

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**  
**TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA**  
**Elk's Lodge**

**Council Present:** Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, Amy Grice, Kacey Smart, Greg Jorczyk

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Timber Pruett Clerk/Treasurer, Eric Barsness HPO

**Absent:** Shane Leach PWD

**Public Present:** Don Mefford, David Madison

**1) Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Justin Gatewood, Mayor

**2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:**

a) Councilmember Amy Grice has submitted an application to the Madison County Commissioners to be on the Madison County Housing Advisory Board.

b) Mayor Gatewood mentioned that there was a notice in the Madisonian to inform the public that the Madison County Courthouse would be open for twelve days at the end of August, which fulfills Madison County's contractual obligation to have the Courthouse open for a minimum of twelve days per year. Mayor Gatewood questioned how the building could be safe for the public but unsafe for County employees. Mayor Gatewood added that recycling has been cancelled county-wide.

c) Mayor Gatewood informed the public that the Big Sky Wellness Group has filed a lawsuit against Madison County in hopes of separating from the Madison County Hospital District, which would have major ramifications if successful. This lawsuit would likely be followed by Big Sky seceding from the Madison County School District, and possibly withdrawing from Madison County as a whole.

d) Mayor Gatewood noted that the Local Government Review process has begun, and applications to appear on the ballot for the Local Government Review Committees are closed. There are twelve applicants for Madison County and six for the Town of Virginia City.

**3) Public Comments**

None.

#### 4) New Business:

a) Resolution 2024-04 Authorizing the Submission of an MCEP Infrastructure Planning Grant Application for a Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Update

i) This resolution and Planning Grant were discussed at the August 8, 2024 meeting. Public Works has agreed that the Town should focus on obtaining a new wastewater PER. An updated PER would put the Town higher on the list for funding opportunities.

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 2024-04 Authorizing the Submission of an MCEP Infrastructure Planning Grant Application for a Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Update. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, Kacey Smart, Greg Jorczyk, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

#### 5) Old Business:

a) Development Permit Application – Campbell (Fence)

i) This application has been amended to request a wood picket fence, as was suggested at the last Town Council meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the Development Permit Application – Campbell (Fence) as presented with the new materials. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, Kacey Smart, Greg Jorczyk, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

b) Site/Zoning Permit Application – Belding (Studio)

i) The application was deemed incomplete at the last meeting, resulting in the application being tabled. The missing information has been provided for this meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the Site/Zoning Permit Application Belding (Studio). Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, Kacey Smart, Greg Jorczyk, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

#### 6) Public Comment:

a) Don Mefford, Fire Chief, reminded the public that the Virginia City Rural Fire Department will be hosting the annual Save Our Buildings (SOB) fundraiser on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Bale of Hay. There will be a silent auction. The Montana Heritage Commission will not be matching the funds raised at this event this year.

#### 7) Adjournment

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

**Respectfully submitted and attested,**

**Justin Gatewood**  
Mayor

**Timber Pruett**  
Clerk Treasurer