

Regular Town Council Meeting July 9, 2018 6:00 p.m.

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council was called to order by Mayor Robert Stump at 6:00 p.m. Council members Mike Walter, Rahn Abbott, Dan Durham, Emilie Saylor, Ben Hitchcock and Clerk Ginger Galiger were present.

Guests: Eileen Pearce, John Taylor, Sara Dunham and David Stout with the Ruby Valley Conservation District

Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office

Mayor Robert Stump swore in Emilie Saylor to fill Paul Kramer's seat.

Public Comment not on the Agenda

David Stout is with the Ruby Valley Conservation District along with a total of 6 other volunteers. This district oversees water conservation projects, watershed restoration, and studies drought conditions. They will be co-hosting a meeting with the Watershed District to discuss water supply and the recharging of ground water on Wednesday, July 18th at 5:30 pm and is inviting the Council to come.

Department Reports

Sheriff

Sheriff Roger Thompson was not in attendance. Per report, the Madison County Sheriff's Officers spent 46 hours in Sheridan in June.

Library

Fire Department

Chief Ben Hitchcock reported for June – 2 landing zone calls. The department trained in the new interior structure training building. Sheridan Days Aug 3-5, the fire department is doing a tri-tip dinner and the pool is doing the lunch after the parade on Saturday.

Public Works

Ben Hitchcock reported for Curtis Green. The start motor for the lift pump was installed. The roads have been graded and meg chloride completed. They have been keeping an eye on the water usage, as of this a.m. the water usage was up. The pump ran a total of 19.7 hours.

Mike Walter asked about the water running from the corner of Crofoot and Jefferson St. Ben explained this is not a leak. A foundation drain, from the ambulance building to drain into a culvert was placed some time ago by JDL Construction.

Clerk - none

Boards and Committees

MSIT - none

Park District Board - none

Public Comment on the Agenda – none

New Business

1. Resolution authorizing Clerk, Ginger Galiger to use the Web Grant Site

This will be part of the resolution when we are ready to request the "new gas tax" funds.

2. Payroll Increases

Per the Social Security website, the COLA increase is 2%. Mike Walter said in the past Council usually approves 3%. The increase would apply to William Talbot, Curtis Green, Ben Hitchcock, Ginger Galiger and Mayor Stump. No further discussion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Rahn Abbott voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes and Mike Walter voting yes and Emilie Saylor voting yes. The motion passed.

3. Resolution of Intent to increase water rates

This resolution was done by our Bond Counsel, Courtney Ellis with Dorsey and Whitney. A copy was handed out to all guests for review.

Mayor Stump reviewed the highlight of the document. It is the Council's responsibility to set the rates necessary to collect enough revenues and enterprise funds must be self-sufficient. The Town needed to increase water rates prior to any projects, our O&M has gone up that much. With the help of Dan Kramer from Montana Rural Water, doing the demonstration with the Council, I feel that these increases will be sufficient.

An increase of \$15.00 for the base rate, currently is \$30.00 will go to \$45.00 and the usage charge will be done on a tiered increase according to water usage. The more you use the more you pay and it will be a way of focusing on water conservation. Currently it is \$1.00/1,000 gallons and with the tiered break down, it will start at \$1.25/1000 up to \$2.00/1000 gallons. The base rate is set to cover costs and the usage rate is needed to help build reserves. The proposed monthly charge represents an increase of \$17.50 per month over the current.

Mike Walter asked about leaving the base rate but increase the usage rate to encourage saving water. Mayor Stump - Lending agencies would not go for that as the base rate has to be there to pay the bills, you can't rely on sales. Discussion

We will be holding a Public Hearing on Aug 13th in the CB Murray Library. It will be published in the Madisionian and a written notice will be mailed to all bill payers.

Dan Durham made a motion to accept Resolution 2018-4. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Rahn Abbott voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes and Mike Walter voting yes and Emilie Saylor voting yes. The motion passed.

4. Pursue the Indian Creek Water Rights

Several members of the Council along with Ian and Scott from Northern Rockies Engineering visited Indian Creek and the old facilities. The question has come up to reinstitute that water source. There were 2 different sources of water up there which have not been used for about 20 years. DEQ required the Town to sever one of the lines about 9 years ago. We don't know if we still have the water rights or the easements. Land ownership has probably changed hands since then. The Town would also have to put a treatment system in and chlorination.

Rahn Abbott, it may be cost prohibiting, but we don't want to lose those water rights either. He suggested making it a dry hydrant for the fire trucks to fill. Further discussion on different options but everyone agrees we need to utilize those water rights if we can.

Mike Walter moves to pursue the Indian Creek Water Rights and examine the well near the old water tank. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Dan Durham voting yes, Emilie Saylor voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes and Mike Walter voting yes. The motion passed.

5. Morse Land Company Easement

A review of the Utility Easement with Morse Land Company, LLC was reviewed. Dan Durham thought it looked good but questioned the power not being listed for future problems. Mayor Stump will pass it off to the Attorney for direction.

Most of the documents have been sent to USDA RD today with just a few exceptions, this being one of them. If we get the grant we could have the well done this Fall and the pipeline done in the Spring. Rahn Abbott moves to approve the Utility Easement with Morse Land Company, LLC. Emilie Saylor seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Saylor voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passed.

The minutes from June 11th were reviewed. Dan Durham made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Walter seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Saylor voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passed.

The financials and utility delinquent report was reviewed. Rahn Abbott moves to approve the reports as presented. Mike Walter seconded. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Saylor voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passed.

Council Reports

Dan Durham asked if the Town got the radar sign yet from the County, he would like to see the sign placed on Water Street. He has gotten a lot of complaints about the speeding.

Mayors Report

Rebecca Sanders was helping the Spanish Club with a fund raiser during Sheridan Days and wanted the Council to be a part of the dunk booth. They are having issues with the insurance, so they are unsure whether they will have the dunk tank now.

Warrants July 2018

GINGER GALIGER	2579.04
CURTIS A. GREEN	2885.99
BENJAMIN HITCHCOCK	1434.53
ROBERT C. STUMP	83.90
WILLIAM TALBOTT	1459.55
EFTPS	3888.27
DEPT OF REVENUE	637.00
360 OFFICE SOLUTIONS	50.00
KENWORTHY ELECTRIC, INC.	150.00
MMIA	79.00
THE MADISONIAN LLC	180.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION CE	34.58
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATION	225.19
BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE, INC.	7078.00
DUNNE COMMUNICATIONS, INC TWO-WAY	27.43
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	20.00
HEADWATERS RC & D AREA, INC	338.00
MMIA - PROPERTY PROGRAM	4796.20
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY	1861.74
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY-DECORATIVE LI	48.24
NORTHWESTERN ENGERY-SEWER	2282.17
OCLC, INC.	450.61
OVERDRIVE, INC	760.20

POSTMASTER	340.00
SWANK MOVIE LICENSING USA	296.00
BEAVERHEAD GLASS	664.00
MMCT & FOA	50.00
BROWN CONTRACTING HEATING & PLUMB	2030.00
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	505.26
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	53.94
KRUER LAW FIRM, P.C.	88.40
LEE'S OFFICE CITY	61.82
MAD TOWNS INTERLOCAL	2000.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	3147.71
ROBERT STUMP	1304.57
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUPPLY	112.98
VERIZON WIRELESS	123.89
B & D KEYLOCK	389.00
MMIA - LIABILITY RISK RETENTION	6065.00
LEE & ASSOCIATES LLC	709.84
MMIA - HEALTH INSURANCE	2663.15
TOTAL	51955.20

The Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved: Robert Stump, Mayor

Attest: Ginger Galiger, Clerk

