

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on April 18, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Ron Coleman
Lee Blanchard
Pattie Berg
Rick Ellison

A. Call Regular 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.

E. PUBLIC HEARING:

Discontinuance Petition for 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street - Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones –

The Petition has been filed by State of Montana Department of Transportation, as owners of the real property abutting this part of 5TH Avenue SW, as part of their plan to replace their existing building with a new facility slightly to the west of the current location, which will impact access of 5TH Avenue SW by the public in that location and will result in increased heavy equipment use by MDT and potential conflicts with public travel in this location.

Presentation/Discussion
Accept Public Comment

Motion/Vote to Close Public Hearing

The following ad was placed in the newspaper for two weeks:

NOTICE OF HEARING ON DISCONTINUANCE PETITION

5TH Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street in the City of White Sulphur Springs

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on April 18, 2023, at 6:00 PM or thereafter, in the City Council Chambers, 105 West Hampton, White Sulphur Springs, MT to consider discontinuance of 5TH Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street in Meagher County, City of White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

The Petition has been filed by State of Montana Department of Transportation, as owners of the real property abutting this part of 5TH Avenue SW, as part of their plan to replace their existing building with a new facility slightly to the west of the current location, which will impact access of 5TH Avenue SW by the public in that location and will result in increased heavy equipment use by MDT and potential conflicts with public travel in this location. The Petition is on file with the City Clerk/Treasurer and on the City's website.

Public comment and protest may be made in writing provided to: Attention City Council, PO Box 442, White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645; or at wss@itstriangle.com prior to noon on the day of the meeting, or expressed during the Public Comment period during the hearing.

Any person requesting further information may direct inquiries to City Engineer: Great West Engineering, Project Manager Jessica Salo, PE, at (406) 422-1288 or jsalo@greatwesteng.com.

(PUBLISH April 6th and April 13, 2023)

The Mayor asked if there any public comments or protest letters that had come into the City and there had not been any. The Mayor said that the State had requested a closure of 4th Ave and another Alley in 1979, but the City Council at the time said that it would be addressed at a different time and was never completed so this will be addressed at the next meeting. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to close the public hearing meeting. Lee Blanchard motioned to close the public hearing meeting. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

F. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones – Discontinuance Petition for 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street

Discussion and/or Action

Consider request for discontinuance of 5th Avenue SW based on Public Hearing.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to grant Discontinuance Petition as to 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street.

Ron Coleman motioned to grant the Discontinuance Petition as to 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

G. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Presentation: Planning Grant or Loan Opportunities -- Department of Commerce – Craig Erickson, Gt West Engineering

Discussion and/or Action

Consider presentation from Craig Erickson, Gt West Engineering, as to Planning Grant or Loan Opportunities available for White Sulphur. Discuss options and possible projects which could benefit.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to authorize Mayor to pursue funding options with Gt West Engineering and bring back applications for approval as necessary.

Craig Erickson from Great West Engineering explained that there will be Planning Grants with City match opportunities available for the City. TSEP/MCEP Planning Grant program (every two years) normally could apply for (up to \$15,000 with a 1-1 match) for a CIP or PER (for a Water, Sewer, Wastewater, Storm Drain, or Solid Waste). Craig Erickson said that because of Governmental Entities, for whatever reason did not use all of their allocated ARPA funds, the funds were reverted back to the State and some of those funds have been allocated to the MCEP programs and Towns can now just this year apply to up to four MCEP Planning Grants (up to \$40,000 per grant with a 20% match) for projects (two PERs, one CIP, and one Bridge). Craig Erickson said that if the City talked to the Montana Department of Commerce before applying for an “other” planning grant project like a SWIF (system-wide improvement framework) update Grant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Infrastructure, for a levee, (for example it could possibly be used with the Parks & Trails Recreational Master Plan Project). Craig Erickson said that this year only House Bill No. 6, (DNRC) Renewable Resource Grants (up to \$125,000) and Loan Program, because of the ARPA funds, will be able to apply for and use as matching funds for projects. Craig Erickson said that there is also a CDBG (up to \$50,000 with a 1-3 match), Community Development Block Grant Program, available to apply for by June 30, 2023. It was suggested to review the priority list for the City’s CIP and see if there was a good project for the funding that is available. There was a question about available funding for

the City streets. Craig Erickson said that the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program is a 2-Step Process (Comprehensive Traffic Safety Plan and Implementation) that is available. SS4A requires an eligible Action Plan to be in place before applying to implement projects and strategies. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants, the Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants (due by July 10th). Lee Blanchard motioned to have a work session meeting with Great West Engineering on May 16th to discuss projects on the priority list or any other project, to start to apply for the funding opportunities that are available, finalize a plan of action. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

2. Variance Request: Block 61 Lots 1-8 – William Galt –

Discussion and/or Action

Consider variance request from William Galt to remove 3-foot setbacks and decrease the alley size (width) between the identified lots as much as possible. Discuss impacts to City regarding the request.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to grant Variance Request as presented OR Move to grant Variance Request as amended during discussion, OR, Move to continue to another meeting.

