

## TOWN OF BASIN

Regular Council Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Basin City Arts Center at 7:00 PM

Call to Order Regular Session

Pledge of Allegiance

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Basin Council was held at the Basin City Arts Center in Basin, Wyoming on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Council Members Present: Mayor CJ Duncan, Brent Godfrey, Carl Olson, Stuart DesRosier, and Joseph Keele.

Also present were Clerk/Treasurer Deaun Tigner, Water Department Mike Dellos, Chief of Police Kyle McClure, Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee, Town Attorney Kent Richins, Carmen Olson, Katrina Olson, Duane from Montana Oasis, Steve Naso, Stewart Crouse, John Hallcroft, Dondee Duncan, Jeff Umphlett, Bill Dahlke, John Joyce, Tammy Keele, and Barbara Greene.

Public Comment: Mayor Duncan discussed an article printed in the paper about Mount View Cemetery. He wanted to make sure it was clear that he is not blaming the crew for not doing a good job on the cemetery and that he appreciates all that they do, and that he realizes they are extremely busy working everywhere. He also wanted to thank the Council for all the hard work that they put in.

Town Resident Stewart Crouse asked the Council if he can have Rocky Mountain Power in his yard. He states that it runs in his yard and they have offered electric to him and would like to know if he can use them. Because the pole is in his yard they have offered to have him hook into Rocky Mountain Power instead of municipal power. Town Attorney Kent Richins said he would look into it and then we will get him an answer.

John Hallcroft stated that he still does not have a street light. Mayor Duncan stated that we are working on it and that Stacey is aware of it.

### **Department Head Reports:**

Public Works: Steve VanderPloeg submitted his DSR to the Council, but did not attend the meeting.

Electric Utility: Stacey Leshner submitted his DSR to the Council, but did not attend the meeting.

Water Department: Mike Dellos submitted his DSR to the Council. The Consumer Confidence Report CCR for the Town of Basin and South Big Horn Water District will be coming out in the paper next week on the annual water quality report.

Administrative: Deaun Tigner reviewed her DSR with the Council. Delinquent/Aging Report: 30 days is \$1,860.425, up \$526.25, 60 days \$22,913.83, which is up \$783.46 as of June 10, 2021.

Municipal Court/Mount View Cemetery: Reviewed with the Council.

Police Department: Chief McClure reviewed his DSR with the Council. The radio grant has been approved pending final approval from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Both the Chief and Officer VanderPloeg have the new tasers and are fully trained on them as well. He has given a preliminary offer of employment to an employee.

#### **Committees/Commissions/Departments:**

Planning & Zoning: Councilman Olson reviewed the minutes for Planning and Zoning.

Rec District: Mayor Duncan stated that Reg Henderson has donated a picnic table to raffle off with the proceeds going to the swimming pool. The raffle was drawn at this meeting by Joseph Keele. Crystal Olson won the raffle. Councilman Olson thanked his wife from the Council for selling the majority of the tickets for the raffle.

Activity Committee: The committee helped a little bit with Lilac Days and the town participated in a few activities over Lilac Days. Mayor Duncan and the Council thanked Barbara Greene for running the Lilac Days. Barbara also thanked Tammy Keele for taking the photos.

Public Comments: None at this time.

#### **Building Permits:**

Ann Sweeny/Don Miller: 6-foot wooden fence.

Margaret Danna: Replacement of existing fence.

Councilman Keele made a motion to approve both building permits, Councilman DesRosier seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chicken Permit Applications:**

James Thomas

Gene Grose

Susan Naso.

Matthew & DeAnne Jensen.

Carey Gill.

Councilman DesRosier made a motion to approve all the chicken permits, Councilman Olson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Duncan announced that the town does have 30 days to get the certificates out to the residents and we would soon get them sent out.

**Executive Session:** None requested at this time.

**Approve Consent Agenda/Additions/Deletions:** Councilman Olson made a motion to move MEAN, the REA Cooperative Agreement and the Swimming pool after the regular minutes, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Conduct of Business:**

