

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD OCTOBER 15, 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 John Zeiger, Councilman Jon Nelson, Councilwoman Judy Welton, and Councilman Bob Keel. Councilman Steve Wilcoxson was absent from the meeting.

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 September 17, 2019 meeting as presented, Councilwoman Welton seconded, and the motion carried.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting as presented, Councilman Keel seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Treasurer Samuel Flohr read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: \$95,265.22; Gross Payroll for 10/01/2019 in the amount of \$45,295.39; and Gross Payroll for 10/15/2019 in the amount of \$39,698.53.

Councilman Keel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$95,265.22. Councilwoman Welton seconded, the motion carried.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to pay the gross payroll for 10/01/2019 in the amount of \$45,295.39, Councilman Keel seconded, and discussion followed.

Councilman Nelson disputed the payroll reports that were included in the packets because they were not the ones that he had wanted from an earlier meeting. The numbers were reviewed for 10/01/2019 payroll and as noted the amount was changed to \$55,802.12.

The numbers were reviewed for 10/15/2019 payroll and as noted the amounts changed to \$49,229.24.

Councilwoman Welton amended her motion to reflect the amount of \$55,802.12 for payroll 10/01/2019. Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to pay the gross payroll for 10/15/2019 in the amount of \$49,229.24. seconded by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilman Keel reported that after the last council meeting, he and Councilwoman Welton met with Ben Spaulding to discuss moving forward with the ball fields so we don't impede the ability of the Platte Valley Little League to have fields ready for next year's practices and games.

It was noted that Attorney Tom Thompson had voiced concerns about the liability of the baseball fields.

- Under the Governmental Claims Act, a Wyoming State Law, that provides immunity for most governmental functions. There are exceptions to that immunity, one being that it is failure to maintain a recreation area or a park
- Therefore, there needs to be a written agreement in place, regarding, who is assuming responsibility for the maintenance of the fields and insurance liability between the little league association and the town
- It could be a lease, or an MOU, both would be binding upon the parties

Discussion followed outlining the responsibilities of the parties:

Mowing and watering - Councilman Nelson noted that because the town has had the responsibility of mowing and watering Woods Field in the past, it would only be expected to do the same for the pending fields by the dog park.

In estimating cost of mowing and watering, and using Kathy Glode Park as a comparison, mowing currently costs the town \$400.00 per week for mowing, and Woods Field was approximately \$100 per week. In anticipation of the amount of water expected to be used on the new fields, Jon Winter reported that Kathy Glode Park currently uses approximately 3.5 million gallons per month, if the usage were billed it would cost approximately \$20,000 over a three-month period in a summer.

Councilman Nelson stated that the town does not pay itself for water, so it's not a hard cost. The cost in comparison would only be the cost of mowing, and the size comparison (Kathy Glode Park/re-developed ball fields) was discussed.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to allow the little league supporters to begin preparing the fields immediately and plan on having an MOU for the next council meeting. Councilman Keel seconded, and the motion carried.

The terms of the MOU were as discussed with Ben Spaulding, Will Faust, Councilman Keel, Councilwoman Welton and Mayor Zeiger:

- The town will be responsible for the mowing and the watering of the ball fields
- The Little League Association will be responsible for everything else
- Including:
 - Spring Clean-Up
 - Reseeding, Re-sodding
 - Maintenance of the grounds
 - Liability Insurance provided by the Little League Association

Councilman Keel made a motion to have Tom Thompson prepare an MOU between the Town of Saratoga and the Little League Association, Councilwoman Welton seconded, and the motion carried

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Health Care Update:

Mark Pesognelli and Karl Rude addressed the council with updates for the medical clinic and HMS as they move forward with healthcare in the valley.

Glee Johnson addressed the Council

Councilman Nelson noted that at the workshop with the Mayors from Encampment and Riverside it was decided that they would suggest that the Saratoga Council consider amending the current lease. Councilwoman Welton agreed that was the discussion at the workshop, but added her concerns about amending the lease, one being that if the lease is amended neither party is obligated to sign the amended lease.

Glee Johnson stated “you have a lease” that is not being followed and no one wants to amend it because they may not agree and sign it. So, it continues for over a year without the lease generating an income, nor is it being followed. If you were a business allowing this to continue wouldn't you be concerned about poor management or lack of business sense?

Councilwoman Welton noted her concern is to keep what health care is currently operating in the valley, and not jeopardize what seems to be working.

