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TOWN OF WHITEHALL

P. O. BOX 529

WHITEHALL, MT 59759

March 13th, 2023

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave, Monday, March 13th, 2023.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Bill Lanes, Pat Peterson, Linda Jung, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Treasurer Allissa Christensen, and Mayor Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh.

VISITORS: Kory Klapan, Liz Pullman via zoom, Bridget Morse, Dan Hagerty, Maxine Samuelson, Jenna McNew, Kennedy Kleinsasser.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Linda Jung motioned, Roy McBride seconding
Motion carries

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Jung motioned approval with corrections, Roy McBride Seconding
Motion Carries

VI. REPORTS

Mayors Report:

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: ... the FRA to conduct a study. So, the timeline that we have is, if our proposal makes the short list, we will find that out late spring of this year. The prioritized routes then will be determined towards the end of summer of this year. And then, if we make the final cut, that will be announced in the fall of this year. So, a lot is happening this year. And there's just a ton of information on their website. So, if anybody wants a brochure, I think I've given most of you one. It's just best to just go on and there's just a wealth of information about what we're doing. Hello. Welcome. All right. Any questions? Anything anybody wants to know that maybe I'll be able to answer? Okay. Ed is not here tonight, so we'll move on to Alyssa's report.

Attorney Report:

No Report

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Allissa Christensen: Okay. AFR is done and an exit interview is pending. And the AFR has been submitted to the state. We received the playground equipment and it will remain unassembled until the weather is better and the ground can

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thaw. I have also been working on required paperwork for the CDBG planning grant we received, and have been working on updates and revisions to the new poultry ordinance. Laura Sadler has been working with me on RD Financial reporting, and I just have the general fund left, and should have that submitted soon to her. Court has slowed down. We are only up to 23 cases for the year. And I have noticed not as many citations are coming in like they used to, but we do have quite a few pending cases that are being resolved from 2022. So, that's good. We will be hosting a car seat safety day on March 31st from one to 4:00 PM here. This is entirely funded by Town Pump. I applied for a grant a few months ago and got it. So basically, it's going to be simple.

The Montana Highway Patrol is going to help. So basically, show up. They're going to show you how to install a car seat correctly. You get a free car seat and a cupcake and you're on your way.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: A free car seat. That's new.

Allissa Christensen: Yeah, a free car seat. So, I think it's one of those things that is often overlooked, improper car seat installation. So, I'm just trying to raise awareness on that. And I hope a lot of people can come because they think it's a good thing that Town Pump is funding. So... Okay. Yep. And of course, our day-to-day operations keep us busy around here. Okay. And then, one final note. I have accepted a position at the school, so I will be resigning as the clerk treasurer effective April 17th. It has been a pleasure working with some of you. And I appreciate those that have been kind and patient with me as I navigate through this challenging job.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: We appreciate you.

Allissa Christensen: Those members of the public that have been vindictive or resentful, my one request is that you show more respect to the current and new staff that I leave behind. Thank you.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Thank you, Alyssa.

Shawn Hoagland: Thank you.

Public Work's Report:

Kory Klapan: So, I'll start with water. We took a water sample March 7th. They came back good. So, the manor and the Sacry annexation water and sewer lines are at DEQ. We should have them back any day, where it's going to be about a month to bid that, and then we'll proceed with that one. The water tank in our water project, the ground study didn't come back very well. That's going to set

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us back a little bit on our water tank. We're not sure exactly what yet to do there. We're researching different ways to stabilize that ground. Sewer; cell one's 4.5 feet, cell two's five, cell three's 4.3.

We no longer have to take sewer samples because we changed our discharge permit. So, that's going to save us some money there. Streets; Jason Crawford came in last Monday and we worked on redoing the drainage on Whitetail Drive. We met with Joe. Joe didn't really like where Jason had placed the drain manholes, so he's going to change them up and redraw it. We're working with a contractor to fix the east and west ends of First Street, on the corners. Dip on First Street is a frost heave. It'll get better. It's getting better. We have a cone there to slow people down.

It was getting pretty bad there for a while, but it is getting better. Cemetery; we had one full grave, one cremation funeral. We're doing quite a bit of tree trimming and cleaning up the weeds along that bank. Scott's been working on that. It's looking pretty good. We did take out a curb around one of the family plots over there to make more room. They had purchased three plots, but they were taking up like six plots. So, we went ahead and removed that curb. The last person that was buried there was 1912, so I don't see any family members really purchasing the other three plots. So, we took that out. We did have two call outs this last month and we had 17 locate tickets.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Thank you, Kory.

Kory Klapan: Okay.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Got a question?

Linda Jung: Linda. Kory... So, Rocky Mountain Drive Water Test, how's that coming or have we heard anything?

