



**Town of Alpine
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**** Minutes are a brief summary only of a tape recorded meeting ****

DATE: *March 2, 2010*

TIME: *7:00 p.m.*

PLACE: *Town Hall*

TYPE: *Regular Meeting*

1. Call to Order: Mayor Victoria DeCora called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

(a) Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor DeCora led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Office Assistant Christine Wagner conducted roll call: Present: Troy Johnson, Shirley Brown, Beau Taylor, Don Jorgensen and Mayor Victoria DeCora. A quorum was established. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Deb Wolfley and Town Attorney Stefan Fodor.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Council reviewed and discussed documents/materials on the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, with a change of wording in the Town Minutes of February 16, 2010. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

4. New Business:

(a) **Planning & Zoning Report:** Mr. Joshua Floyd of the P&Z Commission had a brief report for the Council. Mr. Floyd communicated with the Council the recent activities of the Commission, two sign permits. They have had two individual interested in the open position on the Commission, but have not commitments as of today's date. Working on fine tuning the LUCD. Mayor DeCora asked if Mr. Floyd would be available to participate in the final walk through on the town Civic Center Project. Mr. Floyd responded he would be happy to participate.

(b) **Star Valley Kids Club:** Ms. Lisa Gustafson – Ms. Gustafson would like to request from the council for a reduction in her water/ERUs usage. Mayor DeCora commented on her two year history on her water billing. Town Administrator, Deb Wolfley commented on her water usage history. Council reviewed and discussed this issue. Council agreed to reduce her ERUs from two (2) to one (1).

Councilman Taylor motioned to adjust Star Valley Kids Club ERU(s) to one (1). Councilman Johnson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Gustafson would like to pay the January water billing of Little Grey's Academy through Star Valley Kids Club, apparently there was some issues regarding the transfer of the lease and the payment. Council agreed that would be fine. No motion needed.

(c) **Town Administrator & Mismanagement** – Mr. Jeff Atwood – Mr. Atwood began by stating that he wanted to correct what he wanted to be on the agenda for, he wants to talk about Town Administration & Mismanagement. Mr. Atwood stated he was originally on the agenda for Greys River Cove/Tavern on the Grey's sewer tie in. However, he received a message that he could not speak about this topic. He asked whose decision this was and who is accountable for that decision. Mayor DeCora stated it is the subject of a pending lawsuit and referred Mr.

Atwood to the Wyoming Statutes regulating matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is a party to. Town Attorney stated that a distinction can be made, if the Council so chooses, if Mr. Atwood wants to talk or the Town can go into executive session but the Town is not obligated to discuss any issue regarding the litigation at a public meeting. Mr. Atwood responded that he feels that is a denial of his freedom of speech. So, Mr. Atwood stated that he will briefly discuss their sewer tie in. He started by saying that they received a letter in January stating the original tie in would be February 2nd, graciously the Council voted to extend the tie in to July and fees were to be paid before that. At previous Council meetings, he stated that he told the town there could not be a mandatory tie in. Now he gets a letter, saying they are going to shut their water off. In other words you are going to shut his business down. He cannot go to the bank and get that amount of money, he just can't do that. Mr. Atwood further stated the RV Park is the number one business in Alpine in the summer. It brings workers, tourists into the Town and it brings money into the town. They were number one business in 2008. The town does not care, they are shutting them down. Mr. Atwood's next subject is mismanagement. Mr. Atwood talked about business shutting down, water shut offs, grants received, town money spent, ordinances and variances benefiting the Town. Mr. Atwood stated it is not the economy it is the sewer plant, it is the town. (Refer to audio tape for specifics. New political movement coming to town, there will be new management, people will lose their jobs, which will save hundreds of thousands of dollars which will help pay for the bill on the sewer plant.

Public comment made by Ms. Tiphany Gayhart regarding Mr. Atwood's remarks. Ms. Gayhart commented on salaries paid out by the town, they are over two thousand dollars a day, 365 days a year. She further commented on the hidden costs, road maintenance and snow removal. She also commented on unpaid bills from sewer/water funds and the general fund.

