

City of White Sulphur Springs

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on May 17, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Rick Nelson called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pattie Berg
Ron Coleman
Michele Walker
Stacy Menard – via Zoom

Public Comment – The Mayor asked if there were any Public Comment and stated that this is the time for individuals to comment on matters falling within the purview of the Council. Please approach the podium, and state your name and address for the record. There will also be an opportunity in conjunction with each agenda item for comments pertaining to that item. Please limit your comments to three minutes. Please refrain from any conversation amongst yourselves.

Marcy Joyce, 304 Lincoln Street E, discussed the public safety issues with pigeons in various areas in town.

Appointment of New Council Member (2-year unexpired term)

Discussion and/or Action regarding the appointment of a new City Council Member.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve the appointment of a new City Council member OR

Move to continue to a Special Meeting Agenda.

The Mayor said that the City received four interest letter applicants, Sam Peeler, Marcy Joyce, Lee Blanchard, and Muriel Pryor.

Sam Peeler
15 E Folsom St
White Sulphur Springs MT 59645
406-207-1626

Dear Council Members and Mayor:

I am writing to express my interest in filling the upcoming vacancy on the city council. I would appreciate your consideration.

I believe I would be a good addition to the council. I have lived in White Sulphur Springs for over 9 years, have a family here, and I am very active in the volunteer fire department. This community and its future are important to me, not only as a small business owner, but also as a parent of two children. I want this community to continue to move forward and improve, and add opportunities for jobs and housing so that this will still be a great community to raise children in when they are parents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Peeler



05/14/2021

Letter of Intent to run for White Sulphur Springs City Council.

May 14, 2021

My name is Lee Blanchard, I am a home business owner here in White Sulphur Springs. I own and operate Shear Edges, a sharpening service. I have lived here for 3 years now. I was raised in Montana, mostly north western. I graduated from Manhattan, MT in 1989. In October of 1990 I enlisted in the U.S. Army as an M1A1 crewman, I stayed in that Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) for 10 years. I started out as a driver and ended up as a Tank Commander, during that time I also had many additional duties some of these were, Re-enlistment NCO, HAZMAT NCO, NEO Warden (responsible for defendants to be moved from Germany back to the US if something was to happen), Key Custodian and Training NCO. During this time I did multiple gunner rotations. Deployments during this time included a 6 month UN Peace Keeping rotation to Macedonia. At the 10 year mark I changed my MOS to computers and networks. My first duty assignment for this MOS was in Korea as a Platoon Sergeant. I was in charge of 36 soldiers and our responsibility was network communications for the Korean Peninsula for both classified and unclassified networks. State side I was stationed at Ft Belvoir, VA and Ft Stewart, GA. At Ft Belvoir I was the Platoon Sergeant in charge of all connectivity for a Top Secret facility. At Ft Stewart I had a dual position due to my rank of Sergeant First Class, Platoon Sergeant/Commo Sergeant for the 4th Brigade Combat Team. Responsible for training and progression of all E-6 and below soldiers across 20 different occupational specialties. All computer and network communications for a 5000+ man brigade, this included for the Brigade Headquarters and 5 Battalion Headquarters. I deployed to Iraq and was in charge of 2 primary locations with 13 servers on 3 different networks, unclassified, classified and centrix. In addition to this I was also tasked to be the personal security commander for Assistant Brigade Commander. I retired in March of 2011 and did a few different jobs around the Hinesville, GA area. The last one being a Corrections Officer at a high max state prison, Smith State Prison. After this I moved to San Jose California to work at Apple Inc for several years. My family and I decided that California wasn't the place for us so I moved to White Sulphur Springs to start my own business. We chose this location because it is where my parents live, and the location is perfect for my mail in business. I am a current member on the Search and Rescue team, I am also a member of the Chamber of Commerce. my wife, Claudia, works at the school.

I have a vested interest in White Sulphur Springs as both my wife and I really like living here and we are both tired of moving. I feel that at this point in my life I have the knowledge and time to devote to this important position. Due to the various ways in which I am already involved within the community, such as connecting with and maintaining positive relationships with residents and local businesses, and keeping up to date with local issues including the economy, politicals and decisions made by the current city council, I feel that the next natural step is for me to become actively involved in local politics.

If I should get elected to city council, I will focus on community safety, developing opportunities for new businesses and support for our existing community businesses. I will promote responsible fiscal decision making, support our local schools, and work toward offering more opportunities for youth recreational programs. I will work to ensure that local government has positive effects on our quality of life and not be intrusive to the residents of White Sulphur Springs. I would like to see an improvement in the condition of city streets to keep our city looking clean and beautiful. I would ensure that all residents have a voice and make decisions that are in the best interest of the city and its residents. I am also very devoted to long-term planning since I plan on living in this community and hopefully even watch my grandchildren grow up here.

5/7/21

White Sulphur Springs City Council

I am writing to request appointment for the council position that City Councilwoman Michelle Walker is vacating.

I meet the minimum requirements for the role.

I care deeply about White Sulphur Springs and have several properties and businesses located within the city limits. I have a vested interest in ensuring the town's survival and my husband's family has been here for many generations following his Grandparents homesteading in WSS. My husband moved into town with his family when he was in junior high and he has maintained a home here since he graduated from high school.