Carol Brehm from MEAN came to discuss an overview with how MEAN was changing and to address any questions. Basin has been with MEAN for a very long time, but it was not until 2005 that we signed a long-term contract with them, which means we have the cheapest rate with them and that all of their service schedule and participants own MEAN, so we own parts of plants that we have contracts with. MEAN is a member-driven organization. The way we get cheap rates is we buy power in long-term. The last of the long-term contracts ends in the 2040s, but it does not mean we cannot continue to purchase another term. In 2043 the bonds will be paid and the debt will be paid off the long-term agreement. MEAN is transmission dependent which means they do not own the transmission lines. There is a list of the detail transmissions on the back of the invoice the town receives which shows we are renting the lines from the transmission providers. Town Attorney Kent Richins asked if we paid more based on our location. Carol Brehm stated that everyone is different and we pay based on location of the providers that feed the town. Every member must be a member of what zone they are located in, Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) will have to join WEISS pretty soon. Basin currently uses a mix of resources, 67% coal, hydro 19%, wind 1%, landfill is 2%, and nuclear 11%. In 2010, the Town of Basin purchased the wind and annually we get 127,000 kwh hours of wind that we pay for. Every year a renewable survey goes out to all members and we would have the opportunity to change it, add to it, or change the percentage. If we would like to go to 5% in the next 10 years they will work that information out. If we want to change it before then we also can do that. The contract we are operating on right now is from

2005 and exists until the bonds expire or until the legal obligations are filled. Bonds expire in 2043, but could be longer or sooner than that, which is basically a fluid or open-ended date. That number is in the FCRC. John Joyce asked Carol Brehm if MEAN shuts a coal plant that Basin has an ownership in and we replace it with a long-term power purchase contract, do they assign a portion of that contract to Basin or is it spread over to everyone. Carol Brehm stated that as part of the service schedule M, it should list it in that. Carol Brehm stated the longer we can get energy for the cheaper it is. In 2023, 2024 and 2025, there are some Black Hills dropping off which will change the FCRC number (included in service schedule addendum D, schedule M). Mayor Duncan did state that the biggest complaint that they hear is that our energy is too costly and that we are always looking for ways to get the cost down and explore better ways to service the customers. Carol Brehm suggested if we have customers who have bills that are too high maybe we need to check their meters and if there is nothing wrong with the meters then they probably need to start looking at some energy efficiency stuff. Carol Brehm does not know what fees we put on top of the energy rate, but she did state they could come out and look at some of it. She said it could be something that needs to be audited. Mayor Duncan stated we will probably call around to other communities that they are charging so we can get a comparison on price. Carol Brehm will send to us any of the communities that have a like-wise load to give us a comparison on who to call.

REA Cooperative Agreement: Bill Dahlke and Jeff Umphlett did have a short discussion with Mayor Duncan on if the town would be interested in some discussion of shared services, security lights, outages, etc. Years ago the REA used to do the outage work and that lead to a discussion and a hold harmless agreement. He was wondering if there would be interest in common goals for each other. Mayor Duncan stated that we obviously want to provide the best service to our community and stated that we are interested in doing a cooperative agreement. June 23<sup>rd</sup> is the next board meeting so they will come up with an agreement. Mayor Duncan stated that we will try to come up with what our old agreements were. Councilman DesRosier made a motion to have the REA start paperwork and a discussion going with a cooperative agreement, Councilman Olson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Duncan also provided Jeff with an estimate of the split of paving the alley to take with his board. This project is in the budget so nothing will happen until after July, but the bid number will change once we start getting some bids.

John Joyce also stated that their board was discussing sharing employees if we have a problem and they would be fine entering into some type of mutual aid agreement. They also looked at two other options that are possibilities. As far as their board discussion went, they have no preference, not one or the other would be better. He stated they would be interested in whatever the Council would think would work best for the town. Mayor Duncan asked the REA to provide some preliminary numbers if we were to contract with BIG Horn REA.

