

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
July 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Elks Lodge & Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Present: Nancy Stewart Clerk/Treasurer, Robert Erdall PWO

Public Present: Tanya Engle, Toni James, Gay Rossow, Kay Rossow, Chris Leonard, Scott Petersen, Angela Mueller

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) Councilman Bacon stated that there was a Planning Board meeting last week. The Planning Board will talk to Alex Hogle, who is the Madison County Planner, regarding someone to help with the Virginia City Growth Policy.
- b) Madison County Commissioners have placed a County wide ban on fires.
- c) Amy Grice stated that this is the perfect time to spray weeds. The property owner needs to take care of the weeds up to the center line of public roads.
- d) Mayor Gatewood stated that the vaccination clinic in the Town parking lot went well with 15 participants, including 13 children between 12-17 years old. The next clinic will be held on July 17th.
- e) The Town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) application is 90% completed. Virginia City will ask Madison County Commissioners for \$400,000 from their ARPA allocation at their County Commissioner meeting on July 6th.
- f) The Town needs to re-engage the LaFever's on getting the Stonewall Hall stabilized.
- g) There are three Town Council seats coming up for election on November 2nd. Six people have filed for those seats.

3) Public Comment:

- a) Gay Rossow presented the Council with a petition signed by 11 people wanting something more historic covering the EV station. The Mayor reminded Ms. Rossow and the public that the EV station design had been approved by HPAC and the Council. The Council will look in to it.
- b) Gay Rossow would like to know when the Town will hire a new clerk. The Council will conduct applicant interviews in mid-July with the plan of hiring a new clerk by August 1st, at the latest.

4) Clerks Report:

a) The Resort Tax is up almost 85% in May 2021 versus May 2020.

b) The Central Park benches and picnic tables have been ordered and will take 10-15 weeks to arrive.

5) HPO Report:

None

6) HPAC Report:

a) **Peck Site/Zoning Permit – House**

MOTION: To accept Peck’s Site/Zoning Permit for their new house in Block 30, Lots 1-3 & 10-12. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

b) **Central Park Signs:**

1. **“Entrance Only” sign on archway posts:**

MOTION: To accept the “Entrance Only” sign with the caveat that it can be up to 24” wide and the final design is approved by the Mayor. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Erin Leonard. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

2. **“Exit Only” sign:**

MOTION: To change the sign to say “Please Do Not Block Driveway”. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

3. **Interpretive Signs:**

MOTION: To postpone until the August Council meeting. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

7) New Business:

a) **Dust Abatement:**

Jon Osborn led a discussion on dust abatement on town roads. Osborn stated that there are a lot more options other than magnesium chloride. Organic options are available, like crop-based beet juice. The town needs to look at the affordability of dust abatement. In the meantime, additional speed bumps to slow people down are a consideration.

b) **Hiring of a New Historic Preservation Officer:**

HPO Jim Jarvis’ last day was June 30, 2021. The Mayor and Council thanked Jim for his great work over the past few years. Eric Barsness will take over as the new Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. Barsness will be under contract.

8) Public Works Report:

a) New fans have been put in the Community Center bathrooms.

b) PWO Erdall has been pulling weeds.

9) Consent Agenda:

a) Minutes from June 3, 2021 Council meeting:

MOTION: To approve the June 3rd minutes as amended. Motion made by Dave Bacon; Seconded by Jon Osborn. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

b) Minutes from June 17, 2021 Council meeting:

MOTION: To approve the June 17th minutes as amended. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Jon Osborn, Erin Leonard and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

c) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments and Checks June 2021:

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

10) Public Comment:

a) Scott Petersen wanted to know if Peck's will be using Fairweather Street to access their home, and if so it will need to be fixed.

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 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Nancy Stewart
Clerk Treasurer