sit down and look at just the budget. Mike suggested trying to have a work meeting once a month to try and keep everyone on the same page. Rahn Abbott, I move that we accept the financials and utility delinquent reports. Tonya Romkema seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Council Report: Tom Roberts brings up a citizen that came in and was wondering about what could be done about the 16 wheeler that has been being parked down the street alongside the park. Tonya asks if it was a safety concern or if it was just the appearance of it. Discussion by council. Tammy suggests that the advisory committee could possibly look into this.

Tom Roberts brings up the advisory committee. Kick off meeting would be April 11, 2023, at the senior center. Letters will be going out by the end of the week. Tom also brings up postage for town clerk. Black Mountain software has an emailing option for sending bills out via email.

Mayor's Report: Brings up claim from a roofing company that did the library, and it has not been fully paid as of yet. Mike advises that it may be good to contact the insurance company to figure out why it has not been paid as of yet. Looking into millings for roads. Would like to have a work meeting to start looking into the budget and where we want to go with funds. Mike discusses the lack of housing in Sheridan and grants that may be available.

Tammy brings up she has heard some grumblings on the interim zoning ordinance and the boundary of the one-mile radius. Discussion from Mike and Tom.

Mike entertains motion for adjournment. Tonya Romkema, I motion we adjourn. Rahn Abbott seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Minutes respectively submitted by clerk, treasurer Sarah Hanson