Kory Klapan: Oh, it's good. Yep.

Linda Jung: It is good?

Kory Klapan: Yeah. Yeah. We got it back right away and sent into DEQ.

Linda Jung: Okay.

Kory Klapan: It's fine.

Linda Jung: And it's fine?

Kory Klapan: So, yep.

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Linda Jung: I had a couple people asking me out there, so...

Kory Klapan: Yep. No, it's good.

Linda Jung: Thanks.

Fire Chief's Report:

Sherriff's Report:

Commissioner Report:

Dan Haggerty : Good evening name. Dan Haggerty, Jefferson County Commissioner. I have one thing to report from last Tuesday, our meeting. Everyone's familiar with building five. It's now at the stage of a feasibility study to see if the project is doable. And in the meantime, the owner of the river made one more final offer for the consideration of the county purchasing his old business building for the health department. The owner stated that the architect reported the cost of the building was coded higher than whom he had previously spoken to. This is in the time that ex-Commissioner Wortman was here, when he told you at that time the cost. Because of that, he's willing to take off 5% of the initial coded cost of the building. Right now, no action has been taken. And it is just under advisement at this point. Any questions or concerns?

A. Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Linda Jung: Okay. We didn't have a quorum. And it was a lot of different issues. I had three people sick. And then, one had an emergency that they had to attend or we would've had the quorum. But there was a couple of things I did want to bring up real quick. We have a Senate house... or Senate bill that came out, 379. It has been passed through the state... or the Senate. And now, it's in the house. And it talks about limiting setting a minimum lot size for zoning in every municipality in Montana. I've been keeping track of the bill. It really did get a lot of votes. That may not be good for the town of White Hall, if that happens.

But now, it's in the house. And I guess they're really pushing people, writing in and getting to the bottom of that. But that was the worst thing is, to sit there and say we have to have a lot size for zoning because not every town has the same zoning. So anyway, I'm following that bill. The other bill that's been interesting is the House bill... or it's house Bill 246. And that one is on tiny houses. Now, it passed the house and it passed. Great. Now, it's onto the Senate

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floor. And so, it looks like it might be a good thing. And that will give us direction on getting some ordinance done for our tiny houses. So, I'm just kind of keeping track of them and we'll see what happens.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: And I've contacted our representatives and said that it wouldn't be good for the town of White Hall.

Linda Jung: Excuse me.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: I contacted our representatives...

Linda Jung: Good.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: ... and said that it wouldn't be good for the town of White Hall or any other municipality.

Linda Jung: Right.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: But I'm just one person. But-

Linda Jung: Yeah, and there was-

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: But it's very easy to contact [inaudible 00:10:07].

Linda Jung: Yeah.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: You just click in the name, and you just can send them an email. So, it's very easy to contact. So, I do encourage people to do that.

Linda Jung: Right. Yeah. I agree with you on that, Mary.

Recreational Complex Board:

Roy McBride: We had a meeting, not a lot was... just basically going over everything. We decided to put in for one of those sustainability grants. That's been... I think she met with them today, I think, or yesterday?

Allissa Christensen: Last week.

Roy McBride: Last week. So, it's in, nothing's been settled yet. So, that's kind of where that's at.

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Pool Board:

No meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

No meeting.

Water/Sewer/Garbage and Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

Katy James: I don't have the one for the sewer, water and garbage. I do have the streets and alleys.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay.

Katy James: They don't generally put these in the packet for me, so I grabbed the wrong ones, unfortunately.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: That's fine.

Katy James: So, the streets... We met on March 6th. There was no unfinished business. Meadowview Lane update. Kory reported possibly using millings when they start the process along with East First Street by the Ladies Auxiliary. And then, there was a discussion about the dip on First Street as it is still a problem. No presentations. Sidewalk projects, TA Grant, Jason, our engineer, was in attendance. And discussion as to the grant, what areas for sidewalks was discussed, and determined what ones to be priority to start based on funds available from the TIFF and the TA grant, something about \$185,000 from TIFF is available.

Areas being considered is; Olive to museum and back around to the recreation complex, Jefferson Fresh Foods from the Forest Service Building to their driveway, Yellowstone Bridge to Whitetail Drive, corner of First Street and Division, finish what is bad on the west side, Jefferson to Division half a block up Division on East Side. And then, Jason went on, advised the TA grant application needs to be turned in by the 12th of April and a public meeting will need to happen prior. Scheduled for April 10th, 2023 before monthly council meeting. Public Works discussed... was all of the above. And meeting adjourned.

