

PHILIPSBURG TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

March 5th, 2024

6:00 P.M. Philipsburg Townhall

Council in Attendance: Jason White, Lorraine Dell-Bishop, John Laigaie, Mayor Daniel Reddish, and Carl Sundstrom (online). **Council Absent:** Gary Fujinami. **Others in Attendance:** Clerk Rachel Parret, Special Projects Maureen Connor, Public Works Foreman Ed Roseboom, Fire Chief David Ray, Amelia Wood (online), MFGO (online), Andrea Hess, Micheal Heinz₃, Craig Sorenson, Bob Hansen, and Chris Cooney.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Reddish called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Donna Martin – Dispute water bill late fees

Craig Sorenson represented Donna Martin in her dispute against the late fees on her water bill. Craig stated that Donna Martin had received a water shut off notice due to nonpayment of her water bill. Craig and Donna were both in Arizona during the time that the bills were sent out. Craig stated that the post office did not forward Donna Martin's water bill to Arizona due to the bill stating return to sender. Craig requested to have all late fees and water shut off and turn on fees waived. Mayor Reddish stated that the Town has removed the request to return it to the sender on the bills, so this would no longer be a problem. Mayor Reddish asked Craig Sorenson if they had tried to contact the Town about not receiving the water bill. Craig Sorenson stated that as far as he knew Donna Martin had not contacted the Town during the time they were in Arizona. Mayor Reddish stated that a 10-day notice to pay the bill or the water would be shut off was posted. Donna Martin then called the Town on Feb. 19th, 2024, and stated that she would be back in Montana on the 21st to pay the bill. Clerk Rachel Parret told Donna Martin that the water would not be shut off if she came in on the 21st to pay. Donna Martin came in on the 21st of February and stated she would be back with her checkbook to pay. The Town Clerk then waited another 8 days for payment. On February 29th, 2024, Donna Martin had her water shut off and the Town received her payment on March 4th, 2024. Mayor Reddish stated that the Town gave Donna Martin ample time to pay before her water was turned off and that the water would be turned back on when the remaining balance of \$50 was paid in full. Mayor Reddish also told Craig Sorenson that the Town would not be waiving fees on Donna Martin's bill.

STANDING REPORTS

Sheriff

Sheriff Dunkerson sent the Council Sheriff Office's monthly report. Mayor Reddish stated that Undersheriff Ty Hultman was leaving the Sheriff's Office and he wanted to thank Ty Hultman for his service to the Town.

Fire Department

No Report.

Public Works Foreman

Foreman Ed Roseboom submitted a monthly report to the Council.

Town Clerk

No Report.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Councilman Sundstrom made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/20/24 with corrections, Councilman White seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Dell-Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/29/24 with corrections, Councilman Laigaie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bills Payable

Councilwoman Dell- Bishop made a motion to approve the claims from 3/5/24, Councilman Laigaie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Sundstrom made a motion approve Great West invoice #31211 in the amount of \$1411.60, Councilman White seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Laigaie made a motion to approve Great West invoice #31798 in the amount of \$11035.25, Councilwoman Dell-Bishop seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Dell-Bishop made a motion to pay Great West invoice #31793 in the amount of \$1491.00, Councilman Laigaie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Dell-Bishop made a motion to pay Great West invoice #31536 in the amount of \$19943.73, Councilman Laigaie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Sewer Lagoon Update

Great West will be at the Townhall on 3/6/24 to discuss the stormwater PER with Public Works. A draft on the stormwater should be available by the first meeting in April. After the PER is finalized, Maureen Connor will apply for a planning grant for the stormwater.

The preconstruction meeting on Lagoon Project will be at the Townhall 3/6/24. Missouri River Contractors would like to start construction in April with a completion date of 180 days later.

Water Update

A press release will be sent to the Newspaper on the lead line survey that Tyler Gentry completed. No lead was found in the water lines.

Upcoming projects: Storage Tank, Montgomery and Broadway

Resort Tax – FAQ's #2

Councilman Sundstrom made corrections to the FAQ's #2. Maureen Connor will update FAQ's #2 with the corrections Councilman Sundstrom made. The FAQ's #2 will be posted on the Town website and Facebook page, along with having copies available at the Townhall.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Review

Councilman Sundstrom asked if the Codifiers had been contacted to update the Town Ordinances. Mayor Reddish stated that Councilman Lyons had contacted the Codifiers, but he was waiting for response back from them.

Ballot Language Review

Mr. Bradshaw changed the ballot language to state that the Resort Tax would become effective January 1st, 2025.

Great West Contract for Lagoon Project – ACTION ITEM

The contract was postponed due to tracking of the budget.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council

Mayor Reddish informed the Council that Brad Ballius would be in the office on Thursday 3/7/24 to discuss the bear issues in Town. The Town would be receiving 6 bear trash cans for the Town Park from Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Councilman Lyons stated that the bears are coming out from hibernation early and they are not happy.

Public Comment on Matters within the Town Council's Jurisdiction

Ed Roseboom informed the Council that there has been a lion by the Water Plant. Ed has contacted a few people with dogs to help push the lion farther up the mountain.

Chris Cooney asked if the documents from the Department of Commerce were available for public review. Clerk Rachel Parret stated that the documents were posted on the Town website.

Chris Cooney asked if the Resolution of the Local Government Review was available to the public and if the Council has set money aside in the budget for the Review. Mayor Reddish stated that the Resolution was available to the public and that the Council has set aside \$3000.00 for the Review.

ADJOURN

Councilman White made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm, Councilwoman Dell-Bishop seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

***** In addition to the regular attendance at Townhall, the Town will be using the video conferencing service Zoom**

Meeting ID: 6165576972

Meeting URL: <https://zoom.us/join>