

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
September 3, 2020 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 Contract HPO

Public Present On-line: Kelly Rasmussen, Laurie Hansen, Pat Jacobs, Mike Perry

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) Amy Grice stated that Discovery Park has been chained off and a sign posted. Grice said it was sad that the Town's people had to pay to use the park. This is worth mentioning at the upcoming Montana Heritage Commission meeting.
- b) The Shiners' event at Discovery Park was well attended.
- c) Mayor Gatewood said that a huge black bear was caught on camera at the camp ground.
- d) Bear proof trash cans are still available. A donation to help pay for these is appreciated.
- e) There will be a fall fruit gathering set up by Kim Johnston, if anyone is interested.
- f) Court Street has been graded and leveled for delivery truck parking.
- g) Mayor Gatewood applauded all the businesses in town for their hard work and diligence during the COVID pandemic. Masks and sanitizer are still available at the Town Office.

3) Clerk's Report:

- a) The Resort Tax is down about 40% through July.
- b) The Clerk asked if the Demolition Permit for Stacy Gordon could be transferred to the new owners, Lance Otto and Mary Stacci. Council approved the transfer.

4) Public Comment:

- a) Laurie Hansen stated that she and her husband had bought the Tom Bivins house in the campground.

5) New Business:

a) Rasmussen Alley Closure:

Mr. Rasmussen has accomplished the first part of the alley closure. PW Erdall stated that there was no problem with utilities being in the alley and will provide an impact report. The notice will be placed in the local paper for two weeks. Mayor Gatewood talked to the adjoining landowner, who has no problem with the closure and will provide a letter stating so. Mr. Rasmussen will file to have the property put into one lot and a Resolution regarding the alley closure will be voted on at the meeting on October 1, 2020.

b) Auditor Contract – Denning, Downey & Associates:

MOTION: To approve the contract with Denning, Downey & Associates. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **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.

c) Budget FY 20-21

The preliminary budget for FY20-21 was given to the Council. The council will have a work session on September 17, 2020.

6) HPO Report:

a) Montana Heritage Commission is having a meeting on September 4th. One of the topics will be the Stonewall Hall.

b) Mr. Jarvis asked about the streetlights and when they would be replaced. PW Erdall is working with North Western Energy on this. The Town might start out with some test lights to see how they do with Dark Sky. PW Erdall will also get a map from NW Energy of all the street lights in town.

7) HPAC Report:

a) Development Permit – Masonic Lodge Fire Escape:

MOTION: To approve the fire escape as long as it is up to Fire Code. Motion made by Dave Bacon; 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.

b) Development Permit – Branstetter Patio Roof:

MOTION: To approve Patio Roof subject to an encroachment permit for the retaining wall, patio and roof, as they are encroaching on Town Property. Also, a fine of \$100 as the roof was put up without a permit. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **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.

c) Site/Zoning Permit – Perry Studio:

MOTION: To deny the Perry studio as the square footage exceeds Town Code. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Erin Leonard. **The question was called.** The motion to deny passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Dave Bacon, Erin Leonard, Amy Grice, and Jon Osborn in favor. None opposed.

8) Old Business:

a) Speed Bumps:

Discussion on what streets in Town might need speed bumps. The Council will revisit this in the spring.

b) “Not a Through Street” Sign for Jackson and S Broadway:

Council will revisit the signage in the spring.

c) Follow-up Bale of Hay Pavilion:

The Council would like to see kerosene lantern style lights with soft lighting at the Bale of Hay Saloon Pavilion. **MOTION: To approve the kerosene lantern style lighting with soft lighting.** 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.

9) Public Works:

- a) Public Works has been busy looking at sewer lines with a sewer camera and cleaning sewer between Virginia City and Nevada City.
- b) Van Buren Street culvert is too small. PW Erdall will put together a letter to the home owners on that street stating that they should put in a culvert that is 8 inches or greater.
- c) PW Erdall stated that they need a new metal detector that would cost \$500+. The Council approved the purchase.
- d) Madison Street needs a bigger culvert. Erdall would like to see a 12 inch culvert put in.
- e) PW Erdall is going to price skid steer attachments for ditch cleaning.
- f) Episcopal Church sidewalk/ditch issue will be handled in the fall when the roads are graded.

10) Consent Agenda:

a) Minutes for Council Meeting August 6, 2020:

MOTION: To approve the minutes from August 6, 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, August 2020:

MOTION: To accept the accounts payable, receivable and adjustments for August 2020. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; 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:

- a) Kelly Rasmussen brought up fines and complacency. Mayor Gatewood stated that the town needs to revisit the fining process.

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 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Nancy Stewart
Clerk Treasurer