MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AUGUST 7, 2012, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
SARATOGA TOWN HALL

Mayor John Zeiger called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Councilman Mike McWain, Councilman Steve Wilcoxson, Councilwoman Susan Howe and Councilwoman Judy Welton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman McWain. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:
Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2012 meeting, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:
Councilwoman Welton read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: $82,385.57; Payroll and FICA for 7/30/2012 in the amount of $66,778.96; and manual checks for liabilities in the amount of $45,108.87, for a total of $194,273.40.

Councilman McWain made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $194,273.40, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mayor Zeiger reported that there have been problems with neighboring towns when they find it necessary to make emergency arrangements to house emergency volunteers at the last minute. He asked the council to allow them permission to use the old football field west of the Elementary School as a staging area for support staff if necessary.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to allow support staff responding to emergency situations to use the old football field west of the Elementary School as a staging area, Seconded by Councilwoman Howe. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Wilcoxson shared an email sent to the council with comments about the concerts being held in the "Yard". The email expressed concerns for the people living in the residential area around the "Yard" because of the loud music and the loud crowd noises which go late into the night.

Councilman Wilcoxson stated that the majority of those contacting him are in favor of the music.

Councilman Wilcoxson acknowledged the impact that the concerts are having on some of the neighbors, but stated that he believes that it isn't unreasonable since the concerts are being held only six times during the summer, and being a tourist town the concerts are good for the community. Councilman Wilcoxson indicated that he would hope that the locals could make concessions for such a short time.

Councilman Wilcoxson stated that he is only hearing objections to the music from a small group of people and he will listen to those objecting and stand up for those objections even though he doesn't agree with them, believing that the council represents the majority of the people.

Councilwoman Howe stated that she has had a number of people contact her stating their dislike for the concerts being held where they are and those individuals have indicated to her that they should be held in one of the parks, Veteran's Island, or a more appropriate place. Councilwoman Howe stated that she only voted to allow the concerts because they only heard from the people that came to the council meeting in favor of the music at the "Yard", but that is not what she has been hearing lately.

Councilman Wilcoxson commented that if these people don't take the time to come to the council meetings with their complaints their comments can't be considered.

Councilman McWain indicated that he had not received any comments against the music in the "Yard" and he believes he is pretty accessible to the public at his business.

Mayor Zeiger stated that he had also been contacted with comments about the "Yard" not being an appropriate place for the concerts and those individuals indicated their objections to them being held at the "Yard"..

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:
Leon Hetherington included his comments about the concerts and how much he and his granddaughter enjoy the music and entertainers. Mr. Hetherington stated that he hoped they would be allowed to continue to hold concerts in Saratoga adding that the location is not the best place to hold them but that he believes they will outgrow the current location and in the future will need to find a more suitable location.

Additional comments were made by Rosemary Erickson and Andy VanTol in favor of the music in the "Yard".

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Councilwoman Welton made a motion to go into executive session to consider information considered confidential by law, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed.

Councilman McWain made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive session and to put the minutes of the executive session in a sealed envelope in accordance with State Statute § 16-4-405(b), seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed.

Mayor Zeiger reported that no action was taken.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall:
Mayor Zeiger introduced Johnathon Moore, the new town hall employee who was recently hired as an office assistant working the front desk and assisting the other departments and department heads where needed.

Mr. Moore gave an overview of his skills and background prior to coming to work at the town hall.

Clerk Suzie Cox noted that before the council was Resolution 2012-06, a resolution making application to the County Commissioners for the General Tax Levy for FY 2012/2013. Clerk Cox explained that it was an oversight on her part that the Resolution applying for the tax levy had not been presented at the last council meeting. The council was asked to ratify the application and attached budget ordinance that had been signed by the Mayor and submitted prior to the July 31, 2012 deadline.

Mayor Zeiger read Resolution 2012-06 a resolution making application to the County Commissioners for the General Tax Levy for FY 2012/2013.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to ratify Resolution 2012-06, a resolution making application to the County Commissioners for the General Tax Levy for FY 2012/2013 with attached budget ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Suzie Cox requested permission to attend the WAMCAT Institute being held in Casper from September 10th through September 13, 2012 at a cost of approximately $275.00.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Clerk Cox to attend the WAMCAT Institute in Casper September 10th thru 13, 2012, seconded by Councilwoman Howe. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Zeiger read a notice of the Finance Officers Workshop to be held at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch October 24th through 26, 2012 and requested permission to allow Treasurer Lynda Healey to attend the workshop.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Treasurer Healey to attend the Finance Officers Workshop at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch October 24th through 26, 2012, seconded by Councilwoman Welton. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department:
Fire Chief John Lasco reported that the Fire Department responded to nine fire calls, one search and rescue and one motor vehicle accident.

Police Department: Chief Grayling Wachsmuth provided the council with a written report from the police department.

Councilwoman Welton asked what the procedures were for the Dog Pound holding facility and if the conditions of the facility had been addressed.

Chief Wachsmuth stated that if a dog is picked up it is held for ten days; and if the animal is unclaimed after that ten days the Rawlins Animal Shelter is contacted and they begin adoption procedures. If the animals are held at the holding facility the officers log feeding and cleaning times. It is usually the day officer that does the feeding and they spray out the facility but they do not walk the dogs.

Additional issues discussed included clean-up of the facility and area around it, walking the dogs being held for an extended period, and having someone clean it on a regular basis.

Councilwoman Welton asked if the council should consider hiring someone to take care of the issues discussed.

Chief Wachsmuth would like the opportunity to check with his staff to see if someone would like to take on the extra duties of taking care of the holding facility.

The council will give Chief Wachsmuth the opportunity to check with members of the police department staff.

Recreation Department: No report

Department of Public Works
DPW Supervisor Chuck Bartlett reported on the following:

- Street Department –Chuck Bartlett requested permission to move Brandan Mistelske from the Street department to the Water department to fill the vacancy created by Tim Kunz resignation at the rate of $14.92 per hour.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Mr. Bartlett to move Brandan Mistelske from the Street department to the Water department at the rate of $14.92 per hour, seconded by Councilwoman Howe. The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held about the number of workers at the water plant and Mr. Bartlett explained that Brian will replace Tim Kunz who left our employment in July. Adding that with all of the maintenance and repairs that need to be done in the water and sewer system, it would be difficult with fewer employees.

Richard Hodges thanked Mr. Bartlett and his crew for replacing the valve at the Saratoga Resort so that individuals living in the area could relax and not worry so about the potential water loss from the leaky valve.

Chuck Bartlett requested permission to move Brian Manley from a part-time seasonal employee to a fulltime position at the Street department at the rate of $14.92 per hour. Mayor Zeiger declared a conflict and left the council chambers. (Clerk's note: Brian Manley is Mayor Zeiger's brother-in-law)

Councilwoman Howe made a motion to allow Mr. Bartlett to Brian Manley from a part-time seasonal employee to a fulltime position at the Street department at the rate of $14.92 per hour, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Bartlett requested permission to hire Dylan Snodgrass to help fill the positions being vacated as students return to school at the rate of $10.00 per hour. Mr. Bartlett noted that four of the seasonal employees will be leaving over the next three weeks and two full time employees will be having surgery in the next two months and Dylan Snodgrass will be able to work until much later in the year which will help fill those positions.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Mr. Bartlett hire Dylan Snodgrass at the rate of $10.00 per hour, seconded by Councilwoman Welton. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bartlett reported that the sidewalks on the south side of the Community Center gym have been replaced, work continues on Veteran's Island, and they have been road-a-milling as much of 13th Street as possible because the cost of chip sealing is extremely high.

- Water and Sewer Department – Mr. Bartlett reported that twenty-five million four hundred twenty-five gallons of water last month which was one million gallons less than June.

  The water department crew is continuing to work on meter pits leaks and as stated earlier, the leaking valve at the Resort has been fixed.

  Clerk Suzie Cox reported that Jeff Check from Sensus has trouble shooting the unreadable meter issues, adding that there were 132 meters that were not reading and when they were reprogrammed there were 147 not reading. Clerk Cox stated that Sensus will continue to trouble shoot the issues until all of the meters are reading and the reporting system is operable.

  The council discussed options that the council could use to resolve the issue. Town Attorney Tom Thompson was asked to review the contract and advise the council on the best way to proceed.

- Weed and Pest: Mr. Bartlett reported that he will begin losing the weed eaters with two leaving next week.

- Hot Pool: Chuck Bartlett reported that the crew should be done painting the dressing room facility at the hot pool and landscaping will be done as soon as the work on Veteran's Island is completed.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Airport Board:
Clerk Suzie Cox requested approval of the Reimbursement Requests for the Master Plan Project in the amount of $14,253.00 with permission for the Mayor to sign.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to approve Reimbursement Requests for the Master Plan Project in the amount of $14,253.00 with permission for the Mayor to sign, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Airport Board meeting will be on August 8, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

Community Center Joint Powers Board: Councilwoman Welton reported that the Annual Fundraiser is scheduled for September 22, 2012 and the Suzy Bogguss Concert is scheduled for August 19, 2012.
The next meeting will be held Monday, August 20, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board:

The next meeting will be held Monday, August 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board:
Richard Hodges reported that they have the third recycle trailer nearly full and thirty tons have been shipped out in the last two trailers. Mr. Hodges thanked everyone for their recycling efforts and encouraged them to continue recycling.

Medical Board: no report

Planning Commission:
The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be on August 14, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Commission:
The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Monday, August 13, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Community Garden Board:
The next meeting of the Garden Board will be August 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

South Central Emergency Services Board: no report

BUSINESS: Clerk Cox addressed the council and explained that their packets contained three Ordinances for their review,

Mayor Zeiger reviewed the Ordinances as follows
- An Ordinance requiring any person who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle to have in their immediate possession, a driver's license
- An Ordinance concerning unlawful use of a driver's license
- An Ordinance prohibiting unlicensed persons to operate a motor vehicle

It was noted that because the police department is citing more offenses into our municipal court we need to have the appropriate ordinances in place to be used by our municipal court rather than county court.

Adjournment:
Being no further business to come before the meeting Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on August 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

JOHN ZEIGER
Mayor John Zeiger

ATTEST:

Suzie Cox
Suzie Cox