

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
February 8TH, 2021

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, February 8th, 2021.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Pat Peterson, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Bill Lanes, Logan Reiff, Mayor Mary Hensleigh and Treasurer Allissa Christensen.

VISITORS: Lori Young, Leonard Wortman, Alison Richardson, Liz Pullman, Brittney Martinez, Bridget & Dale Morse, Joe Granvold, and Kory Klapan.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. All Council Members were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Roy made motion to approve the Agenda with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pat motioned to approve the minutes with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: I would like to welcome everyone on this cold and snowy Monday. We have some new art work on the walls. It is photography by Cecilia Madden, she is 14 years old and I think she does a wonderful job. Our COVID-19 numbers for Jefferson County are 13 with no new reports as of today so we have 33 active. I had a call today so, for any seniors who need help with snow shoveling I have someone who will come and shovel your sidewalks for free so, call here to Town Hall in the morning and we will refer you.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report: No Report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Allissa: The State is working on getting me a full court system computer for court. I will have that training March 8th thru the 12th. I sent out all W2's and 1099's and Todd helped me with that. The taxes are paid. We had a phone conference on January 11th with everyone involved in the funding for the water treatment plant and that was long and painful. Morrison and Maierle fixed our computers several times. I set up some online accounts to simplify paying bills. Todd has helped me a few times with closing up the end of the year stuff and he is in contact with our auditor to see how long it will take to get an audit done. If it takes her to long, he will start the AFR. We have worked on claims and revenue and we are almost all cleaned up. We organized files down at the jail and did DMR's with Kory. Utility Billing has required some attention the last few weeks but I think Brittney and I have worked out the problems. Late notices were sent out.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: I will start off with Cemetery. We got 10 more graves filled, we ordered another truck of black dirt. And we had 2 funerals. Streets, we did get some pot holes filled with millings last week. I did call the state they are going to re mill legion street so I got on the list for those millings. We will probably get those the summer after this one coming. We took water samples the 4th of February. I ended up taking a whole bunch of samples for the water treatment plant and that's going to be for the next 4 months. Lagoon levels are 4.5, 6.5, 2.5. Last year, I took a look and we were 4.5 on 1, 9 on 2, and 5 on 3 this time last year. Jetting we did finish all of the North side except for about 3 blocks of Second Street ally. The sewer line on Sugar beet Road plugged again so, Leonard and I will be talking about how to fix that. We cleaned up the shop a lot, we moved the garbage cans to the Rec Complex we built a yard over there behind the soft ball field. Mowers, we got the oils changed in the John Deer and got new blades and a clutch on it, same thing with the Kabota I ordered a bunch of stuff for it. Water re-reads we had 14, locate tickets, we had 9 and we plowed and sanded 9 times and 3 of those times were call outs.

Fire Chief's Report:

Joe: We have had 3 rural grass fires, 9 wrecks on the interstate, 1 structure fire, 1 chimney fire, 1 vehicle fire, 1 wreck in town, and 1 structure fire. I want to remind everyone about the move over law in Montana, if you see the lights on any road way please move over. The AFV FEMA grants I am still submitting papers on that and hopefully it will be done this week and submitted and then we should know probably within the next three months if we are going to get anything from it or not. The member

s who got the COVID-19 shot have gotten their second shot and I think we had 5 members of the department that got them. We started fire fighter 1 training last Thursday in butte, it got canceled this Saturday because of the weather but this will be an ongoing 4-month process. I still want to touch base with you all again about if there is any extra money in the budget to move it over to a capitol account for the fire department. I have a new audit thru the state of Montana and this is going pretty much be an insurance audit. The water supply part I gave to Kory and he is taking care of that part for me. There is a lot of parts to the audit we are lacking in some spots and not in others but the last audit we had we did go from a 7 to a 5 which is good. I am going to try to keep that up but I will need the town and the councils help to keep our budgets where they need to be. Please make sure to clean out your chimneys to prevent fires.

Sherriff's report:

No report.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Lori: See minutes in packet.

Recreational Complex Board:

No meeting.

Pool Board:

No meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

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

Katy: We met on February 1st at 8:30 am and all were present. Kory reported all the other information on the water treatment plant. We are working on the grant for curb stop locates. Considering the future budget, Kory would like some council input on this. He reported that the audit is being worked on as previously reported. There were 5 bills adjusted. 2 addresses charged a \$30.00 over flow garbage pickup fee. Streets ally's and sidewalks, all members were present. Yellowstone new subdivision. It is approximately 3 years for the road. Yes, we can use the unused grant money for other projects and we still have our 5% match.

T.I.F.F.:

Bridget: The T.I.F.F board met on January 18th. We are doing pretty good all our projects are about done. The wind hurt a bunch of our new banners so, we will have to figure out what to do about that. The bike park should get started before school lets out. We had a small presentation about doing a master plan we passed to put it back to the town council; and that we would put \$20,000 towards that and JLDC is doing a match of \$1600.00.

CTAC:

Alison: We met on January 14th over a zoom meeting. Our GSM operations we are happy to report no reportable injury's for December. They are following strict COVID-19 protocol and they have no active cases at this time. The mill building concrete project is in progress at this time. They are working on a second crusher storage facility and they are also working on a trucking contract. A mining contract will be finalized in February. They currently have 17 full time workers and 25 contractors on site. The water infrastructure is complete. There have been no reportable spills. They just did 198 acres planted and seeded them. JLDC update. We are working on a big sky trust fund. We are working on several projects for a master plan for the town. Also, a greenhouse operation here in Cardwell. We submitted an application on main street for the star theater for an architect report. Our meet processing plant is being finalized. Our Christmas stroll was changed to a vender pop up and that went well. I want to thank all who helped out with the event including TSS and North West energy. Masks for county employees is still on going. Pipestone creek construction has started.

VII. Public Comment:

Leonard Wortman County Commissioner: We selected a building for the location of the Western Legacy Center. It will probably be sometime next spring before it is up and operational. The JLDC will vote next week on if they will go ahead with this if so, it will all run thru them and they will partner with the Montana pro rodeo hall of fame. We have a lot of plans in the works for this that we will hopefully have some decisions on soon. Our road supervisor is going to be working with Kory on coming up with some kind of agreement on being able to utilize each other's equipment. We are looking for some input from this area and boulder as well on two vacant buildings in bad shape in boulder on what to possibly do with them.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board: See minutes in Council Pack.

Business License

Nichols excavating at the whitetail RV park. /Approved

Keith Forton for signs inc. / Approved

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Erick Sidensticker phone presentation on the master plan for the Town and what the \$20,000 would do. See Video.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**X. Unfinished Business**

None.

XI. New Business:

- A. Council discussion and determination to promote Brittney Martinez to the Deputy Clerk position and pay retroactive January 4th 2021. Roy moves to discuss and Logan seconded.

Katy: Brittney is still under probation is that correct?

Mayor: Correct

Katy: If she gets promoted to this position dose probation start over or just continue?

Mayor: Continues.

Katy: Ok and we did post for her when she got hired right?

Mayor: Yes

Katy: Don't we have to post the Deputy Clerk position before we can hire?

Mayor: No

Katy: Because she is already on board?

Mayor: Right, I checked in to that.

Katy: Ok so then would we be posting for her position that she will be vacating?

Mayor: I was going to wait to advertise for the Billing Clerk position till the bigging of the next physical year July 1st just to save money. Both Allissa and Brittney say they have things under control so maybe we will not need a Billing Clerk but it will give us a few months to see how smoothly things go. They have really stepped up and done an excellent job and it would save the budget some money.

MOTION PASSED UNANAMOUSLY

- B. Council discussion and determination of budget amendment for the T.I.F.F to match \$ 20.000 for T.I.F.F District Master Plan.

Shown motioned to discuss with Logan seconding it.

Shawn: To follow what Allissa said we are looking at matching \$20.000 which would be the Towns check to basically get an itemized to-do list. Essentially, it is pure exploratory funds.

Alison: This will provide a lot more guidance and direction as we utilize the funds going forward to ensure that the Town priorities are met. So, it is for the benefit of the Town. Any plan we worked on from that would be funds back into the T.I.F.F.

Mayor: Correct me if I am wrong Alison but, won't that help with getting future grants?

Alison: Yes.

Shawn: So, our chances of getting future grants will go up because we have this plan.

Roy: So, it is my understanding that all money in the T.I.F.F district has to be used in that district or am I wrong?

Alison: So, it is in those boundaries but if we can show benefit then we could maybe go outside of it.

Roy: So, I know Kory and I have talked about getting a T A grant will this master plan work for that grant?

Kory: So, I can answer that. So, from what I found if it is not in that district it would not count as a master plan. As far as points go towards the grant if it is outside that district it would not help us. The side walk projects we have 1 of them is in that district the others are not.

Roy: So, we could still apply for that grant and use that money outside that district, though right?

Kory: Our engineer did say that he could take their master plan and put it in one that adds the rest of the town to it for a fee.

Roy: Ok.

Lori: So, I have talked with the County Planner and the first thing she asks is what does your master plan look like? Well, we don't have one so for our growth policies and boundary mapping I think this is a stepping stone to getting that accomplished.

Joe: I second the master plan.

Shawn: But that is still \$20,000 we have to pay.

Roy: It comes out of the T.I.F.F money not the Town money.

Shawn: So, will we have some final input on what would go on it?

Alison: Yes, it would be some input from the community and the council as well.

THE MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

C. Council discussion and determination of BARSAA resolution 2021-1

Logan motioned to approve with Roy seconding.

MOTION PASSED UNANAMOUSLY

D. Council discussion and determination on adding black mountain software cloud hosting.

Pat moved to discuss with Logan seconding.

See Packet.

Pat motioned to table with Roy seconding.

MOTION TABLED

E. Council discussion and determination on adding direct deposit for employees.

MOTION FAILED

F. Council discussion and determination on allowing the Mayor to give consent on temporary Business License until the planning board can approve them at their monthly meeting.

Logan motioned to approve with Roy seconding.

MOTION PASSED UNANAMOUSLY

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

Roy made a motion to approve the bill claim approval list with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Shawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date