The Mayor, Council, City Attorney, City Engineer, and Terry Taylor discussed the land use variance application, permit, and map. Terry Taylor said that William Galt is requesting a variance from the City on his property of Block 61 Lots 1-8, to remove 3' setbacks and decrease the alley size between (width) as much as possible. The Council is willing to work with William Galt, but the City will need to see a general concept of the plans in order to provide how much of a variance is needed and still have adequate space for emergency services to operate. Terry Taylor said that she will let the City know when the plans are ready to be placed back on the Agenda. Lee Blanchard motioned to table this item until more information is available. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

3. Judge's Office Door Options

Discussion and/or Action

Consider new options from April 3rd discussion as to an exit door. Possible installation of some form of reinforced or security door in place of the current door. Discuss whether to authorize Mayor to issue Call for Bids for work.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to authorize Mayor to issue Call for Bids.

The Mayor said that there were three proposals from Systems Northwest, the same company that the School currently uses, provided for the Council's review. One proposal to install three panic/duress buttons with an annual monitoring account subscription \$200 with the total price as \$3,962. The second proposal is to install an access control system with one door being controlled with an annual monitoring account subscription of \$322.50 with the total price as \$4,638. The third proposal is to install three digital watchdog security cameras with the total price of \$5,164. The Mayor said that just the steel door (\$800-1,000) and installation (\$500) will cost approximately \$1,500. It was suggested to get more estimates before moving forward.

4. Snow Removal Policy/Ordinance draft

Discussion and/or Action

Continued item from April 3rd: consider draft of policy/ordinance language to address concerns as to snowfall, snow removal, and melting issues for residents.

Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to place on Agenda for May 1st as a Resolution/Ordinance (pick one) OR
Move to continue discussion as to language to May 1st.*

The Mayor, Council, and City Attorney discussed the proposed Snow Removal Policy/Ordinance draft. An Ordinance amending Title 7, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 as to sidewalks and snow and ice removal, establishing requirements for snow and ice removal, location for snow and ice deposits, penalty for violation, and making amendments as to style and form for purposes or reference and codification. The Mayor suggested that he thought that it should only address plowing, not shoveling. The real issue is the snow plowed from a property and then being placed on the City's right of way neighboring/abutting another property and causing blocked drainage and ice. There was a discussion on 7.1.9 Property Owner to Maintain, 7.2.1 Removal of Snow and/or Ice, 7.2.2 Notice to be Given, and 7.2.3 Removal by City. There was a discussion on Depositing of Snow and Ice Restrictions and Violations; Civil penalty and collection. Susan Wordal will clarify the language for the next meeting.

H. Comments/Discussion

1. Future Business

2. Mayor's Comments—Rick Nelson

The Mayor said that he will be attending the training on Thursday in Big Timber with Ron Coleman and Rick Ellison. The Mayor said that the zipper is currently being worked on at the welding shop. When the weather gets better the City Crew will be hauling millings, filling pot holes, and getting Garfield Street at least drivable. The Mayor, Rocky Vinton, Ron Coleman, and Rick Ellison will review the streets and make some notes for the meeting on Friday and come up with a plan.

3. Council Comments/Discussion

a. President of the Council—Ron Coleman

Inquired about the John Deere and getting it tuned up.

b. Council Member—Lee Blanchard

Asked about the clean update, it will be May 13th and the City will have the afternoon shift.

c. Council Member—Pattie Berg

Asked about the status of the Hospital Annexation. The Mayor said that he received the paperwork today, there will be a Planning Board meeting on April 25th, and then the City Public Hearing on May 1st with the to discuss and request the Hospital Annexation. There was a discussion about the CIP Surveys, there were only a few handed back to the City, hopefully the City can extend the Survey.

d. Council Member—Rick Ellison

I. Council Review of Financials

The Council received a copy of the Budget Expenditure/Revenue for March for review.

J. Claims Signing/Motion to Approve the Bills

Pay the Bills

Accounting Claim Check #'s 19088-19116 April 4-18 for \$19,910.92

Accounting Journal Vouchers – March 1-31 for \$72,010.36

Payroll & Electronic Checks April 1-15 for \$8,777.20

Utility Billing System Adjustments Journal Vouchers – not until May 1

Received a copy Budget Expenditure/Revenue March

April 4-18, 2023 were presented for Council's approval. The Mayor and Council received the Pay the Bills and the monthly March 1, 2023 thru March 30, 2023 Budget Expenditures/Revenues. The Mayor asked if there is a motion to pay the bills. Pattie Berg motioned to pay the bills as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

I. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.



Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor – Rick Nelson