

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
SARATOGA TOWN HALL

Mayor John Zeiger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were Mayor Zeiger, Councilman Jon Nelson, Councilman Steve Wilcoxson, Councilwoman Judy Welton and Councilman Bob Keel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Councilman Keel made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting as presented. Councilwoman Welton seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Treasurer Samuel Flohr read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: \$77,103.39; Payroll and FICA for 1/22/2019 in the amount of \$58,247.50 and 2/5/2019 in the amount of \$49,609.77 for a total of \$107,857.27; and manual checks in the amount of \$51,809.93, for a total of \$236,770.49.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$236,770.49. Councilwoman Welton seconded and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC: Andy VanTol approached the council with airport questions and was asked to hold his comments until the airport report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilman Nelson reported on the January 16th COG meeting held in Rawlins referencing the TransWest Express Project through the Industrial Siting Counsel and also on the 6th penny (Specific Purpose Tax) project. The next meeting will be held in Rawlins on February 13th to form a unanimous recommendation on the distribution of the TransWest Express impact funds. Future meetings will be held on April 3rd for a prehearing and April 19th for an official hearing and both will be held at the Platte Valley Community Center in Saratoga.

Councilman Nelson noted that a survey was mailed out earlier gauging questions, concerns and feelings on the upcoming specific purpose tax. Discussion was held on the appointment of the Saratoga representative to the SPT board. Following that discussion Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to appoint Councilman Nelson as the Saratoga representative to the SPT Board. Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Zeiger reminded the council that they had discussed a workshop with the Recreation Commission and the public to review options for upcoming recreation programs and events. Councilman Wilcoxson proposed having a workshop on March 5th at 4 o'clock p.m. Councilman Nelson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Wilcoxson reported that he had met with Joe Parsons from the conservation service to discuss river restoration. The project would allow for a better river flow through town and an alternative to removal of the debris in the river through a mining permit and at the same time developing a "no permitted mining clause" to our ordinances.

Mayor Zeiger stated that some thought has been given to what the spring runoff is looking like and in his conversations with Home Land Security and FEMA, they would like communities to be more proactive with preparations for any anticipated high water events. Mr. Parsons has been working on flood mitigation grants to be submitted to Home Land Security. All studies indicate that the projects need to start above town in the location that Mr. Parsons is focused on for this grant.

In looking at flood preparation as we move into the spring months, the Mayor asked Jon Winter to find out how many sandbags are available for the runoff this spring. Mayor Zeiger indicated that there is a state flood planning meeting in Riverton on March 19th that Mayor Zeiger, Dan Ferrin and Jon Winter may be attending to meet with other state agencies to discuss possible spring flooding preparation.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall: Mayor Zeiger reviewed the information on the TransWest Express siting permit application which noted that the council would need to agree to participate in the funding distribution planning decision and to make an appointment for a voting delegate. Councilman Nelson noted that everyone within the impact area needs to participate in the funding process to know what the impacts may be for their area, and what amounts have been submitted for consideration. The TransWest Express project permit application is for the transmission line projects impacting entities of Baggs, Dixon, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Riverside, Saratoga, Sinclair, including the Board of County Commissioners and Wamsutter. Each one of those entities are invited to participate in the industrial siting hearings. Following the meeting on February 13th, assuming a unanimous agreement between the participating agencies, a Memorandum of Understanding will be mailed to each clerk to be signed and returned to the County Clerk no later than February 19th.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve the proposed MOU with permission for the Mayor to sign. Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Keel made a motion to appoint Councilman Nelson as the official representative for the Town of Saratoga. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Nelson addressed the confusion about Ordinance 8.08.080 addressing business owners and property owner's responsibility of clearing sidewalks. It states that it is unlawful to push litter from the sidewalk into the street. The best way to clarify the intent might be to amend under 8.08.080 (A) Persons owning or occupying places of business which face municipal sidewalks and strips or parkways between streets and sidewalks shall be responsible for keeping those sidewalks and strips free of litter, ice, snow and other hazardous conditions. Including a paragraph that would say it is permissible to push ice and snow into the curb.

Councilman Keel made a motion to send the amendments to 8.08.080 A to the town attorney for review. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department: Mayor Zeiger noted that the fire department had representatives present for the budget review and they will consider applying for impact funds to help with purchasing needed equipment. Councilman Nelson will be assisting them with the letter of participation.

Police Department: Chief Lehr reported that they had interviewed for the part time dispatcher position and he was requesting permission to hire Brittney Willis as a part time dispatcher.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Chief Lehr hire Brittney Willis as a part time police dispatcher. Councilwoman Welton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Lehr requested permission to hire Dan Starr, a certified officer who had expressed interest in the part time officer position. Chief Lehr noted that Mr. Starr had worked for the Town of Saratoga and had received his training at the academy while working in Saratoga and he is currently working as an officer in Hanna.

Following a discussion, Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Chief Lehr to hire Dan Starr as a part time police officer. Councilman Keel seconded.

Discussion followed about saving overtime and cost benefits for part time officers, the question was called. Councilman Nelson voted nay, Councilman Wilcoxson voted yes, Councilwoman Welton voted yes, Councilman Keel voted yes and Mayor Zeiger voted yes, the motion carried.

Recreation Department/Commission Report: Recreation Director Burton asked permission to submit the Carbon County School District #2 Recreation Board Grants. The grant applications are due before the next meeting, however the numbers have not been completely put together. What will be requested is described as follows:

- Open Gym Supervisors
- Chemicals and Lifeguard Training for the Saratoga Municipal Pool
- Missoula Children's Theatre

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to allow Recreation Director Burton to prepare the grants to the Carbon County School District #2 Recreation Board with permission for the mayor to sign. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Additional programs and events are as follows: Auditions for Missoula Children's Theater are scheduled for March 4th with performances on March 8th and 9th; Basketball skills clinic scheduled for the week of March 11th; Utah Jazz practice will begin the week of March 18th and go through the month of April followed by Soccer and T-ball.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Department of Public Works: DPW Director Jon Winter reported the following:

Streets:

- Snow removal, sanding, removing drifts and opening streets, cleared ice along curbs and sidewalks and fixed snow fences
- Additional ice slicer was delivered

Discussion followed concerning snow removal along Bridge Street:

- Street closure/no parking signs are being placed along Bridge Street – crew will be working on different ways to accommodate the businesses with early open hours and customer parking without impacting their business hours
- Will be closing off one side of the street at a time and try to be done by 6:00 pm. with the signs to be removed soon thereafter

Councilman Nelson thanked the street department for taking care of the streets and gutters.

- Routine maintenance on vehicles and equipment

Water/Sewer:

- Jon Winter requested permission to purchase four 150# Cylinders of C12 for the lagoon at a cost of approximately \$1700 including shipping and bottle charges.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to allow Mr. Winter to purchase four 150# Cylinders of C12 for the lagoon at a cost of approximately \$1700. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Repaired water main break on River Street – included a 14" line and a 6" line at the same location
- Sewer camera has been repaired and is no functional
- Letter was sent to the Forest Service for contractor non-compliance on the sewer and water project at their location. A meeting to discuss the status of the project has been scheduled

Weed/Pest

- Received the annual report approval for the 2018 EIMG

Hot Pool/Park

- The hot pool will be closed from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on February 14th for cleaning.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Airport Board:

John (Andy) VanTol addressed the council with questions about his lease agreement with the town and the airport board. Additional questions raised by Mr. VanTol will be addressed by Council at the February 19th meeting.

Councilman Nelson addressed the hanger lease issues beginning with Mr. VanTol's overpayment due to the lease not expiring until 12/2019.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to refund Mr. VanTol \$200 for over payment on his lease. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. VanTol will be required to make payment for the current year.

Councilman Nelson made a motion for the Mayor to sign the leases that were sent out in December, 2018. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Nelson reported that the landing fees collected from October 1st through the end of 2018 was \$5,384.57 and for January 2019 they were \$848.75. Landing fees charged are: Jets landing fees \$75; Turbo prop \$50 and Turbine fees are \$40. This does not impact hanger owners or those that house their planes at the airport

The next Airport Board meeting is on February 13, 2019 at 1 p.m.

HealthCare: Mark Pesognelli addressed the council and reported that the Veterans Administration has currently certified the nursing home so that they can begin taking in and treating veterans. The VA is conducting an open house at the Platte Valley Clinic on Tuesday, February 26th from 1 to 6 pm. During that time they will have the following services available:

- Healthcare enrollment, Veterans Benefits/VSO's, telemedicine, caregiver support, Chaplain Services, mental health services, transition care management and veterans directed care.
- Mr. Pesognelli added that they have selected BKD to do a feasibility study for the critical access hospital and they will be attending the public meeting to be held at the community center Wednesday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m. and will be available to answer questions from the public.

Community Center Joint Powers Board: Councilwoman Welton noted the next meeting of the Community Center Joint Powers Board will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board: Councilman Nelson reported that they had met today with individuals from the USFS to discuss the water and sewer project. The project had been suspended until the government workers were back to work. The USFS will respond to the official letter sent by Mr. Winter identifying the deficiencies and how they will correct them, including the possibility of removing the entire pipe installed during that time to correct the bedding and compaction.

Annexation of the forest service property was never completed and the planning commission and the joint powers board will review the annexation, or if it would be better to review a possible MOU, or an agreement of mutual understanding.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: Mayor Zeiger read a letter from Randy Raymer and the Landfill District Board referencing the dumpster stuffing that is occurring in many areas of town. The dumpsters are being used by many residents that would rather not take their trash to the landfill or invest in having one of the disposal haulers take it to the landfill for them. In essence what they are doing is stealing services that others are paying for. The discussion covered ways to target those that are filling the dumpsters illegally, from identifying who they are and citing them or removing the dumpsters or reducing the size of the waste containers to prevent large items from being left.

Following the discussion, Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to respond to the landfill letter stating that the town will try to address the waste that is not household items. That motion died for lack of a motion.

Councilman Keel made a motion to invite Mr. Raymer to come to the next council meeting on February 19th to address their concerns.

The next Landfill Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. February 6, 2019 in Saratoga.

Planning Commission:

Councilman Keel reported the Planning Commission has not met since the last council meeting. Councilman Keel noted that the MOU with county will be addressed at the next PC meeting.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

South Central Emergency Services Board:

New Business: Councilman Wilcoxson reported that Clerk Cox has asked if he could attend the Community Gas Meeting in Casper March 14th and 15th in her absence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to move into executive session at 7:36 p.m. to consider information considered confidential by law, in accordance with W. S. 16-4-405(a) (ii) and (iii). Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Tom Thompson was asked to join the mayor and council in executive session telephonically.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to move out of executive session at 8:33 p.m. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the minutes from 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). Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Zeiger reported that no action was taken.

Adjournment: Being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Keel seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on February 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

John Zeiger, Mayor

Suzie Cox, Clerk