

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on July 6, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pattie Berg
Ron Coleman
Stacy Menard
Lee Blanchard

Mayor Rick Nelson asked the Council if there is a motion to accept or reject the minutes from the June 7th regular meeting. Pattie Berg motioned to accept the June 7th minutes as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. Mayor Rick Nelson said that the drafted regular minutes and work session minutes from June 22nd are not completed yet.

Public Comment – The Mayor asked if there were any Public Comment and stated that this is the time for individuals to comment on matters falling within the purview of the Council. Please approach the podium, and state your name and address for the record. There will also be an opportunity in conjunction with each agenda item for comments pertaining to that item. Please limit your comments to three minutes. Please refrain from any conversation amongst yourselves.

Receive/Accept Reports

Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

Chief of Police – Sheriff, Jon Lopp, asked if the Council reviewed the June COMM Report. Jon Lopp said that there was not a fire work display due to the Implementation of Stage 1 Fire Restrictions – Fireworks. Jon Lopp said that the 4th of July weekend went smoothly, most of the 4th of July fireworks were on Sunday with no complaints reported.

City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

City Court Judge, Lori Sorenson, presented the June 2021 report.

City of White Sulphur Springs

City Court

Judge Sorenson

June City Council Report

07/06/2021

I gained access to the Full Court system on June 10th, They ran a report for me and gave me 112 cases that were not closed out for whatever reason, I have been working on closing them out. So far I have closed 14 cases with 2 of them still owing fines.

Still combing through the file cabinets and going over the case files to see what has been done and what needs to be done. I have located a few so far that needed immediate attention, so I recused myself and handed them over to Judge Lesofski.

June I received:

- 1 speeding ticket = She mailed a check
- 2 Disorderly conduct = 1 failed to appear, 1 has an Omni Hearing set for July 26
- 1 DUI 2nd offense = Initial appearance made today
- 1 Driving on a suspended license = initial appearance made today
- 1 Possessing Intoxicating substance over 18 under 21 = OMNI set for July 26

Issued a Bench Warrant for an unpaid fine.

I have completed my CJIN Certification as of today.

As of today I have put in 71 ½ hours starting the 10th

Judge Lori Sorenson

Lori Sorenson said that she will be having a training Judge next week to help.

Fire Department Report - City Fire Chief Sam Peeler

City Fire Chief, Sam Peeler, did not have a fire report for June.

City Engineer's Report – City Engineer Terry Threlkeld

City Engineer, Terry Threlkeld, said that he was unable to speak with the SRF agency about the City's options on the Water Main Project on Lincoln Street. Terry Threlkeld said that he did speak to Rural Development about the funding options available. There will be three types (3 pots, "A", "B", and "C") of Federal ARPA funding available to the City and County to be used for water, sewer, and broadband. The City already submitted the application for pot "A" and recently received half of the grant, the other half will be after a year.

| Funding Options | City of WSS | Meagher County | Total |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | 1/2 now, 1/2 on 7/22 | | |
| Pot A (1/2 now, 1/2 7/22)(LFR) | \$ 237,814.00 | \$ 361,672.00 | \$ 599,486.00 |
| Pot C - Competitive 7-15-2021 | \$ 225,412.00 | \$ 361,123.00 | \$ 586,535.00 |
| Pot B - Minimum Allocation (January 2023) | \$ 291,421.00 | \$ 433,287.00 | \$ 724,708.00 |
| Match for Minimum Allocation | \$ 59,454.00 | \$ 90,418.00 | \$ 149,872.00 |
| | | | |
| Total 2021 | \$ 463,226.00 | \$ 722,795.00 | \$ 1,186,021.00 |
| Total 2023 | \$ 291,421.00 | \$ 433,287.00 | \$ 724,708.00 |

It was suggested to meet with the County Commissioners and work with the City to help fund the needed short fall of approximately \$200,000. The Mayor and Terry Threlkeld will see if they can be on the County's next agenda and discuss the ARPA funds to see if the County would possibly consider helping the City with the \$200,000 short fall of the water main line transmission funding and submit an application on behalf of the City.

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

Rocky Vinton said that the millings streets project would be starting on July 14th. MT Department of Transportation will be working on the road towards Checkerboard and hauling/dumping the millings on the City streets. The City Crew (rented a roller last week) and the County Crew (with 2 blades and a water truck) are working to help spread and roll out onto the projected streets in town. Rocky Vinton said that there are approximately 118 more water meters to be changed out. Land Use permits have picked up with residents building in town and requesting services for water/sewer. Rocky Vinton said that the City Crew is short one guy, JD Walker resigned on June 30th. Ron Coleman said that he would come up tomorrow. Rocky Vinton said that patching is slow now. Rocky Vinton said that the turbidity is still high so the City is not able to use the creek and Sand Filter and is using the City wells. The City had been working with the Forest Service to clear away dead trees, but a private owner stopped the process. Lee Blanchard toured the City Facilities. It was suggested to have some of the Council tour the facilities on July 13th at 9:30 am starting at the City Yard Shop.

Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

Marc Pryor said that there were five dog incidents and four skunk incidents. The families that had to evacuate due to the fires were able to house their two dogs and two cats over night at the City pound. The Spay & Neuter Clinic will be on July 17th at the new Ambulance Barn's two bays. So far there are eleven volunteers scheduled to help, 19 animals scheduled in, and 2 vet tech teams. The City and County will share half of the costs.

Parks Committee Report – Pattie Berg

Pattie Berg said that she would wait for her report for later.

Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Actions**Water Main Replacement Discussion**

Continuation of the discussion regarding awarding the bid and the additional funding sources/options available to the City for funding the additional costs of the project. This includes different loan options, grant options, and ARPA funds.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve awarding the bid to Big Belt Excavation.

The Mayor, Council, City Attorney, and Terry Threlkeld discussed additional funding sources and options available. A discussion on using part of the millings instead of the asphalt restoration costs. There was a discussion on a temporary water source if needed incase winter arrived early. Stacy Menard motioned to do the whole project and award the bid to the local company, Big Belt Excavation. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. Bodie Morison, Big Belt Excavation, could start eight to ten weeks out if able to obtain the needed pipe and parts.

Set Schedule/Office Hours for Mayor

Continuation of the discussion regarding whether or not the Mayor should have a set schedule for office hours.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve a set schedule for the Mayor.

There was a continuation discussion regarding whether or not the Mayor should have a set schedule for office hours. Stacy Menard said that she is for the Mayor having a set schedule for office hours. It is important that the Mayor is able to have time set aside for another job as well as his job duties as Mayor, so that he is able to have a life as well and the community would know when he would be available at the City office. Pattie Berg agreed that a Mayor should be able to do and set their own schedule, it is a monthly salary position, and that it does not have to go through the Council as a Resolution. There was a discussion on having a set hourly weekday consistent schedule. The new City Judge recently set her own hourly weekday consistent schedule so that the public would know when City Court would be taking place and the City

Judge would be available Mondays 8:00 am – 12:30 pm / 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Tuesdays 9:00 am -12:00 pm, and Wednesdays 9:00 am -12:00 pm. (it is a 16-hour week that is a monthly salary position) Stacy Menard motioned to approve a set an hourly weekly schedule for a Mayor. Ron Coleman said then the wages would be figured into and be in line with the number of hours. Lee Blanchard and Ron Coleman both seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

New Business – Items for Discussion and/or Action

Street Closure/Open Container Waiver – (Red Ants Pants Music Festival – Sarah Calhoun)

Discussion and/or Action on closing Main Street and granting an Open Container Waiver for the Red Ants Pants Music Festival Street Dance.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve Open Container Waiver and Street Closure.

The Mayor said that Red Ants Pants Music Festival, Sarah Calhoun, submitted the application with the map for the closing of Main Street and open container waiver during the street dance. It is the festival's 10th. The Mayor approved the open container waiver and the closing of Main Street for the Red Ants Pants Music Festival Street Dance July 22nd from 6 pm to 1am.

Street Closure/Open Container Waiver – (Meagher County Rodeo Club) Discussion and/or Action on closing the Main Street and granting an Open Container Waiver for the Labor Day Street Dance & Parade.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve Open Container Waiver and Street Closure.

Nicolle Sereday from the Meagher County Rodeo Club submitted the application with the map for the closing of Main Street and open container waiver. Nicolle Sereday said that they are expecting a full line up of Cowboys for the Rodeo. The Mayor said that the safety plan is still needed. Stacy Menard motioned to approve the open container waiver and street closure for the Labor Day Street Dance & Parade with the Meagher County Rodeo Club providing the needed safety plan. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. The Mayor said that he will sign the application as soon as the Rodeo Club brings by the safety plan.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to Amend the Agenda to include the Farmer Market's day and hours change for the street closure. Stacy Menard motioned to Amend the Agenda. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed. of Thursday July 22nd extended hours noon to 8:00 pm, Friday 9am-3pm and Saturday 9am-3pm. Stacy Menard motioned to approve the Farmer Market vendors hours Thursday July 22nd from noon to 8pm and adding Friday and Saturday from 9am-3pm side street closure. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

The City Liaison to the Parks Advisory Committee, Pattie Berg, and Carol Berg, Chair, presented an update on the Tennis Court Project. A discussion on doing a 4-inch lift of concrete to pour over the existing tennis court to make it usable or to wait until the committee could raise

the needed funds to do a rubberized surface. It was also suggested to see if the concrete bids included a warranty on the concrete. The committee will look into the concrete warranty. The Council agreed to move ahead with the concrete and use the panelized system to make the tennis court usable. The committee spoke with the Short Family and there will be advertising in the newspaper to come up with a name for the Spike Short Family Park.

Comments/Discussions

The Mayor said that there was an incident about a vendor that was asked to leave on the 4th of July during the Freedom Days, LLC weekend festivities. The Mayor said that the updated application will have to include the event organization name on it and the vendors that have been invited to the event.

It was asked about when the codifiers would have the Ordinance Code Book available for Council's review. Susan Wordal said it should be sometime this month or middle of August to have the final draft books.

There was a discussion on the Governor rescinding Montana's State of Emergency on June 30, 2021. This will need to be on the next Agenda to rescind Resolution #621, Municipal Declaration.

Claims Signing/Motion to Approve the Bills

Pay the Bills

Claim Check #'s 18185-18205 June 23, 2021 thru July 6, 2021 for \$15,415.38

Journal Vouchers #'s 1848-1865 for \$486.25

Payroll Check #'s 8724-8741 for \$13,657.91

Direct Deposit Check #'s 89427-89430 for \$3,278.41

Electronic Check #'s 89423-89426 for \$6222.57

Utility Billing System Adjustments #30697-30740 for \$669.81

06-23-2021 thru 07-06-2021 were presented for Council's approval. The Mayor asked if there is a motion to pay the bills. Pattie Berg motioned to pay the bills. Stacy Menard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stacy Menard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor – Rick Nelson