

BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2014

The November 4, 2014 Meeting of the Bridger Town Council was brought to order by Mayor Scott DeRudder at 7:00 PM. Council members present were George Wilm, Cliff Shultz, and Gerry Roth. Others present were: Ben & Kirsten Sweet, Lana Matt, Bert Kraft, Town Attorney Hope Freeman, Jackie Rieger, Police Chief Mike Buechler, Public Works Director Tim Goldsberry and Clerk Deanna Hay.

George Wilm moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Cliff Shultz seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried.

Gerry Roth moved to approve the claims. Cliff Shultz seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried.

There were no committee reports.

There was no public comment.

Under correspondence the Mayor read a legal opinion letter from Jock B. West of West Law Firm written to Jackie Rieger that she gave to Mayor DeRudder. The Mayor also read two claims Jackie Rieger submitted. One was for \$4497.01 for wages owed from Jan 2012 to December 2014 + an additional \$136 that had been omitted. The second claim was for January 2012 to December 2014 PERS for the amount of \$335.23. Town Attorney Hope Freeman asked to respond. Attorney Freeman stated the Town has not denied vacation & sick leave termination pay. There is nothing in the letter indicating wrong-doing on the part of the Town Council.

The next item on the agenda was leases for the rodeo grounds and the Pallet Man at the Furniture factory grounds. Gerry Roth moved to renew the rodeo grounds lease for Jess & Lana Matt for 1 year. George Wilm seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried. The lease for the Pallet Man was discussed. The Council approved renewing the lease, but the parameters need to be adhered to. Gerry Roth moved to renew the Pallet Man lease for 1 year and remind them that the parameters need to be adhered to.

The next addenda item was the City Judge appointment. Mayor DeRudder explained that interviews had been held and Bert Kraft had been chosen so that the candidate could attend the mandatory training in Helena mid-November. Gerry Roth moved to officially appoint Bert Kraft January 1, 2015 for the City Judge. George Wilm seconded the motion and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried.

Resolution #176 setting the City Judge salary was the next item. The Council decided on \$875 per month for the salary. Gerry Roth moved to approve Resolution #176 setting the City Judge salary at \$875 per month. Cliff Shultz seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was metered water rates. The Mayor reviewed the many rates the Town has for water. The base rate for meters is now \$21.98. The median water rate Bridger residents pay is \$33.23. Residential and Business collection charges will be the same rate of \$33.23 per month. There are 50 meters out of 360 accounts. There are also no premise water accounts and they would not be affected. The out of Town bulk water rate needs to be reduced to 2 cents per gallon. After much discussion, Gerry Roth moved to approve \$33.23 for Bridger Residential and Business rate. Meters will not be read anywhere. Separate apartment buildings would pay \$33.23 per building. The buildings with a business floor and multiple apartment floor will pay \$33.23 for each floor. Out of Town residents will also have a flat rate of \$33.23 + 12% (to help pay infrastructure costs that in-Town residents' pay through taxes) to equal \$37.22/month flat rate. George Wilm seconded the motion and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor conducted the second reading of Ordinance #28 amending the animal ordinance with kennel definition. George Wilm moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance #28 defining the kennel number to 8. Cliff Shultz seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-no. Motion carried.

The next item was zoning applications. The Mayor read a zoning application for an apartment in a commercial building at 120 S Main Street for an approximate cost of \$15,000. Cliff Shultz moved to accept the zoning applications. George Wilm seconded and the vote was George W-yes, Cliff S-yes, and Gerry R-no. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was court issues. Jackie Rieger asked the council for the back wages she felt she was due. Mayor DeRudder stated that this request was denied at the October meeting by the Council. Mayor DeRudder also stated that as Jackie Rieger had received an opinion letter from West Law Firm and had given the letter to the Mayor, the Council felt that Jackie Rieger should refer future requests to Town Attorney Hope Freeman.

The next item was Town Attorney Hope Freeman. Attorney Freeman explained that a number of traffic tickets were written into court on a holiday when there is no open court. Some

of the tickets have been paid, the tickets have been dismissed and Judge Rieger gave the tickets and money to Chief Buechler to return. If the court dismisses the tickets, it is the court responsibility to send the money back. The Town Council agreed.

Police Chief Mike Buechler reported the Highway Patrol has a patrol car that has 109,000 miles, but the car has a new motor and only 40,000 miles on that motor. The cost of the car would be \$5000. The patrol car has a cage, console and extras needed for a patrol car. Red Ribbon Week was well received. A school assembly was held and a drug dog was brought to the school. Chief Buechler attended the Drug Task Force meeting. The cross walk flags are being worked on as yet.

Tim Goldsberry Public Works Director reported Ace Electric is still working on the electricity at the pump. The pumps have to be regulated manually as yet. The DEQ sewer inspector came and the aerated side of the lagoon is a mess. There is too much sludge. There is not enough “air” needed to make the lagoon work correctly. Of the eight present aerators, only four are in working condition. Tim Goldsberry will check with another community that may have some working aerators that the Town could obtain until the blower system can be implemented. This new system will need to be engineered.

Clerk Deanna Hay had nothing to report.

Mayor Scott DeRudder did not have anything to report.

There being no further business Gerry Roth moved to adjourn at 8:40 PM. George Wilm seconded.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk