Bicknell Town Council Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2024, 7:00 PM

1. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL

Mayor Noreen Johnson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Gregg Anderson, Weston Johnson, and Steve Albrecht. Others present were Carrie Brinkerhoff, Kelsey Brinkerhoff, Scott Woolsey, Brennan Rees, Deann Fraiser, Andy Taft, and Jim Dudelston. Kerry Stevens was absent. Councilman Weston Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS

Town Clerk, Kelsey Brinkerhoff, swore in Steve Albrecht for a 4-year town council and Gregg Anderson for 4-year town council.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the town council meeting on December 7, 2023, were reviewed. Mayor Johnson asked if the council had any corrections. The council did not have any corrections. Steve motioned to approve the December 7, 2023, minutes, and Weston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Council members voting yes: Johnson, Anderson, Johnson, and Albrecht. The vote was unanimous—motion carriers.

1. BUSINESS

**Public Comment-** There were no public comments tonight.

**Andy Taft-** Andy has some concerns about the flood plan. He is representing sand wash irrigation company looking at the map he encourages the council not to put the floodwater into the pond. The overflow ditch is gone or not big enough to handle that much. He also questioned where the water would go once it got to the field down 1st West. Since our engineer Brennan was there, the mayor asked him to help explain. Brennan explained that this was a very early plan, and something would need to change. The mayor explained that the responses we got back from the survey most do not want this project. Andy thanked the council and excused himself.

**Planning & Zoning Report-** The planning commission met on Tuesday, January 2nd, and everyone But Jacee and Rhett was in attendance. Brock was at their meeting, and they started working on the subdivision ordinance. Jim explained the new process of streamlining the ordinance. The ordinance needs to be perfect before it gets passed. Bicknell has a grant for $14,000 to get help writing the new ordinance. The council has looked at a few different towns and will be working on this very diligently. The planning and zoning are working on the general plan goals. They also made a motion to change their monthly meeting to the third Tuesday of the month. They feel like that will be better for everyone.

**FEMB Bric grant-** Steve asked why we couldn’t use the leftover money from the well project for our part of the FEMA grant. Brennan explained if we were to save the extra money from the well project and wait to see if we get the FEMA grant, we could lose that money because FEMA is tough and time-consuming, and very competitive, he doesn’t believe we could get it done and use the fans by the end of the year. Weston thought we should put the extra money into the water system. Maybe take the pipe that was just replaced higher or replace the current smaller lines with bigger lines. They discussed the survey that went out. There were mixed opinions about it. Brennan hopes something is coming to get more money for flooding easier. The mayor asked the council if they wanted to move forward with the FEMA Grant or back out. After some discussion, Weston made a motion to stop moving forward on the BRIC Grant and Gregg seconded. There was a roll-call vote where Johnson, Anderson, Albrecht, and Johnson all voted yes. Motion approved.

**Goals for General Plan-** Mayor Johnson explained the goals in the general plan need to be worked on and some taken off. The council will work on this at January’s work meeting.

**Miscellaneous-** Brennan with Ensign Engineering was at the meeting so the council asked him for an update on the well drilling. The well is drilled, below 600 feet there’s nothing there so they will fill it back up to 600 feet and then board it out because we’re not going so deep, they can upgrade the casing and the well size. There will be options to go from 200 feet to 600 feet to get water. Ensign is in communication with Garkane. Come on we will need three face power. The estimate from Garkane is about 300,000. The next step is to bid out the building the pump, and the infrastructure for that. Brennan estimates costing around 900,000 but nothing is sure. Steve wanted Brennan to mention to Gane that they have in the past given Townes a discount. Mayor Johnson has talked with Gane and does not think they will do it for any less or give us a discount.  There is potentially going to be $400-$500,000 left but it will need to be spent by December 31 of this year.  If it was not spent by then we wouldn’t lose it. There was some discussion about the water infrastructure needs and wants. Brennan thought that they could change the scope of work and maybe use extra money to improve the current water system. Everyone thought it was a great idea.

MEMBER REPORTS

**Mayor Johnson-** The Mayor reported that the snowblower for Scott came and is ready to go. The broken headgate that was broken due to the wreck has been paid out from the person's insurance company. The mayor asked Clayton if he would fix it and he said he would. Scott will talk to him and make sure he still will. Mayor/Commissioner meeting is on Monday, January 8th at 6:30, everyone’s invited.

**Weston-** Weston did a chlorine report. Also, the backhoe is broken will work on fixing it.

**Steve-**. Steve told Scott that there are limbs at the cemetery and, Scott will get them tomorrow. Also, there was a trail meeting earlier that day and from the open house, it looked like the 1st priority is a paved trail about town and a pump track. Hopefully, the county would lease some ground for a pump track so we wouldn’t need to do NEPA studies first. The mayor will go to the commissioners and ask them, but she didn’t think they would. Steve said the applications are due January 16th, so things need to get going soon.

**Carrie-** Carrie was happy to announce the town got $2,400 of highway tax & energy tax this month we passed this earlier in the year.

**Scott-** The mountain springs are producing 44 gallons a minute. The new tank is full but still has residue in it he will work on that this month. Scott has been gone quite a lot so doesn’t have much to report.

**Financial-** A list of bills was presented to the council for payment approval. Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Weston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Council members voting yes: Albrecht, Johnson, Anderson, and Johnson. The vote was unanimous—motion carriers.

 CLOSED SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT

Since there were no other items on the agenda, at 8:20, the council went into a closed session as permitted by Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-205(1)(a), where the council discussed personal issues.

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