Ms. Johnson added that the town is not talking about getting rid of healthcare nor getting rid of the clinic, they are talking about a legal document that is not being followed or enforced.

Members of HMS indicated that the town needs to provide clarity to the employees of the clinic who spend their days taking care of the public, the current lease puts strain on the current employees. If there could be a workshop to discuss an amended lease with terms that could be agreeable to both the Town and HMS it would benefit the clinic and allow the clinic to move forward with providing healthcare to the valley.

Councilman Keel added that he would not be in favor of amending the lease, but he would be in favor of meeting with HMS to negotiate a new lease. Having continuity of care for patients in the valley and without questions and/or fear of employment.

Tom Thompson stated that he agreed with the understanding of the direction indicated at the workshop as reported by Councilman Nelson. The current lease is problematic and not being followed, and there were many problems that might not be corrected by amending the lease.

Councilman Keel made a motion to schedule a meeting with HMS to discuss revisiting the Clinic lease, seconded by Councilman Nelson, and the motion carried. HMS will contact Clerk Cox to set a date for a meeting to address the clinic lease.

Stacy Crimmins, Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce, addressed the council and presented a report from the Travel & Tourism as Economic Development, outlining Demographics, Spending Trends, Tax Impact, Lodging Visitor Trends, Business Presentation, Attraction and Event Attendance.

Also discussed was the town's Hobo Pool reviews that indicated there were some complaints about the area and dressing room maintenance and/or lack of maintenance.

Jon Winter reviewed the cleaning schedule for the hot pool, which includes cleaning the dressing rooms and pool area seven days a week, at least two hours each morning.

Discussion addressed putting up interpretive signage, to include hot pool history, and directive signage to clarify where the hot pool and dressing room facilities are located.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall:

Clerk Suzie Cox reported that the liquor license renewal applications have been sent out, the applications are to be returned by October 16, the publication dates for the renewals will be October 23rd and 30th and the public hearing for the council's review will be held on November 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. with approval at the council meeting following the public hearing.

Mayor Zeiger asked the council if there were any nominations for LGLP board vacancies, hearing no nominations, the council moved on to the next item.

Mayor Zeiger presented Ordinance 856, and asked Councilman Keel to address the Ordinance:

Councilman Keel noted that the ordinance would amend Ordinance 854 of the Town of Saratoga, to reduce revenues of the Police Department Vehicle Replacement Fund and transfer said funds to the Planning Commission Payroll Fund and that at this time a full time inspector/zoning officer needs to be readdressed.

Councilman Keel made a motion to table Ordinance 856 until the next meeting, Councilman Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

Clerk Cox requested permission to send Treasurer Samuel Flohr to a Caselle training in Casper on October 29th and 30th. The training will cover all general ledger accounts, receivables and payables.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to allow Treasurer Flohr to attend a Caselle general accounting training in Casper on October 29th and 30th at a cost of approximately \$200.00 plus motel and meals, Councilman Keel seconded, the motion carried.

Police Department: No report

Fire Department: No report

Recreation Department/Commission Report: Director Lisa Burton reported that the Recreation Commission met on October 14th and the discussion covered the following:

- The baseball fields and the MOU for the Little League Association
- Donkey basketball to be scheduled in April
With proceeds going to help with the cost of mowing and watering the baseball fields
- Co-ed volleyball league and tournament- bracket play will start in November
- Paint class scheduled on October 17th
- A Mom and Me painting class scheduled for October 29th
- Schedule a workshop on November 4th to get coaches and parents together to discuss the Utah Jazz program and how to move forward with a youth basketball program
- Ladies-Night Out is scheduled for December 12th

The next meeting will be changed to November 4th at 5 p.m.

Saratoga Airport: Dave Shultz, Sage Engineering, gave an update on the bid opening for the snow removal equipment (Plow and Broom). One bid was received from Honnen Equipment, the same company that was awarded the bid for the Loader, the bid was significantly higher than anticipated. In addition to the higher bid the plow was not the model desired and larger than listed in the specs, which may allow negotiating with the bidder.

It was anticipated that the bid would come in between \$40,000 and \$45,000 and the bid came in just over \$71,000. The broom came in about where expected, but the plow was much higher.

Dave Shultz will contact WYDOT and if there is a way to negotiate with the bidder for the equipment that was listed in the bid specs and at a cost within the range expected.

Following contact with WYDOT, if negotiation is possible, and if the equipment fits the project, and if the equipment is acceptable to the Saratoga Jet Center and fits within the bounds of the project, a special meeting can be called and the town will be contacted to see if they will concur and award the bid for the appropriate equipment.

