

**TOWN OF MANHATTAN
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2020
MINUTES**

Mayor Glen Clements called the meeting to order in the Town Meeting Room, at 207 S. 6th St. at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Callie Hamilton, Betsy Mancuso, Greg Schack and Dan Ryan. Also present were Building Official Dave Rowell, Police Chief Dennis Hengel, and Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey. Twelve members of the public were present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Mancuso; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to appoint Greg Schack as Council President.

Motion- Schack; Second- Ryan; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to appoint Greg Schack as Water Commissioner, Dan Ryan as Sewer Commissioner, Betsy Mancuso as Street Commissioner, and as Park Commissioner.

BENCHES – SAM BELL, BOY SCOUT:

Sam Bell, Boy Scout: He would like to build benches for an Eagle Scout project along main street. He will use other boy scouts to help them assemble them. He will fund the project by asking local companies to sponsor the benches. The Town would be responsible for the maintenance of the benches.

Doug Bell, Leader: He asked the Council for their preference of materials, anchors, number of benches, and locations.

Councilman Schack offered to donate the wood and Dan Ryan offered to help with plaques for the benches.

The Council asked Sam to get the details worked out, get some sponsors, meet with the Park Board and come back to the Council with the details.

WFR ENGINEERING UPDATE:

Mayor Clements passed on the update for Kyle Scarr. The Draft PER will be to the Town on January 13, 2020. The discharge and treatment plant alternatives are dependent on the DEQ discharge permit. There is a design team meeting scheduled for late January. They will review the PER and see if any changes need to be made and get the changes back to TD&H. There will be a public hearing at the February Council meeting. TD&H will do a presentation for the public and answer questions. They will also discuss doing a cost, rate and impact fee study.

NIXON BRIDGE:

Motion- Schack; Second- Hamilton; Vote- 3 for, 1 against (Ryan): Motion passed to save as much of the bridge as possible and store it at the treatment plant.

Eleanor Mest, 317 S Broadway: She stated that she has been working with the bridge project. The County Commissioners want to give the Town a section of the bridge. The group of people involved would like to put by the trail that enters the park from South Broadway. They need the Council to make a decision on whether they will take possession of it or not.

Elaine Skinner-Hale, 203 N 5th: She state that there has been a series of considerations with the bridge. It needs to be removed. The County has to go through a process of mitigation for the historic preservation to get their permit from the corps of engineers. The County is willing to cut the bridge, sand blast it, and powder coat it. She has talked to metal artists about the different options for displaying it. There is no time constraint for the work, but there is a time constraint for making the decision. The alternative to the Town keeping a section is public education. They want it to be a showpiece vs. a hunk of metal.

Buck Buchanan, 315 N 5th, President of Manhattan Trail Committee: He stated that the County will remove the section and bring it back after it is powder coated. The Town would be responsible for setting in place and maintaining it. He thinks it would be great for it to be in a place for the most people to see it.

Cathy Thompson, Stahly Engineering: She stated that they have agreed for the contractor to cut a 12' piece of the bridge, it may be negotiable however.

Council discussion included other possible places for the bridge section. They would prefer a larger piece of the bridge because a 12' piece would not be a representative section of the bridge. Storing the section may be an option for a period of time. Scrapping the section was also discussed as a possibility if a place could not be found. The County would also pay for the movement from storage to the permanent place.

The bridge qualifies to be on the historic register. There are 2 options. Documentation and photos will be done regardless, then either preserve a piece of it with a permanent entity or do more educational options for preservation.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-016 - 457:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Schack; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve Resolution No. 19-016, a resolution to participate in the State of Montana 457(b) deferred compensation plan administered by the Montana Public Employee Administration (MPERA).

RESOLUTION NO. 19-017- BUILDING CODES:

Motion- Hamilton; Second- Mancuso; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve Resolution No. 19-017, a resolution of the Town of Manhattan to adopt the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code, 2018 International Mechanical Code, 2018 International Fuel Gas Code, 2017 National Electrical Code, 2018 International Building Code, 2018 International Residential Code, and 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Dave explained the reason for the adoption of the new codes. The Town must adopt the codes that the state adopted, or will lose the certified jurisdiction designation.

He will start enforcing the new codes as soon as the resolution is passed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Planning Board – Jennifer Bowen, Council Appointment

Motion- Schack; Second- Ryan; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to appoint Jennifer Bowen to the Manhattan City-County Planning Board.

PARKING:

Dennis Hengel, Chief of Police: He stated that the last meeting had some discussion about parking issues in Town. He stated that the police enforce parking on a complaint basis, if it creates a problem, or if public works needs to maintain the road. There are over 2 dozen vehicles in violation currently. Many more are parked on the right of ways longer than is allowed. Other towns have a code compliance officer to address parking, except for West Yellowstone. Bozeman, Belgrade and Three Forks all have code compliance officers. The Manhattan Police Department had 2652 calls for service in 2019. That is calls that officers take care of. It would be accurate to add another 1000 calls for all police activities. He presented a written report for the council that summarized the process in the surrounding communities. He also provided some suggestions to address the code compliance issues, such as getting a part time code compliance officer, doing a permit process for longer term trailer parking, changing the length of time cars are allowed to park. He does not want to create an adversarial relationship between the public and the police. Changes could require minimum movement of the vehicles, provide for towing, removal and storage of vehicle that are not moved. He would suggest a committee to come up with a Town Ordinance to address the issues. He had some additional thoughts on semi-trucks parking on the streets and leaving refer trucks running all night in the residential areas. Chief Hengel has a written compliance letter that he can provide to the Mayor for updating and publishing for the citizens.

Councilman Ryan stated that the reason for enforcement is to clean up the town. A notice to the public would be helpful.

Council discussion included education of the current law, so that the public will not be angry with the police. They discussed the reasons for enforcement and the need for actual citizen complaints to address issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion- Schack; Second- Ryan; Vote-Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda.

Town Business Licenses: Billings Seafood Guys, Mountain Air Systems, and Wilder Construction, LLC.

Kennel License: Bob Uhrich – Renewal for 710 Jefferson

Chicken Coop: Shirley VanDyken, 203 Cottonwood

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting minutes from December 12, 2019.

Claims: Dated 12/13/19 – 01/09/20 totaling \$ 915,302.69.

ADJOURN:

Motion- Schack; Second- Mancuso; Vote-Unanimous: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer