

TOWN OF MANHATTAN
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2020
MINUTES

Mayor Glen Clements called the meeting to order via Zoom meeting 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 Nicole Rediske (TD&H), Mace Mangold, Bill Luehrs, Adam Jensen, Jill (no last name provided), Jamie (no last name provided, and one via phone with no name provided). Town representatives present were Town Engineer Kyle Scarr, Town Attorney Jane Mersen, Public Works Supervisor Jeff McAllister, and Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Councilman Ryan: He reported that there are several good things going on in town. The senior citizens are appreciating the efforts of everyone delivering meals, etc. The school lunch program has provided over 1000 meals for school kids. HRDC is helping people with utility costs, medical expenses, programs for rent and housing assistance. They are also working on a program to help residents pay sewer and water fees.

FINAL PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT AND RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT TO THE WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY AND ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT:

Public Hearing

Clerk read public hearing notice.

There was no public comment from the attendees.

Written comment from Sara Vaccaro, 302 W Manhattan Ave: She expressed concern about the cost of the project. She had several questions about funding and covering the overall cost and would like to see more actual costs.

Written comment from April Scharen, 112 N 3rd: She expressed concern about the cost of the project to the rate payers. She also had several questions for the engineers and Council.

Discussion

Mayor Clements stated that the rates and costs have been addressed in the previous public meetings that have been held. There is a cost share agreement with Churchill/Amsterdam. They will be paying their share of the flow for the cost of the required upgrades.

Councilwoman Callie Hamilton asked if the upgrades would still be necessary if Amsterdam/Churchill were not hooked to the Town system. Mayor Clements answered that, yes, the new DEQ permits had stricter requirements that the Town will have to meet regardless of the number of users on the system. Councilwoman Hamilton also asked if the Town is still paying on the loans from when the plant was built. Clerk/Treasurer Humphrey confirmed that those loans are still in place.

Councilwoman Betsy Mancuso asked if the Town can negotiate with the DEQ on the requirements of the new permit or the timing of meeting the requirements. Town

Engineer Kyle Scarr stated that the requirements will have to be met but there are options for time. They are proposing the phases to not have to implement everything at once. Nicole Rediske added that they have already gotten a little leeway with the DEQ. Some variances will be granted for Nitrogen and Phosphorus, however the actual standards will have to be met eventually.

Kyle Scarr, Town Engineer. He presented a recap of the project and the proposed alternatives. This is the final presentation for the PER and grant applications. Phase I specifically meets the DEQ requirements to meet the discharge permit and permit restrictions. He described the updates and additions that will be made in this phase, including a dewatering facility. A groundwater discharge unit would be added at Phase I also. The future phases are for the actual physical expansions and upgrades of the plant. Funding opportunities will determine what is applied for and when. He described what would be done in the plant to meet the future DEQ permits. He recapped the possible grant funding opportunities. The annual increase in costs for just Phase I would equate to \$35.58 per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit). Currently Amsterdam/Churchill has 37.5% of the plant capacity and would be responsible for that percentage of the costs. The cost per EDU is only the Town's portion of the increase. He described the Environmental Impacts. The engineers concluded that an Environmental Assessment is warranted vs an Environmental Impact Study. He described the items required on the agenda to move forward with the grant applications and environmental assessment determination.

Councilman Dan Ryan asked if groundwater injection of the waste was considered. Engineer Kyle Scarr indicated that the Rapid Infiltration Basin puts the water back into the ground.

Mayor Clements again asked for public comments. None were made.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-005 – ADOPT THE WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT:

Decision

Motion- Ryan; Second- Schack; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to approve Resolution No. 20-005, a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Manhattan, Montana to adopt the Town of Manhattan Water Reclamation Facility preliminary engineering report.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-006 – ACCEPT DETERMINATION THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Hamilton; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to approve Resolution No. 20-006, a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Manhattan, Montana to accept the determination that an Environmental Assessment is appropriate for the Town of Manhattan Water Reclamation Facility.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-007 – AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF TSEP APPLICATION FOR WRF:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Hamilton; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to approve Resolution No. 20-007, a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Manhattan, Montana to authorize submission of a TSEP application for the Town of Manhattan Water Reclamation Facility.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN RRGL AUTHORIZING STATEMENT:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Schack; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to authorize the Mayor to sign the RRGL Authorizing Statement.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN UNIFORM APPLICATION FORM FOR MONTANA PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECTS:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Hamilton; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to authorize the Mayor to sign the uniform application form for Montana Public Facilities Projects.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Motion- Schack; Second- Ryan; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to authorize the Mayor to sign the environmental review.

Town Engineer Kyle Scarr thanked the Council and Town Employees for the assistance and time spent on putting the PER together. They appreciate the help and support received. He also acknowledged the help received from State Representative Walt Sales and State Senator Scott Sales on behalf of the Town's project.

NUISANCE COMPLAINT – 230 S 4TH ST:

Motion- Schack, Second- Betsy: Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to investigate the complaint.

A complaint was received from a neighbor on the residence at 230 S 4th.

Adam Jensen, 230 S 4th St: He stated that he is the person being complained about and was there to represent himself.

Town Attorney Jane Mersen: She stated that the process outlined in the code is for the Council to ask for an investigation before making any decisions on a complaint. There are three issues in the complaint, zoning, nuisance, and right-of-way.

Mayor Clements will contact the building official and/or police chief to proceed with the investigation.

Councilman Dan Ryan: He asked Attorney Jane Mersen if the Town can use the original impact fee study to set impact fees.

Town Attorney Jane Mersen: She replied that she would be reluctant to go back to the original fees, the statute requires that the fees are based on current information.

Councilman Dan Ryan: He asked Bill Luehrs from Pioneer Crossing about their plans for water and sewer for the new phase. He also asked if Pioneer Crossing is willing to help with the discharge system.

Bill Luehrs, Pioneer Crossing: He stated that all water and sewer hookups are present. They are working under the prescription that if they are working with the DNRC, the Town will issue building permits. There are water capacity questions. The plan for the discharge has changed since their initial proposal. They are open to discussing the cost issue with the town.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Police report was received for the month. It shows a drop in warnings and citations. Less people are driving and officers are limiting contacts with people. Thefts and Partner Family Member Assaults have increased during the pandemic. He reminded everyone to keep cars and houses locked and try to help out neighbors to reduce stress levels.
- Public works are working on the gravel roads. This is weather dependent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion- Hamilton; Second- Schack; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda.

Town Business Licenses: Dykstra Electric LLC

Kennel License: Kristi Martenson, 114 S 6th St

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting minutes from March 12, 2020, Special Meeting minutes from March 19, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes from April 9, 2020, and Special Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2020.

Claims: Dated 04/17/20 – 05/13/20 totaling \$ 161,401.17.

ADJOURN:

Motion- Ryan; Second- Mancuso; Rollcall Vote- Dan Ryan- aye, Callie Hamilton- aye, Betsy Hamilton- aye, Greg Schack – aye: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer