



Town of Alpine
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

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

DATE:	<i>September 15, 2010</i>	PLACE:	<i>Town Hall</i>
TIME:	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	TYPE:	<i>Regular Meeting</i>

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Victoria DeCora called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Don Jorgensen, Beau Taylor and Mayor Victoria DeCora, Shirley Brown was absent and excused. A quorum was established. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Deb Wolfley.
3. **Action Items & New Business:**
 - (a) **#204 Ordinance No. 2010-06 ~ 3rd & FINAL Reading** - Repeal & Replace #200 Ordinance – Utility Billing – Council reviewed the proposed ordinance for its 3rd and final reading.

Councilman Jorgensen motioned to approve the 3rd and final reading of ordinance #204 No. 2010-06 – Utility Billing. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Ms. Tiphany Gayhart as a citizen of the town has issues with approving this ordinance, in her opinion, the charges being charged to the sewer and water departments should be should be taken out of the general fund. Items such as the photo copier; that is something that the town needs, but it is getting separated out, into the other departments. She has reviewed what is being put into the general fund and she feels that the hours that are spend on the water and sewer departments are just thrown in. She further stated that is why we have a maintenance department and the general fund is to work on several of those issues. She feels this is double dipping. Ms. Gayhart stated we should not have the unified utility billing ordinance.

Mr. Kennis Lutz, asked why this was an emergency situation, what is the urgent need to have this on the agenda. Mayor DeCora responded that it is not an emergency situation. Mr. Lutz further asked why has the public not been invited to this meeting, he knows several citizens that would like to comment on this and were going to do so at the next meeting, but now they do not have an opportunity to comment, because this item was pushed up, the only reason that he found out about this meeting was because he came into the Town office. Mayor DeCora responded that this is a special meeting and we need to get the ordinance approved and moved on to the State, the special meeting was called for other reason however this was an additional to the agenda. The announcement was posted at several places and she called this meeting two (2) days ago. Mr. Lutz asked the Council when they found out about the meeting, Council responded. Mr. Lutz further stated that he feels that it is important that the public can give their input and that the Council to listen to the input of the citizens rather than taking it on their own to pass these ordinances.

Ms. Gayhart commented that she has been to several meetings as to where the public has been informed numerous times, that the Council cannot have meetings until they inform the public via newspaper advertising and postings in advance, she stated "Here we are again"! She feels that the town is trying to hide something from the public by not giving proper notice. Mayor DeCora commented that the procedures were followed according to Wyoming State Statutes. (Refer to 15-1-105 & 16-4-404(b).)

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Brown). Motion carried.

(b) WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plant) Operator ~ Mayor DeCora addressed the public informing them that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Mr. Lee Schwab has decided to retire at the end of the year. Mayor DeCora further stated that she along with the current WWTP operator and the town water master held some interviews with the only two (2) level three (3) wastewater operators in Star Valley. Mayor DeCora went on to state that Mr. John O'Conner, Alpine Town Employee has six (6) years of experience, as a level three (3) operator, from his previous employment in Kansas. The town has encouraged promoting individuals from within the town staff, in which the town has recently done; Mayor DeCora further stated that Mr. John O'Conner has proved and demonstrated his work ethic to the Town of Alpine, in which they are all extremely pleased with. It is Mayor DeCora's recommendation that the Town of Alpine promote/transfer Mr. John O'Conner to the wastewater treatment plant operator effective October 1st.

Town Administrator commented that the Town has spoken with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Ms. Kym Parker, who is in charge of training and certification of WWTP operators for the State, discussing the level of certifications needed for the Alpine plant. The town needs a level three (3) operator in place, before the end of the year. By having someone already trained, all the Town would need to do is get the training records, submit them to the State and then there would be additional tests taken to get to a level three (3). If the process was to start from the beginning it would take many years to achieve the level that is required by the State. By promoting someone with prior experience it will make for a smoother and faster transition for the Town. However there still are some other budget issues that need to be worked out. Councilman Johnson thinks this is a good recommendation; in addition he will be able to work with the existing operator in the next three months for him to work on those trainings and certification. Should after the first of the year we need to have him available as an on call officer that would be great.

Councilman Johnson motioned to hire/promote Mr. John O'Conner to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator effective October 1st. Councilman Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Public comment: Mr. Jeff Atwood asked if they were accepting any applications. Mayor DeCora responded that we have an individual with six (6) years of experience already working with the Town, she has discussed this issue with the State, Wyoming Association of Municipalities and the Town Attorney, this position does not need to be advertised, the town is promoting within the existing staff. Mr. Atwood feels this is extreme prejudice. Ms. Carla Stone asked about the statement made by Councilman Johnson, as far as working as a police officer and plant operator, she feels that is a conflict of interest. Councilman Taylor stated they are promoting from within the town personnel. Ms. Stone further went on to state there are people who live in town for over thirty (30) years that could go get trained for this position, they helped build the plant and would be able to give more insight on the plant. She feels this is discriminatory and unfair, this idea just fascinates her. Ms. Tiphany Gayhart commented this has to do with the Town of Alpine, by not going out and advertising the position is unfair. She personally knows that there are several people that own property in this town that would love to have this job that are committed to this town, by not putting this out to public bid and even take other applications is very unacceptable by this town government. Mayor DeCora commented that they did interview other qualified applicants. Ms. Gayhart commented that there are several qualified people in this town, when given the opportunity to certify by the end of the year, they are just as qualified as the individual they are suggesting hiring. Council discussed the years of experience and education needed and the fact that they already a town employee that just needs additional training.

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Brown). Motion carried.