(d) Phase II Sewer Ordinance – Ms. Tiphany Gayhart would like to bring to the Council's attention that it is very hard to get information about Town meetings, ordinance and various other items. She believes that the advertising is false information and how will this be corrected. Comments made by Mayor DeCora, Town Attorney and Christine Wagner, office assistant, as to the reasons and delay for the most recent draft of the sewer ordinance being put on the website and the availability to the public. Ms. Gayhart feels that the process for this ordinance needs to start over. Council reviewed and discussed this issue. Please refer to Audiotape for specifics.

Public comment by Mr. Kennis Lutz feels that since this information has not been available to the public, this needs to stay as the second reading and let the public review the document and be able to comment on the ordinance. Council discussed this issue.

(e) Town of Alpine Street Lamps – Ms. Carla Stone commented on the newspaper article for the proposal of new energy street lamps. Ms. Stone gave the history behind the current street lamps, how they were selected and the Beautification Committee members that were involved in the process. Ms. Stone stated that they currently have a video tape that exists, in which they use and to keep the public informed. Some of the research done includes; selection of lamps, placement and an extensive testing with the highway department for the distance of the lamps from the highway right-of-way to avoid snow plow damage. A local company was selected for installation. Request this Council take this into consideration and just because there is grant money available, does not mean that they have to be replaced. If the Town would like to save money, she suggests they turn the lights off at the lift station (north) and the power plant (south) of Town. She asks the Council to respect the wishes of the people to maintain the character and charm of the community.

Councilman Taylor asked Ms. Stone about the replacement of the lamps. Ms. Stone stated she feels that they should not be replaced at all. They were chosen for a reason, they are not that old. She would like to participate in this decision. They are tired to losing the beauty of their community. Councilman Johnson does not understand why we have a problem with the replacement parts of the lights. Council discussed this issue. Ms. Stone asked if this arose because there is simply grant funds available. Town Administrator talked about the grant and responded that the Town is pursuing this because funds are available and there are no other ways to pay for new lighting of the bulbs. The town would be happy to sit down with this committee and discuss this issue. Ms. Stone suggested that the town review the light over the lift station, if they would like to save money on energy. Ms. Stone reiterated for the record, her (public) is against this decision.

Public comment made by Mr. Jace Walsh. Mr. Walsh asked about the lamps in regards to replacing the fixtures and/or parts or is it just the bulbs that need to be replaced.

(f) Town Water/Sewer Billing Policies & Procedures – Christine Wagner, Assigned Town Representative – Ms. Wagner addressed the Council about the staffs request to create a utility billing ordinance. The reasoning behind this request is that we currently have two separate ordinances and both say something different, which makes it very hard for the public to understand and hard to enforce. If we create one utility billing ordinance we can get all the billing policies and procedures covered under that one ordinance. We would still have separate water and sewer ordinances, again just the policy and procedures would be easier identified for the public. It would clear up any discrepancies for water shut offs, bankruptcy and property foreclosures due to non payment of fees. We could clearly identify how these issues need to be addressed. In addition it will be easier to change one billing ordinance instead of two separate ordinances. We would not have to redo the sewer and/or water ordinances; we would just amend and/or delete those sections in the new ordinance. This is will make the billing easier, efficient and more consistent for the public.

Mayor DeCora commented on the current procedure of billing on one statement, with the monies separate out to water and sewer when the payments are received. Council agreed that the programs need to be governed under their own ordinances and the funds are kept separately. This is for enforcement purposes. Council agreed that this would be a good idea.

Councilman Taylor made a motion for the staff to move forward on a utility billing ordinance to combining the two billing portions of the water and sewer ordinances for review and public comment. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion.

Public comment by Ms. Tiphany Gayhart on how the water and sewer billing are to be separated out. She would like to see a breakdown of both of those funds. Mayor DeCora asked Ms. Gayhart to make an appointment with the Town Treasurer for that information.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

(g) #199 – Ordinance No. 2010-01: An Ordinance to Repeal & Replace Ordinance 194-2009-50 Establishing Sewer Connection Requirements. – **2nd Reading**

Councilman Johnson motioned to table the reading of the ordinance until next meeting when we have more public input. Councilman Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to recess the public meeting. **Councilman Johnson motioned to recess the public meeting at 8:11 pm. Councilman Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Mayor DeCora reconvened the meeting at 8:22 pm.

