

Town of Alpine

April 7, 2009

Town Council Minutes

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Minutes are a brief summary only of this meeting

Mayor DeCora called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of alliance was held and roll call was taken, establishing a quorum: Troy Johnson, Shirley Brown, Victoria DeCora, Beau Taylor, Don Jorgensen, Attorney Stefan Fodor, Town Administrator Deb Wolfley and Town Clerk Brenda Bennett was excused.

Mayor DeCora asked for motion to approve March 17th and March 31 Town Council minutes and minutes from Planning & Zoning meeting held on 3-10-09. Shirley Brown made motion and Don Jorgensen 2nd. Discussion on minutes for 3-17-09 was held. Question was asked on who made motion on sewer ordinance and how many voted yea and nay. Research needs to be done to clarify this matter. Shirley Brown amended her motion to table approving minutes from Town Council meeting on 3-17-09 and to approve the Town Council meeting on 3-31-09 and the Planning & Zoning minutes from 3-10-09, Don Jorgensen 2nd the motion, all voted yea. VOTE: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion passed.

Logan Christianson asked for permission to plant some trees at the ball diamond field for his Eagle Scout Project. He presented a plan of the area where he would like to plant the trees. Discussion was held on the trees and watering concerns. Deb advised the council that the staff is working on a landscaping plan for this area which will look at location of trees, watering solutions. Council instructed Logan to work with Deb on his project. Beau Taylor made motion to allow Logan to plant some trees, Troy Johnson 2nd, the motion, VOTE: 5 yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Jay Dunbar with the Bridger Teton / Greys River District Forest Service Office discussed with Town Council about the upcoming prescribed burn on Bradley Mountain. Jay talked about the project along with three other staff members from the Forest Service Agency. If conditions are right, the prescribed burn will occur this spring and in the fall of 2009. Troy asked some questions regarding road closures and possible access restrictions. Jay advised that there will be extensive advertisement for this project and they plan on holding a meeting next month at the Alpine Fire Department to invite the public to learn more about this project.

Steve Chichinski talked about his project of the commercial offices next to the Town Hall. He talked about needing to have shared parking agreements with other property owners in the area. He said that he has been talking to the Lincoln County Library director in Alpine and she is in favor of this agreement, but she will forward it to her supervisor for review. Steve C. asked if the Town would be willing to sign a shared parking agreement. He asked about the piece of ground just east of the Town hall that the Town owns if that piece of ground could be used for parking. Discussion was held on possible changes to the Land Use Code in the parking requirements. Beau T. felt that the proposed changes would be to Steve's benefit and that Steve would have enough parking spaces on his own and would not require any shared parking agreements. The staff will look into this and get back to Steve. Pat Marolf from the Planning & Zoning Board told the Town Council that changes were made to the parking requirements, but he could not recall all the exact details.

Steve Chichinski asked the council about reviewing his extension of building permit. Mayor DeCora asked Steve to put in writing his request for review to extend his building permit. Steve said he would do this.

Mayor DeCora told Town Council about the Waste Water Treatment Plant receiving a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Pisces award. This is a "Performance and Innovation in the State Revolving Clean Water Fund in Creating Environmental Success.

Tiphany Gayhart talked to Town Council about the Town's budget for this year and for past years. She went over some revenue and expenditures for past years. She asked where extra funds are coming from on this year's budget.

Discussion was held on answers to her questions. Tiphany asked questions about financing of the WWTP and the costs that North Star Utility was paying. Discussion by Town Council was held on this topic with Tiphany. Steve Chichinski made comments on the WWTP and readiness to serve fees by North Star Utility. Carla Stone asked who was attorney for Town of Alpine when contract was drawn up with North Star Utility.

Pat Marolf with Planning & Zoning gave report to Town Council about past Planning & Zoning meeting. He reported that the Planning & Zoning board went over changes to Land Use Code and made some recommendations to Town Council. He said one issue was hard to discuss and that was of lighting / signs. He said the Planning & Zoning didn't make any changes to this language.

Jeff Atwood talked about build out of land in Alpine and how the WWTP will handle this. Jeff talked to Town Council about how the new sewer ordinance is not fair to the Tavern. He said there are three different hookups for this piece of property and the costs to hookup would be over \$80,000.00. The monthly user charges would be over \$600.00. He said the infrastructure is very old and it would cost over \$200,000.00 to replace. Jeff talked about other businesses in town and what they pay for hookup costs. Jeff talked about the old sewer improvement district and expectations on sewer hookup fees back then and now. Discussion was held on this topic by council and others in attendance. Tiphany Gayhart talked about faulty water meters and problems with the meters in the past. Councilman Taylor talked about how the town will be reviewing past water usage and looking to see if any changes can be made on the ERU's.

Mayor DeCora introduced ordinance 188 No.2009 – 44 Business License 1st Reading. Motion to approve first reading by Troy Johnson with Beau Taylor 2nd the motion. Discussion was held on the change in fees to obtain a new business license, with the change being from \$50.00 to \$60.00. VOTE: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, motion carried. Deb and Stefan will look at a couple of other changes for council to review before second reading.

Mayor DeCora introduced Ordinance 187 No. 2009-43, Amended 08/09 General Budget, 1st Reading. The Mayor explained that the budget needs to be amended due to decreased revenue coming in from the State. The Mayor called for motion to approve this ordinance. Discussion was held on the budget figures. Don Jorgensen made a motion to table this ordinance until more information is available on the Professional Services line item budget. Troy Johnson 2nd this motion. VOTE 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, motion passed. More information will be given to council.

Department Updates:

Stefan Fodor reported on information he has learned on the "COPS Grant" that may have some money available for the Police Department. Chief Phillips is aware of this grant and he has applied for money or is looking into the grant. Stefan talked about shut off notices and how the Town needs to be consistent. Discussion was held on times when shut off notices were not enforced and the reasons for such. Beau Taylor made motion to act on all shut off notices as required by ordinance. Don Jorgensen 2nd the motion. VOTE: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried. Discussion was held on working with the public when circumstances arise that may require some flexibility. Namely, if someone has a genuine dispute, pays the undisputed portion of their bill and appears before the Town with regards to the dispute, the Town would be well within their rights to toll the shut off date while the dispute is resolved. This doesn't mean we don't act on delinquent accounts, but when someone pays what they don't dispute and works with the Town to solve the problem, the council has the grounds to hold off on shutting off water, but the staff should not be making those decisions.

Deb will talk to staff about this and Deb reported that the staff has been helpful to people when possible. Stefan talked about the Town reviewing the ERU schedule, water rates and possible changes being made. Discussion was held on how to approach this review and what areas to change if need be. Councilman Taylor reported that he has done extensive review on water rates and charges. Deb asked if council wanted to pursue the matter of ERU's and water usage and they responded yes. Deb will work with Councilman Taylor on this. Stefan said we need to be careful in the scope of the review and any possible changes.

Deb Wolfley Report on plans for Civic Center: The architect is recommending the following schedule for bidding of the civic center. Advertise on April 30th & May 7th. The plans will be ready by May 1st for contractors to pick up packets. There will be a pre bid

conference on May 8th. The bids will be opened on May 21st and there will be a special council meeting on May 26th to award bids. Construction to begin in June and completion date in mid January 2010. Gloria Jorgensen was under the assumption that the bid document was to be done in early April. Deb said the Architects had set backs with structural issues on main trusses and this has taken longer than anticipated. The Town Council said it was okay to have the special meeting on May 26th to award bids.

Deb reported on landscaping matters at civic center. There are many trees that will need to be removed this summer. We are looking to work out a deal with company to give some of trees to them in exchange for a company to transplant a portion of the trees to the ball diamond area. Other alternatives are to pay someone to remove trees, but this is an expensive option. The Town Council was okay with this plan and Councilman Taylor may know a company that might be interested in removing the trees in exchange for some trees. He will get back to Deb.

Deb asked for permission to advertise for temporary full time help for the maintenance department. This job would run from June 1st to September 30th. There would be no benefits, and with a salary range of \$8.00 to \$12.00 per hour.

Troy Johnson inquired into our lawn mowing equipment status and why we are paying a maintenance landscaper to mow lawns, could we not use temporary help to mow lawns during their employment period?

Troy Johnson made motion to advertise for temporary help position as maintenance/lawn mower and other duties as assigned. Beau Taylor 2^{nds} the motion. VOTE: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Christine Wagner has been hired for part time office help. She will start next week.

Shawn Bard needs sewer service to some of his lots off of River Circle. He wants to use Sunrise Engineering to engineer the sewer down this road to service his property. Ryan Erickson did not want a conflict of interest problem and wanted a waiver or permission from Town. Sunrise does not want this to cause a problem.

Discussion, this will benefit town in long run. Motion to approve line extension of sewer to Bard property – ok for sunrise to do work, town will hire another engineer to review sunrise's work

Beau Taylor makes motion, Shirley Brown 2nd the motion. VOTE: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Deb discussed a quote from Mavy's Pest and Weed Control Company on spraying for weeds in town for this coming summer months. Mr. Mavy has done the same work last summer.

Troy Johnson mentioned that chemicals and sprayers are free from county and we should do this ourselves.

Council denied weed spraying contract. Deb will get will Val on this to arrange for spraying of weeds by Town personnel.

Information was given to Council members on a seminar which will be held in Kemmerer in middle of May. This is a two day class on communication and working with customers and the public, packet given to council for consideration.

Motion to pay bills made by Beau Taylor, Shirley Brown 2nd the motion. Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Troy Johnson questions electric power bills for dog pound, Kids Park and ball field. Dog Pound has all plowing equipment plugged in there. Ball field has service charge as well as Kids Park.

Beau Taylor moves to adjourn the meeting. Troy Johnson 2nd. VOTE: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Victoria DeCora 4-22-09

Mayor Victoria DeCora

Date

ATTEST:

B. Bennett 4/22/09

Brenda Bennett, Clerk/Treasurer

Date