

## City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on August 1, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Ron Coleman  
Lee Blanchard  
Pattie Berg-- Absent  
Rick Ellison

### A. Call Meeting to Order

### B. Roll Call

### C. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

### D. Public Comment:

Public comment will be accepted on public matters not listed on this agenda and are within the jurisdiction of the City Council and having a significant interest to the public. During a regular session, there will be time after each agenda item for comment about that item.

1. Step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record.
2. Please limit your comments to THREE (3) minutes.

Carrie Sibley (411 E Larime) representing herself and numerous individuals, City Ordinance and Resolution does not address the previous culverts and city right ways that were put in 50-60 years ago by landowners with City's permission should be the City's responsibility. Carrie heard that the City was going to bring Engineers in to remove the culverts. Carrie feels that Engineers should make sure that there is no water damage further down the road before culverts are removed. The next concern is signage within the City, the Stop sign behind Town Pump hit last year laid in snow for 3 months, ruined with rust. Not proper etiquette. No dumping of snow sign, laid in snow for long time till a resident picked up. The City put up a wood sign instead of putting up the original metal sign. The Stop sign at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Washington Street was hit laid in ditch for long time, sign was put back up, but the post was not straight. The sign at Washington Street moved to Larmie Street was backwards and not level thought someone from City would be back to fix but did not. City cones, 2021 water break between alley Monroe and Larime Street was flooded with water, son Charlie's vehicle (407 E. Larime) was sinking down a sink hole, sink holes in the area asked for gravel to fix, 1 load of dirt and 1 load of gravel. Carrie and Charlie bought gravel and dirt to fix. Asked for signs or cones for the area but have been denied by Mayor, Mayor stated he was never asked about this by anyone. Mayor advised complaints need to be brought to clerks at City Hall to be relayed to the appropriate people, not to Rocky.

### E. Read & Approve - Accept or Reject Minutes

1. May 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and Work Session  
*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*  
Lee Blanchard made a motion to Accept Minutes, Ron Coleman seconded.
2. June 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Regular Session  
*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*  
Rick Ellison made a motion to Accept Minutes, Lee Blanchard seconded.
3. June 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Session  
*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*  
Lee Blanchard motioned to Accept Minutes, Ron Coleman seconded.
4. July 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session  
*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*  
Minutes not ready for approval
5. July 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and Work Session  
*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*  
Minutes not ready for approval

## **F. Receive/Accept Reports**

1. Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

None to report

2. City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

Review report, 16 new cases, 9 closed, 1 citation out of town person rest were locals

3. Fire Department Report - City Fire Chief Sam Peeler

None to report

4. City Engineer's Report - Great West Engineering

Craig, wrapping up phase 3 TSEP Grant, Mayor has talked to Terry regarding O&M and the as built will get this to us.

5. Public Work's Report - City Public Works Supervisor Rocky Vinton

Matt gave a report: fixing potholes, cleaning out culverts and have been digging up sewer lines. Manhole by church is made of brick, will need to have Great West come out to look at this to design a new manhole to fit. Manhole was filled in with millings and has not moved since.

6. Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

None to report

7. Parks Committee Report – Jennifer Frazer

None to report

8. Meagher County/City Housing Project Report – Jackson Rose

Terry Taylor reporting, Housing committee had 4 meetings throughout the winter last one was in May.

Working on putting together a report on what they are going to do for short-term and long-term housing.

Terry gave a handout to everyone with a general timeline of the next steps. County/City/ Schools were to

split funds but has not committed to this. Mayor and Council Members received an email from Dean

Williamson from HRDC regarding a Community Needs Assessment, Terry Taylor will find out more about this email

9. Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

None to report

## **G. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action**

### **1. Septic to Sewer – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW - Funding Options Discussion/Plan**

Discussion and/or Action

Continued from July 3 meeting: Based on approval of Task Order #8 from Gt. West

Engineering as to design, continue discussion as to funding options and process.

Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: (Motion depends on results of discussion)*

Ryan was here and did Site Survey about 2 weeks ago. Craig with Great West met with Adam Stenseth, Barbara Heggen, and Al Nyhart. Got applications started and their signed authorization to complete and submit application on their behalf. Jessica is working on a technical memo for the project once that is completed, possibly by the end of the week, Craig can submit the application.

Then can work on the SRF application. Objective is still to have project done before winter. Will let Mayor know when applications are submitted. MCEP documents received and will be submitted.

### **2. Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Request and Forward to Planning Board – Bruce Lay**

Discussion and/or Action

Continued from July 18 meeting: Review and Acknowledge receipt of Annexation Request filed by Bruce Lay for 2 acres just north of Badger St. West. Lot is an irregular shape without streets or other connections. Council to develop a list of questions or issues and refer the request to the City/County Planning Board in accordance with the City Annexation Policy for review and a formal work session to determine a recommendation as to approval with or without special conditions.

### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to forward Lay Annexation Request to City/County Planning Board for further examination in accordance with the City Annexation Policy and state law and return a recommendation to the City Council with or without special conditions as to Annexation within three months of referral unless sooner reviewed or extended at the request of the Applicant.*

Mike Newhouse is the representative of this project he is on Zoom. Two residential houses, waterline to tie into grinder line at Stenseth's. Water will be on Badger, sewer will come in across the street to tie in. Ron Coleman asked if second home was going to be an Air B&B, Mike stated that it is going to be a Mother-in-law's suite. Mayor will take over to County to be put on Agenda.

Ron Coleman made a motion to forward Lay Annexation Request to City/County Planning Board for further examination in accordance with the City Annexation Policy and state law and return a recommendation to City Council with or without special conditions as to Annexation within three months of referral unless sooner reviewed or extended at the request of the Applicant, Lee Blanchard seconded.

### **3. Resolution 2023 - 7: Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones – Retroactive action to memorialize traffic street closures involving MDT lots.**

#### Discussion and/or Action

Consider Resolution 2023 - 7 requested by Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) as to their property located between SW Hancock and SW Garfield to retroactively memorialize street closure/vacation of South 5<sup>th</sup> with reservation of utility easement and reversion should MDT ever sell or abandon property.

#### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to adopt Resolution 2023-7; or Move to continue matter for further discussion.*

Bart LaMont is on Zoom, document that was presented to council red lines take care of the old information from 1947-1979. Susan will send a new copy that makes better sense with plats. Language reversion if ever DOT sell it or not.

Rick Ellison made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-7, Ron Coleman seconded.

## **H. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Action**

### **1. WORK SESSION: City Preliminary 2023-2024 Budget draft**

Council to review current budget needs and requests, project projections, and consider budget estimates for the 2023-2024 budget year and begin formulating 2023-2024 Budget for consideration.

AV Capture Plus Plan 2500 hours \$450.00 a month totaling \$5,000.00 per year. Traffic Signs for speed these are solar \$3,800.00-\$5,000.00 each, Sheriff Lopp could put in for a grant possibly a 1/3 of \$15,000.00 for a match. Parks Marc has made a request for a push mower for \$500.00 and tool kit \$700.00. The Fire Department is asking for \$2500.00 for training again this year. Purchased a camera and heat detector last year with funds that the council approved, they would like to do the same this year. Mayor suggested putting in for Bair Grant to get self-contained breathing machines and the Council could possibly match \$1000.00 at best. Public Works asked for a portable generator 6000 watts \$1000.00, another pickup \$25,000.00, 5000-watt inverter to plug into \$500.00-\$800.00, service bed or flatbed and toolbox \$3800.00-\$4,800.00; pallet forks for loader \$8,500.00 from John Deere or \$3,800.00 from Camas Teague. Quick attached was built for Zipper, this used to be a 3-man job which took all day for a block. Now the zipper, roller and water truck can be working at the same time. 3ft roller drums \$4000.00. Wage increases for the year COLA 2023 is 8.7%. Raises for Public Works (water, sewer) about \$6000.00, Parks would be an increase of \$2,500.00, Clerks would increase of \$5,500.00. Computers per David is 4 years. Example, salaries Clerk Treasurer and extra help over by \$2000.00 7% over budget. Gas, diesel, oil, tires over budget added \$3,000.00 to that line item. Propane 87% of budget would like to be a little higher made \$15,000.00. General Fund under Parks \$5000.00 equipment dropped that down to