5. On Going Business:

(a) Payment of Bills: Council reviewed and commented on the Town Bills. Questions were asked about various bills. Mayor DeCora suggested Council speak with the Town Treasurer regarding these questions.

Councilman Taylor motioned to pay the bills with the exceptions discussed by Council. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. Tiphany Gayhart inquired about various billings from February 11th such as; Bowers Law Offices and Storage Facilities. Mayor DeCora commented on Ms. Gayhart request, the Bowers Law Office is the prosecuting attorney for the Alpine court issues and the storage unit is to store items from the Civic Center.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Tabled Items – On Going Business:

Impact Fees

Department Updates:

Legal/Attorney: Mr. Stefan Fodor –

1. Asked for a brief executive session pursuant to Wyoming State Statutes, Section 16-4-405 (a) (iii).
2. Council reviewed Substantial Completion Document (definitions) submitted from JL Hardy.

Town Administrator: Deb Wolfley – A brief overview of the activities:

1. Informed the Council on a very preliminary discussion with Mr. Steve Corsi with High County Behavioral Health about the possibility of expanding the Alpine Medical Clinic. The Town Administrator briefly explained about looking into some grant monies with having the Town of Alpine sponsor the grant. The Council was asked if there was an interest in this project and if they would like to have more information on this potential project, so that there could be a decision made at a later date. The Council agreed to have the Town Administrator look into this and gather additional information.
2. Town Administrator reviewed a letter that was received from Mr. Robert Ablondi with Rendezvous Engineering, discussing the funding option for part of the water project in Alpine. The letter described the two funding option, (a) the State Loan & Investment Board Joint Power Act and (b) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Town council reviewed the letter.
3. The Council was updated on the recent meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee and their discussion of hiring a part time individual this summer to develop and implement a summer recreational program. The funding for this program came from a grant obtained from the Daniels Fund. Council discussed the proposed program and reviewed the suggestions further giving approval to advertise for this part time summer position.

Councilman Johnson motioned to approve the advertisement for the part time summer recreational position, with the stipulation that the applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age or older and that a hiring committee consisting of five (5) individuals be available for application review and/or interviews.

Councilman Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

4. An update on the Energy Grant to obtain new street lighting for the Town was discussed. Council discussed the grant and suggested the Town work with the current and/or previous Beautification Committee members on this project. In addition some of the Council members will be included on this project. Mr. Myers volunteered to look over the old specs on the street lights, for additional input.
5. Still working with the US Forest Service regarding the Confluence Center in Alpine.
6. Administration and Council discussed the possible rental rate implementation chart for the Town Civic Center. Councilman Johnson along with the Town Administrator is working on some new figures for the Council to review and discuss. Council agreed to use the Civic Center as much as possible, to keep the rates as low as possible and also to bring in money to help pay for the utilities.

Councilman Taylor motioned to approve option number two (2) with the adjustments in red and Council will re-evaluate the proposal in six (6) months. Councilwoman Brown seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation: Shirley Brown & Victoria DeCora – No report given.

Streets & Roads: Don Jorgensen – No report given.

Water & Sewer: Don Jorgensen & Mayor Victoria DeCora – No report given.

Planning & Zoning: Designated Board Member & Victoria DeCora - No report given

Alpine Fire Department & EMT: Beau Taylor - No report given

Police Dept. /Court: James Phillips – Chief Phillips presented Council with a written report.

Clerk/Treasurer: Bills were presented to the Council (See Section #5)

Mayor DeCora asked for a motion to move into executive session, pursuant to Wyoming State Statutes Section 16-4-405 (a) (iii). **Councilman Johnson so moved. Councilman Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Councilman Jorgensen motioned to recess the public meeting. Councilwoman Brown seconded the motion. Public meeting recessed at 9:27 pm.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Mayor DeCora reconvened the public meeting at 10:12 pm.

Councilman Taylor motioned to ratify action taken in executive session. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

Councilman Jorgensen motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 pm.



Victoria DeCora 3-16-2010
Mayor Victoria DeCora Date

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

[Signature] 3/17/2010
Christine Wagner Date

ATTEST:

[Signature] 3/17/2010
Brenda Bennett, Treasurer/Clerk Date