Following a discussion, Councilman Nelson made a motion to have a Special Meeting on Friday, October 18th for the purpose of potentially awarding the bid for the snow removal equipment. Councilwoman Welton seconded, and the motion carried.

Councilman Nelson reported on the Airport Apron Expansion project that was discussed back on September 30th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the options the town must move forward with the project, because the town's share was bigger than what was budgeted for the project.

The budgeted amount for the apron expansion was \$150,000 with the town share being \$6,000 for the design portion of the project.

The FAA would like to see the project move forward with an exhilarated timeline, starting the design phase now and construction next Summer. The FAA is prepared to offer a 1.8-million-dollar grant, which is available now if the town can make it happen. However, the town's share will then become \$80,000 rather than the \$6,000 anticipated.

Because FAA became aware of the increased traffic and particularly the larger planes using the airport, they would like to move the project up from 2020/2021 they could make the funds available for a design grant 2019/2020 with construction to be spent after July 1, 2020.

Discussion ensued with options the town has through available budget funding and possible funding made available by the FAA. Additional information may be available around mid-November.

The next regular meeting of the Airport Board will December 11th at 3:30 p.m.

Department of Public Works:

DPW Director Jon Winter provided the council with a written report for the department of public works.

Streets:

- Requested permission to purchase a 25-ton load of ice melt at a cost of approximately \$2,889
Councilwoman Welton made a motion to allow the purchase a 25-ton load of ice melt at a cost of approximately \$2,889, Councilman Nelson seconded, the motion carried
- Requested permission to purchase three cutting edges for the snowplows at a cost of \$235/each or approximately \$905.00
Councilman Nelson made a motion to allow the purchase of three cutting edges for the snowplows at a cost of approximately \$905.00, Councilman Keel seconded, the motion carried
- Discussed the recirculation of warm water to the vaults on Bridge Street, hoping it will help keep snow and ice from building up along the south curbs down Bridge Street
- Discussed the street cuts, patching and potholes created by the Black Hills and Union Telephones projects. Representatives from both companies will be invited to attend the next council meeting to discuss their possible completion dates
- Assisted with preparing two grave sites at the cemetery
- Preparing vehicles and equipment for snow season

Water/Sewer

- Requested Permission to purchase two 150# C12 bottles for approximately \$1,086.00
Councilman Nelson made a motion to allow the purchase of two 150# C12 bottles for approximately \$1,086.00, Councilwoman Welton seconded, the motion carried
- Forest service line passed the pressure test and was connected to the Town water line
- The water user's agreement was provided to the USFS for their review along with the wastewater agreement
- Jetted sewer line between 7th Street, 8th Street, and between Bridge and Main

Hot Pool/Parks

- The Hot Pool is scheduled to be cleaned on October 31st

Lake

- Six bid proposals for the Lake water and sewer project were received on October 3rd and provided to the JPB at their meeting on 9th

Community Center Joint Powers Board: Councilwoman Welton reported that the next meeting will be on November 11th at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board: Mayor Zeiger read a note from Councilman Wilcoxson asking for a workshop with the Joint Powers Board to discuss the water and sewer impact project for the lake.

Councilman Nelson reviewed the results of the bids received for the design portion of the Wind Energy Impact Fund project to put water and sewer to the lake campground. The six bids received ranged from \$175,000 to \$373,000. The funding allocated from the Gateway West Project was \$573,000 and from the Trans West Project was \$165,000. Indicating that there will not be enough funding to do the project as proposed.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to set a workshop with the Water/Sewer Joint Powers Board and the Council to discuss the RFR's for the design only portion of the project for the water and sewer to the lake campground. Councilwoman Welton seconded, discussion, wherein Councilman Nelson will have the Recording Secretary for the JPB send out notices for a workshop and set a date for the meeting. The question was called, and the motion carried.

A disputed utility bill was brought up by Councilman Nelson, the council sent it back to the Board for review.

The next meeting will be on November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: The next Landfill Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 6th in Encampment.

Medical: nothing additional to report

Planning Commission: Councilman Keel reported that several variances were discussed, with no action taken. Once the planning commission could act on the variances they will be brought before the council. The zoning position will be addressed at the next meeting.

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

SCWEMS Board: No report

Adjournment: There being no additional business to come before the meeting Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Councilman Keel seconded, and the motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on November 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

John Zeiger, Mayor

Suzie Cox