

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
September 2, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Elks Lodge & Zoom Meeting

Council Present: Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Amy Grice, Jon Osborn, Kacey Smart

Staff Present: Nancy Stewart and Timber Baceski Clerk/Treasurer, Robert Erdall PWO, Eric Barsness HPO

Public Present: Kevin Thurs, Scott Petersen, Ken Shields, Bill Moore, Gay Rossow, and Angela Mueller

1) Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Justin Gatewood, Mayor

2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:

a) Amy Grice spoke about the Planning Board. She asked, on behalf of the Board, if big land owners such as Baitis and Bowling should be invited to the Planning Board meetings. It was also asked if the Town had the ability to extend city limits by one mile. Councilmember Grice noted that the next Planning Board meeting is on September 15th.

b) Mayor Gatewood reported that there are six new cases of COVID-19 in Virginia City. There will be another vaccination clinic on September 10th from 12:00-6:00 pm; this clinic will include vaccination for shingles, pneumonia, Tdap, flu, and COVID, as well as booster shots for COVID. .

c) Mayor Gatewood noted that our Resort Tax revenue for July 2021 is up 13% compared to July 2019, and up 60% compared to July of 2020.

3) Public Comment:

Bill Moore informed the Council that Richard Zimmer hadn't upheld the agreement that was made at the last Council Meeting to remove vehicles from Mr. Zimmer's property. Mayor Gatewood spoke with Bill Moore and Richard Zimmer; Mr. Zimmer agreed to move the vehicles; he noted that he had already moved two of them and that the tow truck broke down in front of Mr. Moore's house when trying to remove additional vehicles.

4) Clerks Report:

a) The ballot for November's election has been finalized; it now says "VOTE FOR UP TO THREE" instead of "VOTE FOR THREE".

5) HPO Report:

a) Chuck Sturgill has submitted a re-application for a Development Permit to build a 12x12 shed since the original application had expired.

b) Walker VanWagoner has submitted an application for a Site/Zoning Permit to build a 20x36 shed.

c) Gay Rossow gave HPO Barsness pictures of a potential shield for the electric car charger.

d) Annie Jorgensen and Jack McCormick will have their property surveyed this week prior to submitting a Site/Zoning Permit.

6) HPAC Report:

Nothing to report.

7) New Business:

a) Conditional Use Permit – Hamilton Stonehouse B&B

Kevin Thurs addressed the Council regarding the Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Thurs will be purchasing the Stonehouse B&B; he currently runs the Bitterroot River B&B in Stevensville, Montana. Mr. Thurs informed the Council that the Stonehouse would be open year-round, 24/7, and that parking would operate as it did in years prior, with three parking spaces on East Idaho Street and additional parking at the rear of the building.

MOTION: To accept Hamilton’s Conditional Use Permit for the Stonehouse B&B, with the caveat that the blanks of the application are added to the Site/Zoning Permit as discussed. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Kacey Smart, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

b) Budget Review: The Council began looking through the preliminary budget and making revisions. There will be a special Council Meeting on Thursday, September 16th to make further revisions and finalize the budget.

8) Public Works Report:

a) Montana Rural Water Systems (MRWS) tested our pond sludge for the first time; sludge levels look good and are estimated to stay that way for roughly ten years.

b) PWO Erdall reported that water will be turned off for the cemetery and the ball park soon.

c) PWO Erdall will be gone for two weeks, from the 12th to the 26th of September.

d) Alex Winn’s water meter needs to be fixed. PWO Erdall will give Mr. Winn a deadline to dig it up; if the deadline passes with no progress, the Town will step in to dig up the meter and charge Mr. Winn accordingly.

9) Consent Agenda:

a) Minutes from August 5th, 2021, Council meeting:

MOTION: To approve the July 1st minutes as amended. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Kacey Smart, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

b) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments and Checks August 2021:

MOTION: To approve the July Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments and Checks. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Amy Grice. The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Kacey Smart, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

10) Public Comment:

a) Mayor Gatewood spoke with NorthWestern Energy regarding streetlights that need additional shielding. The streetlight in the alley between Hamilton and Crittenden will be shielded as soon as NorthWestern Energy has procured the side shields.

b) Scott Petersen asked the Council about a property he is appraising. Mr. Petersen wanted to know if a rebuilding permit would be given in the event of the current building being destroyed (by a fire, for example), given that the building is on one lot and current regulations prohibit building on one lot. Mayor Gatewood will ask the City Attorney for guidance.

11) Adjournment:

MOTION: To Adjourn. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called: Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Timber Baceski
Clerk Treasurer