

OWN OF BASIN

Regular Council Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Town Hall at 7:00 PM

Call to Order Regular Session

Pledge of Allegiance

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Basin Council was held at Town Hall in Basin, Wyoming on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Council Members Present: CJ Duncan, Brent Godfrey, Stuart DesRosier, Carl Olson, and Chuck Hopkin.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer Deaun Tigner, Chief McClure, Foreman Mike Dellos, Town Attorney Kent Richins, Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee, Ben Gomez, and Michael Yenny.

Public Comment: Ben Gomez and Michael Yenny attended the Council meeting to discuss whether a speed limit, speed bumps, or anything else could be implemented to slow down the children who are riding their motorcycles and four-wheelers at high speeds on the canal road. It is causing a great deal of dust and commotion near their homes. They do not want us to maintain their road, as the canal owns the easement and it is their road. Michael Yenny suggested a silencer or muffler. Chief McClure stated that he will assess his options and collaborate with Kent on the matter. Councilman Godfrey requested that the Chief contact the canal board and discuss the situation with them, as well as monitor the area. Councilman DesRosier also requested that the Chief speak with the canal and request that they install a fence on the road. The Chief stated that he had asked the ditch rider about the same issue a year ago, and they replied that they didn't care if people were riding there or not. He was also instructed to inquire about his authority to enforce the area. As it is not a maintained road, Chief McClure stated that he will discuss the matter with Kent Richins.

Building/Demolition Permits:

- Martha Miner: 508 South 5th Street: Replace cedar fence on sides and in back along short chain link across front to replace existing.
- John Hallcroft: 618 South 9th Street: Deer fence on north property line, 145 feet long, 7 feet high, chain link fence.

- Rance Parent: 818 Montana Ave: Adding a deck onto back porch.
- Cheryl Willson: 310 Holdrege: Storage shed.

Councilman Godfrey made a motion to approve the building permits signed by Mike Dellos, Councilman DesRosier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chicken Permits: None at this time.

Executive Session: None at this time.

Approve Consent Agenda/Additions/Deletions:

Councilman DesRosier made a motion to add the tennis court and North 8th Street, as well as switching the ordinance numbers, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tennis Courts: A few months ago, Jesse Frisbee sent out an email regarding the tennis courts. The Council had instructed Jesse to determine the cost of repairing the cracks and the cost of resurfacing. To do everything would cost around \$28,000, whereas crack repair would cost around \$3,400. If requested by the council, Barbara Greene stated that the Chamber would be willing to attempt to raise \$3,400 in order to repair the cracks. As there is currently no money in the budget, Mayor Duncan stated that requesting community donations would be the best course of action, and the Chamber stated that they would be willing to spearhead this initiative. The Council will put this project on hold until the necessary funds can be raised.

North 8th Street: Jesse Frisbee stated that Copper Creek Construction submitted a proposal for the water line looping on North 7th Street. He stated that we want to loop 8th Street because there is stagnant water at the end of the line, and if we loop it, we will get better flows, improve fire flows, and get rid of the stagnant water. Councilman Hopkin inquired as to how much money remained after repairing the other items. Jesse stated there was money in the budget for this, but he would need to verify it. The Council stated that we should perform the looping if the budget allows for it. The motion to approve change order 1 for the looping was made by Councilman Godfrey, seconded by Councilman Olson, and passed unanimously. Jesse stated that they were able to install all the meter pits. They should have completed all services by tomorrow or Tuesday, at which point they will begin taking the street out and putting it back in place. Councilman Olson stated that he observed a large number of taps that lacked curb stops or meter pits, and he inquired whether Copper Creek Construction would reimburse us for the cost of installing meter bids. Jesse stated that he would ask Copper Creek Construction.

Propagation Study: Mayor Duncan explained the propagation study and that we had met with Miquelle a month and a half ago and she had them look at two sites for the radio reads, one location on the pole in Henderson field and the other one on the top of the water tower. Councilman DesRosier made a motion to approve the propagation study, Councilman Hopkins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

REA Mapping: Bill Dahlke elaborated on the REA's mapping efforts. Depending on the price, he stated that the mapping would be nice. Bill responded that the map depicted everything, including the number of meters off a transformer, the type of wire, and the location of the feeds, in response to Councilman Hopkin's inquiry as to whether or not the map only depicted troubled areas of the city. Councilman DesRosier will meet with Big Horn to discuss this matter.

