

Council Meeting  
June 1, 2021  
7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor John Bigart III, Jaime Odell, Marvin Garding, Anna LeDuc, and Joe Hanson.

**Minutes:** The Clerk read the minutes. A motion was made by Jaime seconded by Anna to approve the May 4, 2021, minutes with correction. All were in favor.

**Claims:** The claims were discussed. A motion was made by Marvin seconded by Jaime to pay the claims from check number 15659 through 15672 in the amount of \$19,882.80. All were in favor.

The Council received and reviewed the bank reconciliation and cash report. They have access at the Expenditure to Budget and Revenue to Budget financial reports.

**Water Sewer:** James Claxton was at the meeting. He updated on the department. The department has been busy last month. There was a issue at 905 Rosehill Lane, it ended up being a 4 foot root ball in the main line that caused a sewer backup. There has been a claim filed with the insurance company and he has sent off a CD. The east end lift station at the trailer park also had sewage on the ground. Two of the pumps had errors today and have been repaired. He will be filling in the hole at 142 Parkway Drive from the sewer hookup. 116 Adams St. waters whenever she wants to and at any time she wants. He has talked to her about this before.

**Paul Montgomery:** Paul Montgomery from Anderson-Montgomery was at the meeting to update on the next phase of the water project. The town has been granted a \$125,000.00 DNRC grant and a \$750,000.00 TSEP grant. They have submitted the application for a SRF forgiven principal loan. There is no guarantee that the town would get the forgiven principal. It looks like there will be extra ARPA money that the town might qualify to get for the current water project. He will check into it. There are some right of way issues on the west end of town. The roads are very narrow and right of ways might be on private property. The survey will be very expensive so he contacted Molly Davidson from Morrison-Maierle to see if they would be interested in working on the survey together.

**Fire Department:** Chief Joe Calnan was not at the meeting.

**Sheriff Department:** Sheriff Toth was not at the meeting.

**County Planner:** Andy Short was at the meeting. He updated on the department. His assistant has been out of the office for the last 5 weeks and will be out for another 5 or so weeks. The Alberton Lower Meadows subdivision is still in the pre-ap stage.

**TAP Grant Update:** Aaron McConkey from Morrison-Maierle updated on the TAP grant application. He had a map that showed where the sidewalks, curbs and crosswalks would be. Laura Acker wanted to know if all of the sidewalks would be replaced and if

not would the town be willing to help the property owners. The Mayor stated that sidewalks were the responsibility of the property owner. Zelma Kromrey wanted to know why the new sidewalk between Meadow View and Old Milwaukee Spur could not be done on the south side of Railroad. The reason is because there is a slope on the south side of the road.

**Sign Ordinance:** The Mayor stated that he had reached out to fellow Mayors around the state to see what they have done regarding signs that have profanity, hate comments, etc. on them. Kelly Lynch from the Montana League of Cities and Towns responded stating that unfortunately if the town were to pursue this it could be against the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights. The town will not pursue this any further.

**Community Bathrooms:** Jaime stated that we need to put this out for bid. Seeking construction bid on rebuilding the current bathroom by the baseball field and a separate one by the skatepark. We will put this out and have it on next month's agenda.

**Angle Parking on Railroad Ave:** Jaime stated that there are people angle parking on Railroad and it would be nice if we could allow that. The clerk stated that there is no angle parking on Railroad Ave or Adams St because they are a state highway, and the highway department does not allow angle parking. The Clerk will make signs to put on the vehicles that are angle parking.

**Public Comment:**

Greg Teigen thanked everyone for the support he received on his endeavor of running for Frenchtown Fire Board. He also wanted to let everyone know that he is still working on getting representation on the west end of the district.

The Clerk stated that the encroachment permit for the speed signs has been approved we are just waiting for the poles. We did not get the historic grant for the center windows; do we want to add that to next years budget. At this time, we need to fix the flooring in the center from sinking. Danna Fitzwilliams had called and wanted a tree to be removed it looks like the tree might be on her property and the town would not be responsible for removing it. The Clerk would like to have Wednesday and Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> off. There are not objections.

James wanted to know if the town would allow him to have the first and third weekends off without being on call. He does not feel that he gets the help he needs when he needs it. The mayor would like to have the job descriptions for the water/sewer and maintenance positions at next months meeting. Jaime wanted to know if there is money in the budget for another person for 20 hours per week.

Joel Cochran mentioned his recent sewer incident at 905 Rosehill. He wanted to know if there was any regular maintenance on the system. He also stated that he appreciates the assistance he received.

Anna made a motion seconded by Marvin to adjourn.

Being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk

Seal