

Regular Town Council Meeting January 11, 2021

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Stump, Council members Mike Walter, Rahn Abbott, Corey Theis were present along with Clerk, Ginger Galiger, Emily Saylor and Duke Gilman joined the meeting via GoTo Meeting.

Guests: Attorney Stephanie Kruer and Scott Payne were also present.

Pledge

Public Comment Not on the Agenda –

Corey Theis reported Sheridan Day's is tentatively scheduled for July 30, 31st and Aug 1st. The Committee would like to move it from the Baseball Park to Main Street, the Library Park and the Town Park near the Shovel and Spoon. This move would allow the business to be involved. They are also requesting the ability to use the dump truck for trash. Mayor Stump was in support of this plan.

Department Reports

Sheriff – Sheriff Fortner was not present. Mayor Stump briefly reviewed the report, the Department made 3 traffic stops and received 12 calls for service in the month of December.

Library – The Library meeting is tomorrow night.

Attorney – Brief discussion regarding the lack of response to the letter sent to the resident with the delinquent water bill. Our next step will be to file a lien.

Fire Department – In the month of December the department had one lift assist to EMS.

Public Works – Duke Gilman reported to the Council. In the month of December, they had one location that tested positive for Coliform, DEQ has been helping them work through that. Twenty lead and copper samples were taken and submitted to DEQ; all results were good. The backhoe has been serviced and the zero- turn mower has been repaired. Cleaned the blower building and around the lagoon. Duke tested positive for COVID and had to take a week off. Duke has been studying to take the water certification test with the help from MTRW. Bob and Duke have been working through issues with the pumps at the lift station.

Clerk/ Treasurer – The Annual Financial Report is complete and has been filed. I will begin submitting the documents to the Auditor once I get the W-2's done and filed.

Boards and Committees

MSIT – Has a meeting tonight.

Parks District Board – None

Fire Station Association – Mike Walter attended the Fire Fighters Association meeting last Thursday. The Association has appointed Ginger Galiger to the Board. They voted off one member who lives out of State and are actively looking for someone local and invested to the community to fill the vacancy. They received \$25,290 in donations in December.

Public comment on the agenda – None

Old Business

1. Upgraded meter reading platform

Cavin with Yellowstone Waterworks met with us last week to discuss and understand the quote, long-term and short term. The current Read Center program will no longer be supported so we need to upgrade to Beacon, this is a cloud-based system. There are several one-time charges that will cost \$5,640 and then annual fees which we already pay. They are going from CE to ME endpoints. For now, we can continue to use our current receiver until we have to start purchasing the ME endpoints. The laptop we use currently use is a Windows 7 system and is working fine for now. Eventually we will have to replace it with a Trimble Ranger 7 handheld. If we purchase it directly from Trimble the cost will be half. We will also have to purchase the plugins for it to be able to read both CE's and ME's. During the water project, many of the meters stopped reading and had to be replaced. We were able to return some meters for repair. The batteries have a 20-year warranty and other meter issues may be partially covered or at no cost. We feel that staying and upgrading to this cloud base system is the easiest and most inexpensive way to upgrade compared to changing over to Sensus.

Mike Walter moves to accept the quote from Yellowstone Waterworks to upgrade from Read Center to Beacon. Corey Theis seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

New Business

1. Discuss potential acquisition of the 300 Block of Madison St

Scott Payne with Northern Rockies Engineering joined us through the online meeting to discuss and present drawings of the show case project that was also presented at the Growth Policy/Capital Improvement Plan public meeting. The drawings show a larger project that would include the 300 block of Madison, in front of the Nursing Home and Hospital. During the public meeting, this was a high priority as 25% to 30% of people employed in the town work in this area. Currently the road is owned by the County and improvements need to be made. If the Town wants to take ownership, then we could apply for a CDBG grant due to the road being in front of the nursing home. This grant could help us with the overall cost of the project when it comes to mobilization of equipment for road repairs. Scott also presented a conceptual site plan in front of the school with greenway down the center to eliminate some of the paving cost. The question is whether we want to take on the responsibility and expense of the 300 block of Madison St. Mayor Stump's opinion is, why spend \$7000 to acquire the land when there is so much work that needs to be done. The watermain should also be replaced before new pavement is put down. Corey Theis feels that we would be taking on a lot of financial burden by doing this. The purpose of today's conversation is to consider acquiring the 300 Block of Madison or keeping the status quo.