T.I.F.F.:

Bridget Morse: I'm Bridget Morris for the TIFF. So, we had our meeting on February 15th. And we had myself, Mary, Jenna and Roy were present and Kory was our guest. We're still sitting at \$389,000. Mary had a bunch of ideas for projects. I wrote down Lindsay Graham Daycare Center, I think that's right, at the High School for Beautification and Landscaping and making it look good once it arrives, the new daycare center. Tree budget for the garden club and

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sunflower seeds for the Water Tower Park. Unfortunately, the Water Tower Park is not in our district. So, we were thinking of things to do with that, planting trees and letting the garden club work on the sunflowers.

And we sent out letters to our different grant projects extending their time since last fall. There was not a lot of time to complete projects. We're waiting on some bills from some of them. And we decided to go ahead with doing the TA grant that was talked about from the streets' thing. And we have the estimate for applying at about \$5,000. I think it's between five and eight. And then, there were a few more suggestions; Trojan flags, Christmas tree lights on the trees, streetlights that are solar, planters that are metal water tank things to theme the town, and leaving notes for Kennedy so she would know what to do for the next week.

So, I suggest that, if people have ideas, our meeting is tomorrow. If you have ideas of things you'd like to see the TIFF do.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Wednesday.

Bridget Morse: Wednesday, sorry. Yeah. Wednesday.

Allissa Christensen: At 6?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: At what time?

Bridget Morse: Seven.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Seven? Okay.

Bridget Morse: Yes. We're starting our year 10 of the 15 years of the grant of the Urban Renewal District that we are. And we could use some community input. We'll look at that master plan and use that. But really, we need the community to give us some guidance in what they want to see.

CTAC:

No meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Morse: Yep. Bridget Morris again. Oh, good thing. I got my notes now. Okay. So, I didn't ask which Tuesday last time on the Greyhound bus thingy that's parked down there by the lady's auxiliary, because you said it'd be gone next Tuesday, but I didn't pin you down on which Tuesday that was. So, I'd like to know which Tuesday.

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Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. She had today to have it gone. She called this afternoon and said her father wasn't able to come, but he would be here this weekend. So, I extended it. Hopefully, it'll be gone by this weekend.

Bridget Morse: Okay, thank you.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: You're welcome. Anyone else?

Maxine Samuelson: Everybody takes a deep breath when I come up here. Maxine Samuelson. I live in Ward three. Mary, this first thing, you said that train quit 42 years ago. Oh my gosh. I used to ride out on the train. And Carolyn and Tom would pick me up in Butte. It was a beautiful ride, especially going into Butte. And I want to tell you, there was one time I saw this little blue car along the interstate. We were between Whitehall and Butte. And they were a little bit late getting me. And I hope they're watching because they like to watch at home. But sure enough, that was their car I was watching come to get me to Butte. And Alyssa, remember I'm the one that got you started with working with the town...

Allissa Christensen: You are?

Maxine Samuelson: I told you about the pool opening, and then...

Allissa Christensen: Actually, Kyra Williams did.

Maxine Samuelson: No, I told you. Well, she might have said something too, but I also told you, but good luck at the school. You'll be able to have lunch with your kids anytime, anytime they want.

Allissa Christensen: Thanks, Maxine.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

SAS

Approval of Christian Rosa Letter Request

Business License

Silver City Stone, Cabinetry and Tile
7th Year Enterprise LLC
Winkles Lawn Care LLC
Besties LLC

WSG

Bill Adjustments

200 W Viella, water leak (recommending approval) (Feb meeting)
105 S Brooke, toilet leak (recommending approval)
307 W Legion, water leak frozen pipes (recommending approval)
200 ½ W Viella, water line leak (recommending approval)
107 S Jefferson, toilet leak (recommending approval)

**Pat Peterson Motioned Approval, Linda Jung Seconding.
Motion Carries unanimously**

IX. Presentations

none

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council determination on Loan Resolution 2023-3, accepting \$674,000 in grant money for the water treatment plant.

Roy motioned approval, Pat Seconding.

Motion Carries Unanimously

B. Council determination on Loan Resolution 2023-4, accepting \$900,000 in grant money for the water treatment plant.

Linda motioned approval, Roy Seconding.

Motion Carries Unanimously

C. Council determination on implementing e-statements for Utility Billing.

Roy motioned approval, Linda Seconding.

Linda Jung: I think this is really... Go ahead.

Roy McBride: I think it's something we need to do. I think it'll take some workload off the staff. It's going to take a little bit to get people indoctrinated into it, but I think, once they get it, and can see it and use it, then we'll get more people to sign up. So, it'll kind of cheapen the cost up.

Allissa Christensen: We've had a lot sign up.

Roy McBride: So, I don't know. I guess you got, what? Probably 60, 70 already?

Linda Jung: More.

Roy McBride: More?

Shawn Hoagland : It was 80 when we looked at it. So, yeah.

Roy McBride: I think it's a good idea.

