

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2021 7:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Zoom Video & Telephone Meeting

Council Present On-line: Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, Dave Bacon, Amy Grice, Erin Leonard

Staff Present On-line: Nancy Stewart Clerk/Treasurer, Robert Erdall PWO, Jim Jarvis HPO

Public Present On-line: Laurie Hansen, Tanya Engle, Elijah Allen, Alex Hogle, Pat Jacobs, Marc Jacobs

1) Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Justin Gatewood, Mayor

2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:

a) Dave Bacon stated that John Hamilton passed away. Mr. Hamilton served on a lot of boards and committees in Virginia City. Condolences to his family.

b) Mayor Gatewood stated that VC Fire Department personnel would start receiving the COVID vaccine on Monday January 11th. Thank you to Ruby Valley Hospital for making this possible.

c) Mayor Gatewood has been attending Madison County Commissioner meetings quite regularly. Madison County Commissioner Ron Nye stated that the County has not forgotten the canopies for the Annex. Mr. Nye is working with Think One Architects to get this done.

d) Mayor Gatewood spoke about the riots at the US Capitol Building on January 6, 2021 and how disappointed he was in two Montana elected officials, Senator Daines and US Congressman Matt Rosendale, for their role in the political stunt that helped spark the riots.

3) Clerk's Report:

a) Black Mountain Software Cloud trial period is nearing an end. The Clerk stated the benefits to keeping this program, such as nightly backups, critical updates, remote access, and security features. The Council decided to remain on the Cloud for an annual fee.

b) The 2021 Council Meeting Schedule was given to the Council members.

4) Public Comment:

a) Laurie Hansen likes the virtual council meetings.

b) Elijah Allen commented on virtual meetings, stating that the Montana Legislature and Montana Heritage Commission both use the Zoom app.

c) Tanya Engle, manager of the Elk's, offered the Lodge for Council Meetings. Also, the Elk's will be open on Sunday's starting on January 17th for brunch and bingo.

5) **New Business:**

a) Resolution 2021-01 – Interlocal Agreement with Madison County:

Alex Hogle, the Madison County Planning Director, spoke of the benefits of having an interlocal agreement between Virginia City and Madison County. Virginia City is the only municipality in Madison County who does not currently have such an agreement in place. The Madison County Planning Board would coordinate with Virginia City on boundary line adjustments within the town, exemption reviews, subdivision rules, etc., and provide a recommendation to the Virginia City Planning Board and Virginia City Town Council.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2021-01 an Interlocal Agreement with Madison County as presented. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Erin Leonard. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Amy Grice, and Jon Osborn in favor. None opposed.**

b) Montana Heritage Commission Report:

Elijah Allen reported on updates to the Concessionaires for the summer season. The Bale of Hay Saloon will have new managers this coming season. Skip and Jody Hissong and Kacy Doornbos have signed a 20-year lease. Allyson Adams is the new owner of the Montana Picture Gallery and has signed a lease with MHC. Also, the Star Restaurant in Nevada City will have new managers.

Mr. Allen also talked about what is going on at the State Legislature. Mr. Allen said that right now there are 3,000 + bills in play at the legislative level. It would be great if some of the locals could get on the Tourism Advisory Board.

c) Culvert at the Daems & Corbett House:

MOTION: To approve putting in a 30-foot culvert in the ditch in front of the house. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Amy Grice, and Jon Osborn in favor. None opposed.**

6) **HPO Report:**

None

7) **HPAC Report:**

a) Sign Permit – Road Agent’s Roost Flag:

MOTION: To approve the permit for a 3x5 open flag in the off season between September 15th – May 15th. Motion made by Erin Leonard; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Jon Osborn and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

8) **Old Business:**

a) Parking Lot Design – Tourism Grant:

Mayor Gatewood talked with Michele Cushman from DOC Tourism Grant Office. Ms. Cushman stated that March 19, 2021 was the deadline for completing the parking lot project. Mayor Gatewood asked the Tourism Grant Office for an extension as the parking lot purchase was not completed until December 29, 2020. If the Town does not get the extension, we will have to start with extending the boardwalk on the main street side of the parking lot and grading improvements to the lot. Mayor Gatewood was told by Ms. Cushman that the decision would be made soon as to whether the extension was granted.

b) Streetlights:

Northwestern Energy is replacing the sodium vapor streetlights with LED lights. The Town would like to see Wallace Street lights replaced with old-fashioned Lexington lights on 8-foot poles, pending cost and availability. The homeowners on Idaho Street would like to see lights different than the standard Cobrahead lights on that street. The Council will give these people one month to get a plan together to explore alternative streetlights on Idaho Street. **MOTION: To ask Northwestern Energy to put the**

required LED cobrahead lights with shields on all sides everywhere except on Wallace Street and Idaho Street. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Erin Leonard. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Amy Grice, and Jon Osborn in favor. None opposed.

Elijah Allen, Montana Heritage Commission, stated the Heritage Commission would donate \$15,000 to help with the cost of Wallace Street light improvement efforts and/or the Central Parking Lot improvement project, if it was invoiced to MHC prior to July 1, 2021.

c) HPO Contract:

MOTION: To approve Jim Jarvis HPO Contract for 6 months with Sheri Jarvis assisting with field work. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Amy Grice, and Jon Osborn in favor. None opposed.

9) Public Works:

None

10) Consent Agenda:

a) Minutes for Council Meeting November 5, 2020:

MOTION: To approve the minutes from November 5, 2020. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, and Amy Grice in favor.

b) Accounts Payable, Receivable and Adjustments, November 2020:

MOTION: To accept the accounts payable, receivable and adjustments for November 2020. Motion made by Erin Leonard; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard, Dave Bacon and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

c) Accounts Payable, Receivable and Adjustments, December 2020:

MOTION: To accept the accounts payable, receivable and adjustments for December 2020. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard, Dave Bacon and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

11) Public Comment:

Elijah Allen will be in Helena off and on for the next three months. Kate Steeley will be in charge at MHC.

12) Adjournment:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Nancy Stewart
Clerk Treasurer