

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on April 18, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Ron Coleman
Lee Blanchard
Pattie Berg
Rick Ellison

A. Call Regular Meeting to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

D. Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted on public matters not listed on this agenda and are within the jurisdiction of the City Council and having a significant interest to the public. During a regular session, there will be time after each agenda item for comment about that item.

1. Step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record.
2. Please limit your comments to THREE (3) minutes.

E. PUBLIC HEARING:

Discontinuance Petition for 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street - Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones –

The Petition has been filed by State of Montana Department of Transportation, as owners of the real property abutting this part of 5TH Avenue SW, as part of their plan to replace their existing building with a new facility slightly to the west of the current location, which will impact access of 5TH Avenue SW by the public in that location and will result in increased heavy equipment use by MDT and potential conflicts with public travel in this location.

Presentation/Discussion
Accept Public Comment

Motion/Vote to Close Public Hearing

The following ad was placed in the newspaper for two weeks:

NOTICE OF HEARING ON DISCONTINUANCE PETITION

5TH Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street in the City of White Sulphur Springs

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on April 18, 2023, at 6:00 PM or thereafter, in the City Council Chambers, 105 West Hampton, White Sulphur Springs, MT to consider discontinuance of 5TH Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street in Meagher County, City of White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

The Petition has been filed by State of Montana Department of Transportation, as owners of the real property abutting this part of 5TH Avenue SW, as part of their plan to replace their existing building with a new facility slightly to the west of the current location, which will impact access of 5TH Avenue SW by the public in that location and will result in increased heavy equipment use by MDT and potential conflicts with public travel in this location. The Petition is on file with the City Clerk/Treasurer and on the City's website.

Public comment and protest may be made in writing provided to: Attention City Council, PO Box 442, White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645; or at wss@itstriangle.com prior to noon on the day of the meeting, or expressed during the Public Comment period during the hearing.

Any person requesting further information may direct inquiries to City Engineer: Great West Engineering, Project Manager Jessica Salo, PE, at (406) 422-1288 or jsalo@greatwesteng.com.

(PUBLISH April 6th and April 13, 2023)

The Mayor asked if there any public comments or protest letters that had come into the City and there had not been any. The Mayor said that the State had requested a closure of 4th Ave and another Alley in 1979, but the City Council at the time said that it would be addressed at a different time and was never completed so this will be addressed at the next meeting. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to close the public hearing meeting. Lee Blanchard motioned to close the public hearing meeting. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

F. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Montana Department of Transportation – Ted Jones – Discontinuance Petition for 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street

Discussion and/or Action

Consider request for discontinuance of 5th Avenue SW based on Public Hearing.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to grant Discontinuance Petition as to 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street.

Ron Coleman motioned to grant the Discontinuance Petition as to 5th Avenue SW between Hancock Street and Garfield Street. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

G. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Presentation: Planning Grant or Loan Opportunities -- Department of Commerce – Craig Erickson, Gt West Engineering

Discussion and/or Action

Consider presentation from Craig Erickson, Gt West Engineering, as to Planning Grant or Loan Opportunities available for White Sulphur. Discuss options and possible projects which could benefit.

Accept Public Comment

Possible Motion: Move to authorize Mayor to pursue funding options with Gt West Engineering and bring back applications for approval as necessary.

Craig Erickson from Great West Engineering explained that there will be Planning Grants with City match opportunities available for the City. TSEP/MCEP Planning Grant program (every two years) normally could apply for (up to \$15,000 with a 1-1 match) for a CIP or PER (for a Water, Sewer, Wastewater, Storm Drain, or Solid Waste). Craig Erickson said that because of Governmental Entities, for whatever reason did not use all of their allocated ARPA funds, the funds were reverted back to the State and some of those funds have been allocated to the MCEP programs and Towns can now just this year apply to up to four MCEP Planning Grants (up to \$40,000 per grant with a 20% match) for projects (two PERs, one CIP, and one Bridge). Craig Erickson said that if the City talked to the Montana Department of Commerce before applying for an “other” planning grant project like a SWIF (system-wide improvement framework) update Grant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Infrastructure, for a levee, (for example it could possibly be used with the Parks & Trails Recreational Master Plan Project). Craig Erickson said that this year only House Bill No. 6, (DNRC) Renewable Resource Grants (up to \$125,000) and Loan Program, because of the ARPA funds, will be able to apply for and use as matching funds for projects. Craig Erickson said that there is also a CDBG (up to \$50,000 with a 1-3 match), Community Development Block Grant Program, available to apply for by June 30, 2023. It was suggested to review the priority list for the City’s CIP and see if there was a good project for the funding that is available. There was a question about available funding for