It was addressed that two (2) operators will be paid, until the end of the year.

(c) Town Skate Park ~ Town Administrator, Deb Wolfley commented on the progress and activities of the skate park. Mr. Wolfley commented that Mr. Brian Sizer in attendance tonight and is ready to go to work

on the skate park. The Council needs to address how they would like to hire him with the agreement they approved at the last meeting. Mr. Wolfley handed out sketches of the proposed park. Upon answering some questions that have been addressed by Council and the public on how the grant works, the Town has received **UP TO** Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$29,214.00) in grant funds, in which the town is required to match. It was again reiterated by Councilman Johnson, all of those funds **do not have to be used.** The amount of funds they use is the amount to be matched. Town Administrator commented that everything really seems to be coming together smoothly with all the individuals working on this project. He further stated that they have already come up with the necessary match monies. The main issued before the Council tonight, is to decide how to hire Brian to work with the town. He will be here for five (5) weeks to do this job and he is paid through the grant, in which it looks like about Twelve Thousand (\$12,000) Dollars; which is half of what this project would normally cost. Mr. Sizer is agreeable to what is good for the town to facilitate this project, such as; hiring as a town employee with no benefits and a resignation when the job is done. Council Johnson is please with all the individuals that have really stepped in to help the town out. The hope is to have the project done by the end of the year; it is great when a group of people can come together and collectively work together on a project, only good can come out of this. Councilman Johnson further stated that other than some attorney contract review and a little bit of the Town Administrators time, this has not cost the town much and everything is going towards the town match funds. Cash monies have been donated towards this project, somewhere in the amount of nine thousand dollars. The businesses have been great in supporting this project.

Councilman Johnson motioned to hire Brian Sizer as an employee, with a resignation at the end of the project, no health benefits or retirement will be given.

Councilman Taylor commented that he is a little disappointed with the amount of land that is being used for the skate park and the amount that is being taking away from the school land. Council members discussed this issue; the parking lot could be downsized at a later time. Councilman Johnson talked about the amount of land that is needed for a school and the decisions for using the land for the library and the child development center. The long range plan could be adding another picnic area; it could be a start of growth in the area for further outdoor activates to be developed.

Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, with a caveat the additional comment to speak with Terri Potter Alpine Fire Chief, for further communication.

Councilman Johnson commented that they have been working on this project for several months and have had several public meeting on the skate park and have asked for public input. Town Administrator commented that he believes in the grant agreement it states the skate park land needs to be dedicated as recreational use and has to be recorded in the county as that status.

Public Comment: Mr. Jeff Atwood asked about the low bid on this project. Mayor DeCora commented that the project does not have to go out to bid, because the total amount is under thirty five thousand (\$35,000) dollars. Mr. Atwood further commented that there seems like there is still some issues, he feels that the Council needs to back off and get the issues squared away before they move forward with the project. Perhaps this would be best left for the next administration. He understands the urgency to get this project done for the sake of accomplishment, but the issues need to be worked out. Councilman Johnson wanted to let everyone know that this skate park would not be helping out his business; he does not sell any type of skating products and/or biking products. Councilman Taylor stated he is for the project, whether it is done in this administration or the next administration. He is confident that the issues will be worked out effectively with the fire department and at the same time we use the land efficiently. Councilman Jorgensen wanted to clarify Councilman Johnson's motion for the public the motion was to hire Brian as an employee, further stating his wages will be coming out the grant monies, and it is a cost saving to have him on as a town employee. His other concerns were the in kind matches, in which have been received. Stating right now the Town has Forty-Four Thousand (\$44,000) dollars in kind

match on the work to be done; his concern is on the operation and maintenance, in which Councilman Johnson has told him that he has taken care of. A big bonus of this is that it gives the kids something to do. He does not necessarily agree with the location, but it does have them something to do. Councilman Taylor asked Brian about the operation and maintenance of the park. Mr. Sizer responded that the park is mostly concrete and it will mostly consist of sweeping off the concrete, if you leave a broom there, the kids will mostly take care of it. If the kids want to skate they will broom, prefabricated parks are harder to maintain. Councilman Johnson stated it is more of a permanent structure in the Town. Ms. Gayhart responded that she feels that it will be a good thing; if it is some right, her concern is the operation and maintenance, what is the cost. She further asked if there had been a business plan done on this project, which can really tell you a lot about the project. She said that there were two of the Council members that stated their concerns were it is located. She feels that Ferry Park would be a better place for the skate park. Councilman Taylor responded to her comments, stating he feels it is better were it is, the location was in conversation with the Fire Chief. He thinks the highway visibility is a better location; officers are at the fire department on a regular basis and there are other amenities that are close by. His concerned is about using the land effectively. Ms. Gayhart further stated that Ferry Peak Park is already deeded recreation. Ms. Gayhart asked to see the plans of the skate park, wondering if the whole plan is available for review. Councilman Johnson stated that phase one is what they have now, they let the kids decided what they wanted for the first phase and later on they get more input of what everyone wants for phase two and three. This is for the kids of alpine and the surrounding areas. Town Administrator responded to Ms. Gayhart's comment on the business model, stating that there has not been a plan put together yet on the project. Council members discussed the future for business to the Town of Alpine business owners.

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Brown). Motion carried.

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

Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent (Brown). Motion carried.

Mayor DeCora adjourned the public meeting at 6:50 pm.



Victoria DeCora 10-5-10
Victoria DeCora, Mayor Date

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Christine Wagner 10/5/10
Christine Wagner Date

ATTEST:

Terra Miller
Terra Miller, Treasurer/Clerk