Allissa Christensen: It's very convenient.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: I agree. Linda?

Linda Jung: And it's not just about lightening the load.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Right.

Linda Jung: People want this because a lot of people pay their bills online. And it's more convenient just to go in and get all your bills paid, and push a button and you're done.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yes.

Linda Jung: So no, I think it's a plus/plus for everyone.

Motion Carries Unanimously

D. Council discussion and determination of moving Council meetings to the 3rd Monday of each month.

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Pat motioned approval, Shawn seconding.

Katy James: One little thing for the third Mondays, which I'm... I agree with it. When I read the minutes of the sidewalk, we have to have a public meeting and that was going to be scheduled to happen before the council meeting that night.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay.

Katy James: So, we're going to have to have a special meeting in there someplace in regards to that TA grant.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay.

Katy James: Okay. And the other thing that's good about it is not as many holidays follow on the third Wednesday of the month.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Right. Monday.

Linda Jung: Third Monday.

Katy James: Or third Monday, I'm sorry. Yeah.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yeah. We took that into consideration.

Katy James: Yeah.

Linda Jung: And I think as opposed for the planning board too, because it's a lot for us to try to get all of our work done for the council meetings.

Allissa Christensen: Yeah. The first two weeks of the month here are very busy, and then the last two weeks, because it just makes more sense.

Linda Jung: Yeah.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Any more discussion? Any discussion from the public?

Dan Hagerty : Question. When will this take effect if it gets approved?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Next month.

Dan Hagerty : Next month. Thank you.

Motion Carries Unanimously

E. Council determination on applying for Whitehall Sustainability Committee (WSC) funds to build on an extension to Town Hall so the library can utilize and expand into the current City Court building.

Pat motioned approval, Shawn seconding.

Pat Peterson: The one question I have is, if... We're talking about putting on here. If we're looking into maybe moving the court out of White Hall, I suggest we table this until we decide if we're getting rid of the court. Then, we wouldn't have to do this.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: So, table till next month?

Pat Peterson: Or whenever we get definitive answer about, can we move the council, the court.

Roy McBride: We should have an answer by next month, shouldn't we?

Allissa Christensen: Yeah.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yeah.

Roy McBride: Let's hope.

Pat Peterson: So, if we table it till-

Allissa Christensen: Yeah, I forgot to ask Ed. I only will ask him on that one thing.

Roy McBride: Okay.

Linda Jung: Okay.

Pat Peterson: So, if we're getting rid of the court, then we don't have to put any extension on here for court purposes. And we can still let the library use that building.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay.

Liz Pullman : Can I interject real quick?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yes, Liz

Liz Pullman : Roy, to answer your question, you'll get... So, the next step of the sustainability committee for your rec board or your rec complex is everyone fills out the survey link. And Hannah and I tabulate your comments and suggestions on how to make the document better, and how to present it better for the next step. So, you're still about four to six weeks out.

Roy McBride: I think we're talking about a different one.

Liz Pullman : Before Gordon's School of the Sunlight even sees it.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Right.

Roy McBride: Okay.

Liz Pullman : It's an eight-week process.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Right.

Roy McBride: Then we're fine.

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Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Thank you, Liz.

Liz Pullman : Yep.

Pat motioned to table until the determination of what is happening with the court is made. Roy seconding.

Motion Carries Unanimously

Allissa Christensen: Maxine, did you have a comment about the court?

Maxine Samuelson: Oh, I was just confused about which town hall that wasn't identified. It wasn't this town hall or the other one.

Allissa Christensen: Gotcha. So, I can clear that up. So, the idea was-

Maxine Samuelson: I remember now.

Allissa Christensen: Oh, okay. Okay.

Maxine Samuelson: It sounded almost like there was going to be a breezeway or something between the old town hall and the library. And I wasn't certain about that.

Allissa Christensen: Gotcha. That, I don't know. I would leave that up to the library if this is successful. But the plans for this building already came with an extension, just like where the flag pole is and that grass.

Maxine Samuelson: Right. I remember.

Allissa Christensen: So, that was kind of the idea of court to move there so the library could have city court to expand, because they're bursting out the seams. So, that was the motivation behind it.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: And speaking of flags, thank you for pointing out that our flag was tattered. And that was a new flag, less than four weeks old. This White Hall wind is horrible, but we replaced it the very same day because I ordered a backup.

Maxine Samuelson: Awesome.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: So, that was taken care of.

Maxine Samuelson: That's what I have to do too, get two when I order them.

XII. UNSCHEDULED MATTERS

XIII. BILL/CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Shawn motioned approval, Pat Seconding.
Motion Carries Unanimously.**

XIV. ADJOURN

Shawn motioned adjournment, Roy Seconding.

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Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date