

# Town of Alpine

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## Minutes

Mayor DeCora called the meeting to order at 7:05pm., and led the pledge of allegiance.

A quorum was established by the clerk through a roll call. Council members present: Don Wooden, Shirley Brown, Don Jorgensen. Tom Turner was absent and excused. Other staff in attendance: Town Police – James Phillips, Town Attorney – Elizabeth Koeckeritz, Town Planning & Zoning – Pat Marolf, and Town Treasurer – Brenda Bennett.

**COUNCIL MINUTES:** May 15, 2007 minutes. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to pass the council minutes for May 15, 2007. **Don Jorgensen so moved. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**PLANNING & ZONING MINUTES:** April 24, May 8, and May 22, 2007. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to pass the Planning & Zoning minutes for April 24, May 8, and May 22, 2007. **Don Wooden so moved. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**GREY'S RIVER COVE:** Report on engineer findings. Bob Ablondi from Rendevous Engineering turned in a report on the well. There is no cross contamination at the well site. After discussion it was decided Town Attorney Koeckeritz would make an ordinance to allow Grey's River Cove to use the well for irrigation purposes only in the summer months. The ordinance should state for pre existing wells only, no new wells will be allowed. The ordinance should state there will be a \$100.00 permit fee per year, and there shall be a monthly inspection at the cost of \$20.00 per investigation to be paid by the well owner. If during and investigation some thing out of the ordinary should arise, the well will no longer be permitted and operation of said well shall cease. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion. **Don Jorgensen motioned to permit well for irrigation purposes for 9 months with a \$100.00 permit fee and \$20.00 per month inspection fee while well is being used. Don Wooden seconded.** Further discussion: Shirley Brown wants to make sure there are signs saying the water is not potable. Shirley Brown wanted to know if they could make it so it was only watered at night. Carla Stone said there already was signage to let people know it was not drinking water. She felt it would not work to only water at night as that is when the campground is full, it would be better to water during the day when the campground is empty and that way kids wouldn't be playing in it. Attorney Koeckeritz wants to have this permit looked at and reviewed every 9 months so there won't be a waiting period in the summer months.

She also wants to make sure that there is a reputable engineers report along with the permit process. The permit should also include the fact that signage is indeed a must before getting said permit. Attorney Koeckeritz wants permission to make this ordinance and have it ready for the next council meeting. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion. **Don Jorgensen made a motion that we permit them to use the well for irrigation purposes with a nine month sunset date, \$100.00 usage fee with \$20.00 month inspection fee for the term that the water is used. Don Wooden seconded.** Further discussion: It should be considered a well waiver fee not a usage fee. That way it can keep them in compliance. Shirley Brown would like it specified in the ordinance that there would also be a water test, not just maintenance checks every month. Shirley also would like to see it so they only water at night from 9pm to 6am. Mayor DeCora stated she would abstain from this vote as she has some personal involvement. Carla Stone asked if every other person would have to follow these rules if they are permitted to use an existing well. She was informed that every person would have to follow the rules of the new ordinance. Mayor DeCora stated she had a motion and a second. **Vote: 3 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 1 – Abstain (Mayor DeCora); 1 – Absent (Tom Turner).** **Attorney Koeckeritz wanted to know if that included no watering during the day, just at night. It is watching out for children and watering at times most appropriate for them. Terry Moore will get with Elizabeth to get the ordinance put together.**

**Lincoln County Weed & Pest:** Presentation by Nathan Walker regarding the Spotted Nap Weed. Nathan explained to all that knapweed has moved into the Alpine area. It is related to thistles and will kill off other native plants. The forest service is worried about the Grey's River and North Alpine as it spreads easily. Montana has lost about 8 million acres to this and has lost elk as they move because there is no feed for them. It is mainly spread by cars driving up and down the road. They are giving out free chemical to kill the nap weed; it is called Milestone and is made by Dow. They are doing 3 spray days the 9<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. They will meet at the RV Park from 8 to 10 to provide instructions and sprayers on how to use it. They are trying to get the word out. They have made flyers to put in all public spaces. In Kemmerer they have an ordinance that if you have noxious weeds in your yard they will hire some one to come kill them then they would send you a bill. It is tough when your neighbor has a lot of weeds and they don't do any thing about it as it could also be a fire hazard. Milestone will not kill native grasses or sage brush. It is not like round up. Mr. Walker will be getting the flyers to the town as soon as they are printed.