\$3,000.00. Insurance Premiums were over budget increased a slight amount. Weeds left the same. Law Enforcement the Mayor spoke with one commissioner this morning prior to their meeting, agreement between The City and The County, we pay 75,000.00 per year equivalent to one deputy's salary with the additional 3 years ago, contract is for 2-3 years. If no written request is made 30 days in advance the contract stays the same. The same amount for this year but next year it will increase. Audit is the same. The court budget is \$18,000.00 bumping up to \$24,000.00 per year, \$500.00 per month increase. Increase the travel for judge to \$2,000.00. Left everything else the same. Flagpole money will be coming from business licenses. The fee schedule needs to be reviewed for possible increase. Salaries, insurance, and contributions will need to be increased. Can be 50% cash reserves in budget anything above that can go to Capital Improvements, last year's shop did not budget in electric or heat. No additional training or travel for the Mayor and Council Members. Kelly Huffield will be on the next agenda regarding the official amount raised from Race for this Place fundraiser. Prior to the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, getting bids from local Electrician and the Heating business. A Propane tank has been purchased for \$1,000.00. A self-contained tank has been purchased for \$3,000.00.

## **I. Comments/Discussion**

### **1. Future Business**

#### **2. Mayor's Comments—Rick Nelson**

Sewer issue on Houston Street behind Mathis to the south, homeowner had a sewer backup, they hired a plumber, found out that they had pipe that collapsed. Replaced pipe then 2-3 days later it was plugged again. The city dug up 25-30 feet of street cut pipe in half, run the jetter and camera down. Everything looked good, the city crew put things back, 2-3 days later the same thing happened again. There are two houses hooked into the main. The homeowner wants to put in his own sewer line, would be a 4-inch line. The homeowner has an application to put this sewer line in at his own expense which needs council approval. This process may need to be Engineered and DEQ approved. The Shop, a crew showed up last Thursday or Friday to start putting up the building, got post set started putting rafters up and wall runners. The contractor stated that there is a problem. The bolt patterns are in the wrong spots, the Mayor got in contact with the main contractor, they sent someone out to today took at machine that shot all the bolts, they have to move 11 out of 13 post. Engineers will have to approve. Gravel was added around the culvert on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. They have not been on Central yet. The plan is to get rid of dirt, tree at Mathis and move drainpipe.

### **3. Council Comments/Discussion**

#### **a. President of the Council—Ron Coleman**

CDL's need to be done, insurance wise we don't want to get in trouble. The other guys can test, they got to memorize the book.

#### **b. Council Member—Lee Blanchard**

Lincoln between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street road is bad.

#### **c. Council Member—Pattie Berg**

#### **d. Council Member—Rick Ellison**

Just the complaints about the street's potholes.

## **L. Claims Signing/Motion to Approve the Bills**

### **Pay the Bills**

Accounting Claim Check #'s 19266-19284 July 19-31 for \$7,952.79 also Check #'s 19285-19287 August 1<sup>st</sup> \$4,102.48

Accounting Journal Vouchers – July 1-31 included in next month's report

Payroll & Electronic Check #'s 9501-9525 July 19-31 for \$16,868.34


Utility Billing System Adjustments Journal Vouchers – May 1-31<sup>st</sup> already included in the June 5<sup>th</sup> report.

Received a copy Budget Expenditure/Revenue July 2023 – 148.86 credit

July 1-31, 2023 were presented for Council's approval. The Mayor and Council received the Pay the Bills and the monthly July 1, 2023 thru July 31, 2023 Budget Expenditures/Revenues will be included in the next report. The Mayor asked if there is a motion to pay the bills. Rick Ellison motioned to pay the bills as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

**J. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting**

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

  
Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer

  
Mayor – Rick Nelson

  
Anita West-Assistant City Clerk