Block Party/Grand Opening/Fishing Day: Councilman DesRosier has been in discussion with the Program Coordinator for the Rec and Councilman Hopkin regarding their desired course of action. On that day, the Arts Center will also host a Father's Day breakfast. Casey stated that the grand opening will begin at 11 a.m., and he suggested that all of the cooking be done in the gym so that everyone can come down from fishing. He will host activities, contests, and facility tours with the goal of selling memberships, among other things. Casey received fishing information from Barbara Greene. She stated that 49 poles are being sent out, and if we do not use them, she must take them to Medicine Lodge. The fishing poles will require sinkers, bobbers, and other accessories. The poles will be picked up this weekend in Casper. Last year, according to Councilman Godfrey, they distributed tackle boxes, backpacks, etc. Councilman Hopkin stated that he would inquire with Pepsi about obtaining coolers from them. The recreation's ribbon cutting will take place at 2:00 p.m. Councilmen DesRosier and Hopkin were instructed not to spend more than \$1,000 on food and fishing equipment. Mayor Duncan will look at the cost of the food. He will also donate paper plates, napkins, forks, and knives. Mayor Duncan requested that one of Chief McClure's officers on duty that day be around to talk with the children.

Eagles: The school gave the town a picnic table and benches that used to be in front of the old high school and told us we could place them in the eagles area, according to Mayor Duncan. There are two seats with backs and two picnic table benches. Councilman DesRosier reported that a second individual inquired about renting the space between the bar and the annex for fireworks stand on the Fourth of July. Councilman Godfrey requested that the Chief examine the state statutes to determine whether or not their presence in the city was permitted. The mayor has stated that he will deliver the equipment, or we can place the table in the back of the current town office.

Town Hall Moving: The Council discussed the relocation of town offices to the new town hall area. Councilman Hopkin was concerned that the office staff would not have enough time to clean the building, and he inquired as to how this would be addressed. Councilman Hopkin suggested that we may need a

single position to maintain the lawn and clean the building in this area. Mayor Duncan did not believe there would be enough work for an 8-hour workday. The Public Works Department is currently caring for the lawn area. Mayor Duncan discussed the possibility of having someone come in every other day and once per week to perform a thorough cleaning of the bathrooms, floors, etc. The answer to Councilman Hopkin's question regarding whether the heaters have been repaired so we can move in was that they have been ordered. Outside of the heating and cooling system, there is electrical work and IT wiring that must be completed. Mayor Duncan discussed that there will be three cubicles for various offices, including the Electrical Department, Water Department, and Police Chief, and that the room in the middle will become a break room, etc. The response to Councilman Hopkin's question about whether a decision had been made regarding the relocation of all staff was yes, the council had decided all department heads would have offices in the building. Councilman Olson stated that he believed Casey Massey was going to mow the lawn by the pool area. The pool area was mowed by the School Dist. last year, and Mike's department will do so this year, according to Mayor Duncan. Mayor Duncan stated that he had discussed the matter with Mike, in response to Councilman Olson's question.

Ordinance 707 – Utility Rate Increases (2nd reading): Councilman Godfrey made a motion to change ordinance 707 to 706 and pass ordinance 706 on the second reading, Councilman DesRosier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 706 – Budget 2023-2024 (2nd reading): Mr. Russell stated that when we began the budget workshop, we had a budget of \$253,000, so he believes they have done a commendable job reducing this amount. With the ordinance for utility rate increases, he believes that everything appears to be in order, and he believes that this budget would be sustainable with the goal of not constantly transferring funds into the general fund. Councilman Godfrey proposed changing this ordinance's number from 707 to 706 and passing the budget on the second reading. Councilman Olson seconded the motion. Councilman Hopkin stated that we have evidently transferred more than \$100,000.00 per year, and that you must keep in mind that the rate changes will help, but if we continue to do this, he believes that there are places where we need to sit down and have actual conversations about where we can cut expenses. Councilman Godfrey questioned Councilman Hopkin regarding how he thinks the Council should change the budget. Councilman Hopkin stated that he believed the Council should be more prudent with town funds. Mayor Duncan concurred that Councilman Hopkin made an excellent point, that it is our fiduciary responsibility, and that we have already reduced our budget significantly. Councilman Hopkin stated that he cannot support and will not vote for this. Mayor Duncan asked Councilman Hopkin if he had ideas on where they could continue making cuts. What bothers Councilman Hopkin is that in four years we will run out of the surplus funds if we do not replenish them in some way, and he does not know how that could be accomplished. He found it inexplicable that we are still \$124,000 over budget. Mr. Russell spent time

discussing the budget with the Council in order to provide a more thorough explanation. Mayor Duncan then called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Executive Session: Councilman DesRosier made a motion to go into executive session for personnel and potential litigation, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:41 p.m. Councilman Godfrey made a motion to move out of executive session and move into the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m., Councilman Hopkin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Town of Basin Mayor/CJ Duncan

Deaun Tigner – Town Clerk