I have a variety of experience to bring to the council including but not limited to;

1. quality, risk and emergency management
2. contract negotiations and implementation
3. project prioritization, planning, implementation, coordination and management
4. assessment of need and available resources in addition to the ability to leverage those resources for the purpose of meeting need – both on the individual level as well as corporate level
5. education in historic preservation as well as resources
6. organized, implemented, coordinated and facilitated a community cleanup group in a town where I had investment properties for the purpose of improving neighborhoods, reducing crime while ensuring that senior citizens and other individuals in the neighborhoods we assisted felt safe again.
 - a. accomplishments include but are not limited to –
 - i. cleaning up lots of individuals unable to complete the tasks themselves and unable afford to hire assistance.
 - ii. Organizing an effort to collect appliances sitting in yards and alleys – our group collected and recycled over 300 appliances

Thank you for your consideration.

Marcy Joyce

PO BOX 116

White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

406-707-0470

To the White Sulphur City Council,

This is a letter of interest from me to be considered for the City Council position that is open at this time.

I am a U.S. Citizen over the age of 18 and a resident in the city limits since June 6th 2006

I try to have an unbiased view of issues, look at the good and the bad. Then seek out the truth to try and find a solution to resolve any issues. Currently I work for the White Sulphur School District.

Please consider me for this position. Thank you for your time, hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, Muriel Pryor 05/14/2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Muriel Pryor 5-14-21". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Of the four applicants two were present. The Council discussed the applicants.

Lee Blanchard has lived in White Sulphur Springs for three years. He retired in the US Army with specialties of computer and networking, along with budgeting experience. He would like to address the streets at some point. He is interested in setting up kids' activities. He is interested in growth of businesses and new business opportunities.

Marcy Joyce said that she has a couple of businesses in White Sulphur Springs, her husband grew up in White Sulphur Springs, so they have a vested interest in ensuring the town's survival and cleaning up the town so that there are safe community neighborhoods all over for generations to come.

There was a Council discussion and concerns reviewed about their thirteen travel trailers that are in town in various areas by the Joyce's properties. Marcy Joyce said that they are currently restoring some of them, in process of relocating a few, and the other ones are currently listed for sale.

Stacy Menard motioned to approve the appointment of a new City Council, Lee Blanchard. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. Stacy Menard said Aye, Pattie Berg said Aye, and Ron Coleman said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

The Mayor said that Lee Blanchard would be sworn into oath after the regular meeting.

Annexation Application – Mountainview Medical Center

Discussion and/or Action regarding the Annexation Application of the Mountainview Medical Center.

Possible Motion:

Move to refer application to Planning Board with any preliminary comments.

Mountain View Medical Center CEO, Rob Brandt and Shane Sereday presented the Council with the hospital annexation application plans on the newly purchased land. Rob Brandt explained that the plan is to build a new hospital there on the east edge of the City adjacent to the Meagher County Rodeo Grounds, but they need a commitment from the City to provide water and sewer services as part of their USDA loan application. Potential proposal route locations were discussed. The Council discussed several issues. One issue is with the safety along the proposed approach onto Garfield Street. Another issue was about the water and sewer utility lines, streets that would be able to follow the current grid, and lighting. It was suggested to forward the annexation plan to the Planning Board for review. On the next Agenda the approval of the water main tie-in by the new hospital will be a continuation discussion on hooking a 12” Water Main to the City’s Water Main at Townsend’s pivot to provide water to the new facility and to allow for a by-pass of the old line in case of breakage to ensure the City will still receive water. Pattie Berg motioned to refer the Mountain View Medical Center annexation application to the Planning Board with any preliminary comments for review. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. Pattie Berg, Ron Coleman, and Stacy Menard said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

Open Container Waiver/Street Closure (The Wraith RC - Heith Stidham)

Discussion and/or Action on an Open Container Waiver and Street Closure of Main Street on June 26, 2021 from 4 p.m. to Midnight (12:00 a.m.) for a poker run and street dance.

Possible Motion:

Move to Approve Open Container Waiver and Street Closure.

Heith Stidham with The Wraith RC presented the Council with a request to close the street from the Jawbone to the Stockman Bar (2nd Street to Central Street) and apply for an open container waiver, the motorcycle club is looking to have a poker run and the band from Clyde Park, with music from 3 Miles to Clyde, and a street dance (4 pm to Midnight) on June 26th. Heith Stidham said that they expect to see possibly about 100 motorcycles this 1st year and become larger as an annual event. This year since the Motorcycle club is based out of Great Falls the fund raising will go to the Humane Society in Great Falls. Heith Stidham said that there has been some talk in the works also about taking over on what the Lincoln Motorcycle Rally does every year this for the next year here in White Sulphur Springs. It was asked if they had thought about having extra law enforcement around for the event. Heith Stidham said that he had already spoken to the Sheriff, Jon Lopp, about having more law enforcement available. Kate Martin from the Lane Bar (Fast Lane Partners LLC) is going to send out to the State Main Street closure application form with the map. Stacy Menard motioned to approve the open container waiver and street closure. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. Pattie Berg, Ron Coleman, and Stacy Menard all said Aye. Motion carried and passed.

Motion/Vote to Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Mayor asked the Council if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stacy Menard seconded the motion. All said Aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Lee Blanchard took his Oath of Office as a City Council Member by City Clerk Michelle Stidham.

Work Session, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. (Started Directly After the Work Session)

Council Discussion: Interim Land Use (Zoning) – (City Atty S. Wordal)

Discuss issue generally, entertain/suggest potential changes to existing document.


Michelle Stidham—Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor – Rick Nelson