

## City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on June 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pattie Berg  
Rick Ellison  
Lee Blanchard

### A. Call 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. Read & Approve - Accept or Reject Minutes

#### 1. April 3rd Meeting – Regular Session

*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve or reject the Regular Session minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup> as presented. Rick Ellison motioned to approve the Regular Session April 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes as presented. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

#### 2. April 18<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing Meeting and Regular Session

*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*

This was tabled until next month.

#### 3. May 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – Work Session and Regular Session

*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*

This was tabled until next month.

#### 4. May 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and Work Session

*Possible Motion: Move to Accept Minutes as presented or as amended*

This was tabled until next month.

### F. Receive/Accept Reports

#### 1. Sheriff's Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Meagher County Sheriff's Office Complaint Report month of May. The Mayor said that the no parking signs behind Town Pump have been put up and the stop sign has been put back up. Jon Lopp said that there was a homicide on the 21st (a shooting between two males Dominic Driscoll and Ben Bullington), with formal charges on Dominic Driscoll for the death of Ben Bullington in District Court tomorrow.

#### 2. City Court Report – City Judge Lori Sorenson

The Mayor for the citation activity and case statistics reports was handed out for the Council. It was a busy month with a lot of hours, sentencing, and community service for one individual a possibility for this month.

#### 3. Fire Department Report - City Fire Chief Sam Peeler – none.

#### 4. City Engineer's Report - Great West Engineering

Jessica Salo reported that Great West Engineering has been working on:

Task Order 2: Water System Preliminary Engineering Report

Work during this period includes:

Preparing the PER document which evaluates the entire water system and presents replacement of the 12-inch transmission main as the preferred alternative with a funding scenario that includes ARPA and SRF loan/forgiveness.

Task Order 3: Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Work during this period includes:

- Summarizing community survey outreach material responses.
- Coordination of the PASER streets analysis.
- Field work and office work associated with the PASER evaluations.

Task Order 4: Backup Generator

Work during this period includes:

- Development of design plans and specifications for the water well and lift station backup generators.
- Bidding and award of construction contract.
- ARPA progress reports and budget updates.
- Contractor submittal reviews.

Task Order 6: General Services

Work during this period includes:

- Review of materials pertaining to the Mountainview Medical Center annexation, attendance at meetings, preparation of recommendations to planning board, and discussions with Rocky on various design components.
- Variance to setbacks review and recommendations.
- Assistance with Finucan easement.

#### 5. Public Work's Report - City Public Works Supervisor Rocky Vinton - The City Shop building materials arrived.

The Crew has been working on patching the streets, land use permit applications, working on mapping, locates for curb stops, and valves. The mount being fabricated to attach the asphalt zipper to the loader is almost done and then the Crew can start to rip up and repaving streets.

#### 6. Animal Control Report – Marc Pryor

Marc Pryor said that the Spay & Neuter Clinic is coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The animals have been scheduled in for treatments. Marc Pryor thought that there should be enough volunteers. Marc Pryor said that with public donations and the Race for this Place donation coming up in July the animal control fund should have enough in it for the construction of the new shelter building. Rocky Vinton has been digging and prepping for the new Animal Shelter concrete slab. A chicken roaming around town, but never found out who it belonged to.

#### 7. Parks Committee Report – Jennifer Frazer

There is still one vacancy. The tennis/pickle ball court facilities have been being used every night. The Committee has been looking into getting two porta potties for the Parks.

#### 8. Meagher County/City Housing Project Report – Jackson Rose

Terry Taylor said that the Committee meeting for the housing project on May 25<sup>th</sup> with groups and community participation. HRDC grants will be available for low income housing residents wanting to renovate their house and the Meagher County Stewardship will be handling the applications and funding.

#### 9. Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom – none.

### I. Unfinished Business - Items for Discussion and/or Action

#### 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Snow Removal Policy/Ordinance 2023-4

Discussion and/or Action

Continued item from May 16, 2023: Approval on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ordinance 2023-4, ordinance language re: snowfall, snow removal, and melting issues for residents.

Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to finally adopt Ordinance 2023-4. OR Move to continue 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2023-4 as amended during discussion.*

The Mayor, Council, and City Attorney discussed the snow removal policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2023-4. Lee Blanchard motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-4. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

## **2. Septic to Sewer Discussion**

### Discussion and/or Action

Continue discussion with Gt. West Engineering as to identified issues, possible funding options and potential resolutions both interim and long-term re: failing septic tanks and possible actions/solutions. Area of issue is in the Woodson Addition between Badger Street and Woodson, and First Avenue NW and Central Northwest Avenue.

### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to authorize planning of main sewer line installation and seek emergency funding for project. OR, Move to continue this to another meeting.*

Jessica Salo discussed the plan to solve the problem, high ground water and septic tanks, by adding grinder pumps at the effected houses to push the sewage up the line without the City needing to install a full pump station. The cost would be about \$230,000 for the City, SRF would forgive 49% of the loan, and the \$10,000 grant available per the four involved home owners would cut the City cost to about \$75,000. Jessica Salo said that she could present the design contract for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW Septic to Sewer Project and final contract amount at the upcoming Council meeting.

Pattie Berg motioned to authorize planning of the main sewer line installation and seek emergency funding for the project. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

## **J. New Business- Items for Discussion and/or Action**

### **1. Red Ants Pants Music Festival – Street Dance – Street Closure and Open Container Waiver- Sarah Calhoun**

#### Discussion and/or Action

Discuss Red Ants Pants Annual Music Festival, Street Dance, and need for street closure and open container waiver for July 28-31, 2022.

#### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to grant Red Ants Pants a street closure for street dance and open contain waiver.*

Sarah Calhoun presented the Council requesting approval of a street closure and an open container waiver for the Red Ants Pants Annual Music Festival, street dance. Sarah Calhoun said that they would be supplying additional garbage service and porta potties during the street dance. Sarah Calhoun has submitted the necessary permits and map.

### **2. Land Use Permit Request: Lot Line Change – 309 N Central Ave – New Construction Brent & Kara Beckman**

#### Discussion and/or Action

Discuss request submitted by B & K Beckman for a lot line change for lots 36 and 37 and Retrace of Lot 35 of Block 4 Woodson Addition, located at the corner of Baker St and Central Ave. N. (see application and submitted Amended Plat)

#### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to approve Lot Line Change as presented in the Amended Plat for Lots 36 and 37 and Retrace Lot 35 all of Block 4 of the Woodson Addition*

The Mayor said that Beckman had come up to the City months ago about their plans to build two rental houses and changed the plans of the lots, to make easier access for the driveway on Baker Street without a steep incline. The Mayor said that Beckman had submitted a land use permit

that was approved by the City Crew and they had already started. The City Crew were not aware of the lot change for lots 36 and 37. The Mayor said that the property was surveyed already. Council signatures are needed to formally be filed with the County Courthouse. Pattie Berg motioned to approve Lot Line Change as presented in the Amended Plat of Lots 36 and 37 and retrace lot 35 all of Block 4 Woodson Addition. Lee Blanchard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

### **3. Reappointment of Planning Board Member Yvonne Kostelecky**

#### Discussion and/or Action

The appointment of Yvonne Kostelecky to a 2-year term from June 7, 2021, is expiring.

Discuss reappointment to another 2-year term.

#### Accept Public Comment

*Possible Motion: Move to reappoint Yvonne Kostelecky to a 2-year term on the City/County Planning Board.*

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to reappoint Yvonne Kostelecky to a 2-year term on the City/County Planning Board. Rick Ellison motioned to reappoint Yvonne Kostelecky to a 2-year term on the City/County Planning Board. Pattie Berg seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

## **K. Comments/Discussion**

### 1. Future Business

#### 2. Mayor's Comments—Rick Nelson

The Mayor said that after not hearing from the initial contractor on the City Shop General Steel recommended a contractor out of Belgrade, Treasure State Inc., to furnish labor, equipment, and material to complete the scope of work for the project: Concrete Pad/Apron/13 each Pier Footings, the project will end up costing more and will be discussed at the next Council meeting. The Mayor said that the propane tank that is at the City Yard is no good, a new propane tank is about \$3,000, Jerami West has a 500 gal tank with 100 gallons still in it available and willing to sell it to the City for \$1,000. The Mayor said that electrical for the building will be discussed in the budget process. The Mayor and Rocky Vinton had visited several times about the needs for the City Shop, a newer truck to replace the failing truck, an accessory to use with the loader to unload heavy items with, and other items on the list that will be discussed further in the budget process. There will be a budget work session on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Council Comments/Discussion

#### a. President of the Council—Ron Coleman – gone.

#### b. Council Member—Lee Blanchard

Lee Blanchard asked about the planning start date status on the street. The Mayor said that the quick attach bucket for better safety and visibility for the asphalt zipper is almost done.

#### c. Council Member—Pattie Berg

Pattie Berg inquired about the upcoming elections for the City Council. The Mayor said that there are two seats (4 Year Terms) up for election, with the filing deadline being June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Once they know if they have more candidates than positions, the City will need to request an Election with the County election personnel.

#### d. Council Member—Rick Ellison

There was an inquiry about children at play signs for the kids out riding bicycles. A resident can buy a sign (there are several around town) and place them out to alert traveling traffic that there are kids at play and to slow down and pay attention.

**L. Council Review of Financials**

The Council received a copy of the Budget Expenditure/Revenue for April.

The Mayor recommended that the Council let Craig Erickson from Great West Engineering look into applying for the four available Planning Grants (up to \$40,000 per grant), a Wastewater PER, Stormwater PER, Street Planning Grant, and the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Council agreed. The Mayor will speak to Craig Erickson about applying for the four Planning Grants available to the City.

**M. Claims Signing/Motion to Approve the Bills**

**N. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting**

Pay the Bills

Accounting Claim Check #'s 19150-19167 May 17-31 for \$10,491.77 June 1-5 for \$113,578.99

Accounting Claim Check #'s 19168-19183 June 1-5 for \$113,578.99

Payroll & Electronic Check #'s 9439-9458 May 16-31 for \$22,229.26


Utility Billing System Adjustments Journal Vouchers May 1-31 for \$180.25

Received a copy Budget Expenditure/Revenue April

05-17-2023 thru 05-31-2023 and 06-01-2023 thru 06-05-2023 were presented for Council's approval. The Mayor and Council received the Pay the Bills and the monthly April 1, 2023 thru April 30, 2023 Budget Expenditures/Revenues. The Mayor asked if there is a motion to pay the bills. Lee Blanchard motioned to pay the bills as presented. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

**K. Motion/Vote to Adjourn the Meeting**

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rick Ellison seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

  
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Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Mayor – Rick Nelson