Swimming Pool: Duane from Montana Oasis spoke to the Council. He started off by saying they had Rensis, which does the liner and PVC portion, show up yesterday, started on the pool today, and depending on weather it could be upwards of 3 weeks, but hopefully not that long. He is also up here to get all of the cracks in the deck filled in so the liner doesn't fall down and wear. They are here until it is done so they will not go anywhere else. They do work 6 to 7 days a week. They were starting at 5 in the morning and about 2-3 o'clock it was getting too hot to do some of the things. The pool shell should be done in 7 to 10 days. As soon as the deck is done they should be ready to use it. The pool will be ready by July 1, 2021. He does take this very seriously, has been doing it 20-30 years, and this is the first one he has ever had that has went past the due date. Mayor Duncan stated they felt like it was not fair to penalize him before June 1<sup>st</sup> as they were trying to work with him. The Council has talked with Jesse Frisbee on a couple of different ideas to deal with the penalties, one idea was automatic fill, another one was the shade or something around the pool as a shade, and another one was chemical injection. Before the retrofit happened the chemical mixer wasn't working. The chlorine filter we cannot get parts for anymore. Duane states that he does not feel like he is in control of when the pool gets done in regard to the laborers and it bothers him that he missed the date. Mayor Duncan stated that he realizes he cannot control it, but he did state that he thought he could finish the job and it is in the contract. The Council requested that they still need the autofill and the shade. Councilman Olson stated that the employment for the summer kids were depending on their jobs as lifeguards. Councilman DesRosier stated that the town came together to support the pool and thought it was bad to ask people to dig in their pockets and give up their money and not have it done in time. Councilman Godfrey stated if they put the autofiller in at \$1500 to \$2000 dollars that he thinks it would be pretty good compensation for something he had little to no control of. Duane asked what the cost was of the what the kids lost. Councilman Olson stated they would have to refer to the rec department to find out. Duane stated they would put the in the change order about \$500 with the autofill, he also ordered two main drains at \$130 a piece and he will throw those in as well, and he will come down this fall and help winterize the pool with no cost. The pool will stay full all winter, within a foot of the top of the gutter, which will make less deterioration. He also agreed to come back for two years in a row to make sure that the pool is winterized. Service calls to come down would be right around \$800 dollars. Councilman Olson made a motion to have Duane from Montana Oasis order the autofill, order two main drains, and come back in the fall for two years to make sure the pool is winterized, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Godfrey made a motion to accept the May 13, 2021 minutes and May 27, 2021 Regular Meeting, Councilman Keele seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Vouchers: Councilman Olson made a motion to approve the vouchers (\$179,929.65) and payroll (\$50,819.26), for a grand total of \$230,748.91, Councilman Keele seconded, and the motion carried.

Change of Conversion of Stulc Trust: Councilman Godfrey asked Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee some questions. Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee stated that the other people around would also have to sign off on it. Councilman Olson made a motion to accept the change of conversion on Jesse Frisbee's recommendation, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Eagles: After a discussion about the sandstone brick on the outside of the building, Councilman Godfrey made a motion to let the salvage company that is tearing it down handle it or get rid of it, Councilman DesRosier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

AVI: Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee stated that Bruce did send an email that says WyDOT approved the permit for 4<sup>th</sup> street. He also wants to get an answer from us if we want to go ahead with the Geotech boring. He got two bids, one from Teracon and American Engineering and Testing. He recommends just going with AET. Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee stated that he doesn't necessarily think we need to do it, but it is in the contract. Councilman Olson made a motion to approve the Geotech boring on Jesse Frisbee's recommendation, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The expected drilling on it is July 15, done by August.

Baptist Church Property Agreement: Councilman Olson stated the Baptist Church would like to pay for all 15 years in advance, rather than yearly, and will give a total lump sum on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Duncan asked that this agreement be posted at the town for public viewing for one week. Councilman Olson abstained as he is on the Deacon Council for the Church. Councilman Godfrey made a motion to accept the motion with the recommended changes, Councilman DesRosier seconded, with Carl abstaining from the motion.

Family Fun Day: Scheduled for July 31, 2021 which will include fishing, the Council will feed everyone lunch, and then do a drive up movie at the baseball field.

Rec Employment Reimbursement: Councilman Olson made a motion to approve the reimbursement for the lifeguards until the pool opens on July 1, 2021, Councilman DesRosier seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ARPA: Councilman Olson made a motion to approve signing the ARPA application, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 693 3<sup>rd</sup> reading : Councilman Godfrey made a motion to approve the ordinance on the third reading, Councilman Olson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 684: Garbage ordinance 3<sup>rd</sup> reading: Councilman Olson made a motion to approve this ordinance on the third reading, Councilman Keele seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Councilman Olson made a motion to have Town Attorney Kent Richins change the EDU rate, Councilman Godfrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Engineer Jesse Frisbee stated the chip seal is done and they will be back in about a week. They will windrow it in the middle of the road and the town will pick it up.

Mayor Duncan also brought up a couch being dumped in the compost pile. He also stated there is some great compost at the compost pile and if people want to get some themselves it is free, but if the town needs to load it we will charge for it. The town crew will work on getting signage for the compost pile.

Executive Session: Councilman Godfrey made a motion to go into executive session, Councilman Olson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 9:05 p.m. Councilman Godfrey made a motion to adjourn executive session and go into regular session at 9:20 p.m., Councilman Olson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Olson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, Councilman Godfrey seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

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Town of Basin Mayor/CJ Duncan

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Deaun Tigner – Town Clerk