Corey Theis made a motion to TABLE until further conversation with the county and the hospital in which direction they want to go. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

2. Robert Stump Public Works employee status.

Mayor Stump feels that they have been making good progress getting things done and still finds himself working full time for the most part. Duke Gilman appreciates the help due to the technical aspect of the job. Bob has been a huge asset while Duke is still learning. There are certain jobs that are done once a year, such as the pivot this Spring. Corey Theis is the only Council person that is against this situation as it was approved as a temporary basis. He feels that we should put the position out for hire. My question was, "who is going to train 2 people?" Corey stated that people at his employment have been talking about it being a dictatorship. He also does not want snow removal on sidewalks to be the Town's responsibility. Attorney Kruer stated that this is not unusual in Montana because the size of the towns and it is not illegal. Do we need 2 full time employees? Not throughout most of the year. Mike Walter feels that Bob is still training, and Duke is still learning that we can negotiate down the road. Rahn Abbott moves that Mayor Stump stays on the position through the training phase with Duke. Mike Walter seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from December 14th were reviewed. Corey Theis moves to approve the minutes from December 14th and Mike Walter seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Stump reviewed the financials and delinquent utility reports with the council. Rahn Abbott moves to approve the monthly financials and delinquent utility reports for December. Corey Theis seconded the motion. No further questions. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

Councils Report

Mike Walter talked about moving forward with developing a committee for improving the parks and playground equipment. The topic was put on hold due to COVID as it would be extremely hard to do any fundraising. He asked the council for any suggestions on how to get this going. Emilie Saylor is familiar with many grants out there and would be willing to help.

Emilie Saylor works at Ruby Valley Medical Center and reported that all first responders and the Volunteer Fire Departments have been offered the COVID vaccine. She said as Town Employees, we could also get the vaccine at this time.

Mayor's Report

Nothing further to report on.

Rahn Abbott moves to adjourn tonight's meeting. Mike Walter seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:19 p.m.

Warrants January 2021

GINGER GALIGER	\$2,699.68
DUKE GILMAN	\$2,845.46
ROBERT C. STUMP	\$2,857.55
WILLIAM TALBOTT	\$1,599.33
DEFERRED COMP	\$100.00
EFTPS ENROLLMENT PROCESS	\$3,366.95
PERS	\$1,634.96
DEPT OF REVENUE	\$569.00
360 OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$50.00
AERZEN USA CORP	\$12,771.30
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	\$176.00
ESRI	\$400.00
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	\$627.62
MSU LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER	\$55.00
MT DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY	\$31.00
SHERIDAN AUTO PARTS INC	\$302.36
SOUTHWEST FENCE	\$7,028.00
WALTER'S ACE HARDWARE	\$39.90
WEX BANK	\$235.45
MMIA	\$79.00
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATION	\$232.74
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS (L)	\$92.30
A+ ELECTRIC MOTOR, INC	\$11,428.00
ANDY'S SERVICE	\$20.00
CITI CARDS	\$275.51
KRUER LAW FIRM, P.C.	\$130.00
NORTH WESTERN ENERGY	\$276.00
NORTHERN ROCKIES ENGINEERING, INC	\$5,261.50
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY-DECORATIVE LI	\$116.89
NORTHWESTERN ENGERY-SEWER	\$1,772.20
TAMI BURNEY	\$120.00
U.S. BANK TRUST SPA LOCKBOX CM969	\$18,852.65
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION CE	\$10.92
WALTER'S ACE HARDWARE	\$450.00
A&M FIRE & SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.	\$25.00
GINGER GALIGER	\$122.40
NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS,INC	\$34.82
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	\$101.97
POSTMASTER	\$140.00
ROBERT STUMP	\$1,746.53
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$767.65
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	\$68.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	\$1,665.29
INSURANCE MMIA	\$1,477.15
TOTAL	\$82,656.08

Approved: Mayor Robert Stump

Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger

