

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

November 16, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor calls meeting to order at 6:00 PM

### II. ROLL CALL

Evan Craig - present

Julie Ford - present

Billie Burtenshaw - present

Reed Rankin - present

Gary Willis - present

Dan Rankin - present

Dianne Allen - present

### III. WORKSHOP: 2024 Budget

- Billie asks what the marijuana excise tax is, leading to discussion about zoning for marijuana business and restrictions.
- Gary asks about the dependent's coverage on insurance.
- Dianne - The new budgets are based on averages of the last several years and what the projected expenses will be.
- Gary asks about the garbage admin reserve fund, which has been eliminated. 1% royalty fund from WM pays for employee wages. Reserve fund was applied to balance in arrears to bring into compliance with industry standards. Evan asks about the water reserve; Dianne explains for major unexpected repairs.
- Gary asks about the separate alumni Pioneer walk fund, became a line item in the general fund at the suggestion of the auditor.
- Dianne asks for \$398,000 in Covid funds to pay for planning purposes, municipal code zoning. Per the FED Gov., ARPA funds can be used for general funds but must be approved by the Council. Comprehensive Plan will cost more than \$100,000 because of stringent requirements set by the state, county, & PSRC. Evan asks what the plans were for the ARPA funds, Dianne says it was going to be used to bring well 3 online, but she has applied for a CDBG grant to cover those costs instead. Gary asks if the application was "phased", Dianne says that CDBG has ARPA funds that they need to disburse so did not.
- Streets – running at a bit of a deficit, because insurance used to come out of general fund, changed to spread it out over all funds. The general fund will cover the shortfall.
- Library – they pay for utilities by square footage, they pay 82% of total building utilitites. They pay for all their necessary maintenance.
- Landfill – does not generate revenue, but to close the landfill will cost \$50,000 for past reports, will still have to pay to monitor.

- Parks – better but still at a deficit because of insurance. Excise tax on property tax can go into parks, Dianne puts 50% to parks. Gary suggests getting a leaf vacuum for next fall season. Reed asks if any funds will be available for the placement of the old machinery, Dianne said the money is there but waiting for the time to start the project.
- Airport – more revenue from facility leases, \$25,000 carryover this year. Funding requests require a match but airport has not had funds for match in the past.
- Clean Air – revenue from recycling clean up, eliminated grass clippings sections to save money, did not have to hire someone to man the Hampton site.
- Bond redemption – for fire prevention and investigation, funds are finite.
- 260 Levy – for fire prevention and investigation, funds are finite.
- Capital Improvements – deficit because not many homes are selling, CLT is on a hold and had to start paying back Commerce. EDA is working to help us.
- Water – 6 CDBG grants there. Will probably have about \$95,000 to carry through to next year. Gary asks if water plan is paid for, yes.
- Garbage – Reed asks about increasing the admin fee to cover the costs of the grass clippings and composting site, Dianne says that Council can approve an increase for it.
- Water Reserve – surcharges for app fee, new connection fees for capital improvements reserve. At a deficit because of the costs for the new truck.
- Cemetery – having an issue with Automatic Wilbert Vault, Dale has retired, they are failing to inform of fee increases and changes. Quinn Nations is interested in being the gravedigger for the Town. The bollards from the town hall parking lot will be placed out at the cemetery and section markers will be placed.
- Cemetery Reserve – nothing earmarked, leftover from Gathering Place. Strickland graves are still being marked each year.
- Treasury Trust – pass through, court disbursements and costs.
- Employee Salaries – raises for this year, 3% cost of living. Dee has taken on more duties and will receive an industry leveling raise to increase to standard level.
- Dianne will not be at the December meeting, submit questions to her by the 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### IV. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourns at 7:40pm.

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Dan O. Rankin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kim Thoms, Deputy Clerk