**Mayor DeCora called for recess at 7:50 pm.**

**Mayor DeCora called the meeting back to order at 7:56 pm.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING 154 – ORDINANCE NO. 2007 – 10:** Municipal Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2008. Mayor DeCora read title of ordinance and asked for a motion. **Don Wooden motioned to approve 154 – Ordinance No. 2007 – 10. Don Jorgensen seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING 156 - ORDINANCE NO. 2007-12:** Water Fees. Mayor DeCora read title of ordinance and asked for a motion. **Don Wooden motioned to approve 156 – Ordinance No.**

**2007 – 12. Don Jorgensen seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> READING 150 – ORDINANCE NO. 2007 – 06:** Sewer Fees. Mayor DeCora read title of ordinance and asked for a motion. **Don Jorgensen motioned to pass and approve 150 – Ordinance No. 2007 – 06. Shirley Brown seconded.** Mayor DeCora asked for further discussion. Melissa Wilson mentioned in the ordinance she read 40 inches of sand needs to be used to cover your sewer line. She feels that 40 inches is a lot not to mention expensive. She feels that this is too excessive. Engineer Kjellgreen looked at the ordinance reading it as 4.0 inches; he asked Treasurer Bennett if this was correct. Bennett agreed with that it is 4.0 inches and that it was hard to read. Councilman Wooden read his letter to Mayor and Council. (See attached) Mayor DeCora asked for any further discussion. Don Jorgensen's only concern on sewer rates if we lower them will we be able to pay for it. Mayor DeCora said that this is a financial plan that we took to the state to get the grants and loans to build the new sewer plant. It is not some thing that should be put up for negotiation as it needs to be done and followed in order to stay in compliance with the state. If we do not take this action and raise the fees, we will not get the remainder of the funding needed to complete the facility. Mr. Wooden feels that the figure was snatched out of the air. Mayor DeCora tried to explain the financial plan to Mr. Wooden. Don Jorgensen agreed with the Mayor that it is the cost that was put before the state and we have to go with it. Mr. Wooden thinks we should graduate the cost till 2008 when we have the plant running. He feels that is when we need to have a special sewer improvement district. Mayor DeCora told him we could not have an improvement district as we already have most of the funding for the project. The council of Alpine made this decision about 4 years ago, we as the new council have to back this weather we like it or not. Mayor DeCora stated there was an ordinance before them, she wanted to know if they were ready to vote on it. Leon Kjellgreen stated he felt the fee should have been implemented as soon as we got the funding from the state. If we do not have the money we do not have the sewer plant. In his opinion we have no choice in the mater. Leon also wanted to point out that the cost across the river to hook into sewer is \$7000.00. Mayor DeCora stated it was \$17,000.00 for both. Mayor DeCora said she had a motion on the table so she is ready for the vote. **Vote: 3 – Yes; 1 – Opposed (Don Wooden); 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> READING 151 – ORDINANCE NO. 2007-07:** Building Fees. Mayor DeCora read title of ordinance and asked for a motion. **Don Jorgensen motioned to pass and approve 151 Ordinance No. 2007-07. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 3 – Yes; 1- Opposed (Don Wooden); 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**1<sup>st</sup> READING 157 – ORDINANCE NO. 2007-13:** Town of Alpine Budget FY 07/08. Mayor DeCora read the ordinance. Mayor DeCora is fairly confident in this ordinance. Not much can be done until we go through the next census as far as more monies. If any changes need to be made we still had another meeting. Treasurer Bennett stated that all changes had been made that had been talked about at the work shop meeting. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion. **Don Jorgensen so moved. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 3 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 1 – Abstain (Don Wooden); 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**2010 CENSUS:** Update from Shirley Brown. This is very important for the Town of Alpine as it will help us to increase the funds we get every year for our budget. Mayor DeCora thanked Shirley Brown for attending the class. LUCA is an organization to help towns get ready for the census.

They are asking towns to apply early to get the preliminary land and home in advance. If the government does it they won't have every thing that we do so we won't get as much money. They gave us 3 different levels that we can go with. She suggests to go with the 1<sup>st</sup> level so it will be more accurate so we will get more money. There are other grants that this will help us apply for. The application has to be in by October 31 of this year, and the work will begin January next year. Mayor DeCora said this was going to have to be a team effort, a community effort. Shirley also stated that any one who works on this will have to have a security clearance and that all papers will have to be locked up here in the office and will not be able to go home with you at night. It is very important so we can get more monies.

**NEW BUSINESS:** RCDA has requested our sponsorship for the Confluence Center for a \$1500.00 grant that they are applying for. RCDA will make the application for the grant, we just need a letter of support to give them. This will help keep them in operation. **Don Wooden made a motion to approve the Town of Alpine's sponsorship for the Confluence Information Center for their \$1500.00 grant. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**Don Wooden wanted all to know that the sign for Marge Grover's Memorial is in and ready to go. He will be seeking a sign permit to get it put in place. The unveiling will be Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 10:00 am.**

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**Sewer:** Clearwater Consultants gave an update on the sewer plant. Since May 9<sup>th</sup> the plant has met discharge permit limits on all state required testing including fecal colliform. The meter has been set up for 23 hours showing 33,250 gallons Clearwater is fairly confident with these numbers, but Town Engineer Leon Kjellgreen is not. He has graciously agreed to go to the plant to make sure the meter is set up correctly so the numbers can be verified. Clearwater does agree that the plant is over loaded at this time.

**Sewer:** Update on policy & Procedure for requiring grease traps. Leon Kjellgreen will be working on these in the month of June with help from Kimberlee and legal council. Policy needs to be set up according to manufactures requirements. Val can take a look at the grease traps with a little bit of training to make sure the grease trap is of accurate size. Yankee Doodles has one installed with a contract with Macys to have it cleaned on a regular basis. Mayor DeCora explained about grease balls in the sewer plant and wanted to know how you would enforce the policy. Leon stated it had not been perfected any where, you just need to make sure that the correct size and cleaning is being done which will help with the situation. We need to try to make the process simple so the owner can try to do it themselves to try to keep the cost down. Leon will have a draft version to the council soon.

Leon is also here on behalf of Bob Norton to discuss the dead lines for the wastewater treatment plant. On June 18<sup>th</sup> Bob expects to advertise for bids for the specialized membrane equipment for

the wastewater treatment plant. This is not the plant it self, it is the membrane only. There are only two manufacturers for this project so it really isn't going to be a formal bid opening, it will be more of a proposal stage simply because they are not going to recommend the town take the low bid. On July 17<sup>th</sup> that Bob will review the bids and make a recommendation to the council at that time. That will be for the purchase of the membrane equipment itself. Then Bob will advertise for the building of the treatment plant by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The bid opening for that will be Septemeber 12<sup>th</sup>. This is really a two phase process, the membrane then the plant. We will have councils approval before acceptance of either contract. The documents are just about ready to go to DEQ for their review. Bob is anticipating starting construction on or about October 1, 2007 with final completion being October 3, 2008. The Towns contract with North Star indicates a September 30 dead line for accepting sewage from them so we feel that date can be met if the schedule can stay in motion. Don Wooden wanted to know when Mr. Halpin's payment was due. Leon let him know it was June 30<sup>th</sup> for 1.8 million. This was discussed at the meeting had in Jackson and he is well aware of it.

**Financials:** Unpaid bills. Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to pay the bills. **Don Jorgensen so moved. Shirley Brown seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried.**

**Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Wooden so moved. Don Jorgensen seconded. Vote: 4 – Yes; 0 – Opposed; 0 – Abstain; 1 – Absent (Tom Turner). Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

ATTEST:

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Victoria DeCora, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Bennett, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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