

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
AUGUST 10TH, 2020

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers garage at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, August 10th, 2020.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Pat Peterson, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Bill Lanes, Logan Reiff, Mayor Mary Hensleigh and Town Clerk/Treasurer Summer Fellows.

VISITORS: Nick Hensleigh, Alison Richardson, Julie Prigmore, Joe Granvold, Patricia Dana, Gretchen Tavenner, Leonard Wortman, Maxine Samuelson, Dale and Bridget Morse.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. All Council Members were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Katy made motion to approve the Agenda with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Shawn motioned to approve the July 2020 minutes with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: I would just like to thank Roy for running last months meeting while I was recuperating. I really appreciate it and it was very helpful to sit at home and watch the meeting on T.V. The Council did a great job speaking into the microphones and I could hear all of you. I think it was at the last Council meeting that there was only one working microphone that Summer and Roy were using and it was hard to hear. Also, people in the audience, you have to come up to the podium to talk because it's very confusing watching from home when someone is asking a question and someone out here is trying to answer or talk especially Kory where most of the questions are directed to. So, it is very important to come up and use the microphones so that people at home can hear. I would also like to report that the sidewalk project is done and the chip sealing project. Both turned out well and look great. It's been a busy summer and its already August. Public Works has been very busy as have the Clerks. They are working on the next audit and things are going along smoothly.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report:

No report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Summer Fellows: I have been getting a lot of complaints and calls regarding the parking situation over by the Clinic, Library and Two Bit. It's getting really tight and congested. As a Town, maybe we can start figuring out something to do. So, just something to put on your radar. The parking is really terrible and it is becoming a safety issue as well. In the Office, we are working on the audit and helping Public Works on our end with water breaks and equipment breaking. It's hot out so, between that and Covid, I think people are pretty grumpy.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: The sewer lagoon has about 4 ½ feet of water yet to discharge. It will probably take me to about the middle of next month but, we should be empty by the middle of fall and that is a good thing. We've had a lot of water and sewer samples. It's our 3- and 9-year sample time. Tomorrow and Wednesday we will be doing lead and copper for water samples and then I have about 15 other bottles to do two different samples at the two well. We did have a couple of water leaks on service lines this last month. When we tore up the sidewalks for the sidewalk project, we ended up fixing or replacing 12 different curb stops on Legion. Chip sealing looks wonderful this time compared to the last time and I think it is going to work this time. For the sidewalk project, they haven't come back and painted our corners so I made a call and they assured me they would get back here and get it done. At Legion Park during Frontier Days, we ended up having a shorted breaker and meter base. That is why the grass is kind of dry. We did have a sprinkler break in the Cemetery which shut it down for a few days. We have put out nine loads of weed spray. For Frontier Days, Public Works went ahead and did the road closures and took care of all the garbage for that. We did get up 3 dog stations at Legion Park and have 3 more to go. We took our old trucks to Helena's Public Surplus and got two new ones.

Fire Chief's Report:

Joe Granvold: From July 1st through August 10th we've had 11 wild fires, 5 semi fire wrecks, 6 POV wrecks with fires, 1 controlled burn and 1 lift assist. Joe continues, see recording.

Sherriff's report:

Summer: The Town of Whitehall had 119 calls to dispatch. I will keep this list here if anyone wants to look at it, I'm not going to go through each individual one. It's everything from welfare checks, traffic offenses, suicide attempts, 911 hang up calls and burglary. The highest one was traffic stops at 21.

Committee / Board Reports:**Planning Board:**

Pat: We had our meeting last Monday; we were kind of busy because we've had some old business and new business. A couple of issues came up, we were asked to discuss the idea that Business License requests go to the Planning Board first and we had one given to us to review and make recommendations to the Council. So, we did that with the one and we think it is a good idea because it is supposed to be apart of the growth plan policy for the Town which is developed through the Planning Board. So, we thought it was a good idea for Business Licenses go before the Planning Board for review. We had quite a few requests for fences. We are still having problems with requests coming in that are not complete. We had two that had to be tabled for a second month because they didn't have sufficient information on them. On one case there was absolutely no contact information on it so we couldn't contact anyone to ask. We are trying to make sure that people know that they need to come to the meeting even if it is a straight forward request. We approved most of them except for the ones that were incomplete.

Recreational Complex Board:

Shawn: We did not meet this last time around but we have some updates. The Tuesday night barrel races have concluded. They made one out of two with rain outs and that is officially done for the season. One more O-mok-see on August 23rd and that will be it. We did the Ranch round up at Frontier Days but it was cancelled. Really coming to a close with all the organized things other than the last O-mok-see on August 23rd. Just a shout out, it looks really good out there since the City mowed it.

Pool Board:

Katy: I sent you the minutes, did you not get them?

Summer: Yeah, I did but they didn't make it in time.

Katy: I guess we need a dollar amount of donations we have received.

Summer: Donations?

Katy: Yes.

Summer: Ok so, I was out of the office Thursday and Friday, I had to get Covid tested. I don't have it, I'm negative. I don't know where we are at but last time it was a little over \$11,000 but I'm sure it has grown some since.

Katy: Ok, and our last day is?

Summer: The 15th is the last day.

Mayor: This is the last week for the Pool.

Katy: We have one more meeting coming up and I think it is the 25th. It's two weeks from tonight.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

Logan: We met on July 28th. For old business, we talked about Frontier Days and how it went despite the Covid and it was quiet. It was ok, the vendors said they had a lot of business on Saturday which is good. The sidewalk project is complete but we also discussed other sidewalk projects that will be beneficial to those around here and if we would apply for a grant to do that. Chip sealing is done on 1st street. I feel like I am kind of repeating Kory here and we discussed the T.I.F.F. money. We also discussed the Bike Park and the drainage and how that was a problem. The T.I.F.F. offered to have an Engineer come in and look at it to see what the options are other than covering it up because kids are using it this year. But Kory said he is having a hard time spraying the weeds and keeping up. We just discussed that it is a difficult thing but we will keep moving forward in anyway we can and see what we can do there. Then, the Cemetery. Kory is having a hard time keeping it green but that is something that NorthWestern needs to address.

Mayor: Just some clarification, the T.I.F.F. didn't authorize the Engineer, that's my brother Jeff. He is going to have Golden Sunlight find an Engineer and present that.

Water/Sewer/Garbage and Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

Roy: We talked about waiving the garbage fee at the new park (Bill Pullman's green space) because they don't have any and we talked about waiving the sewer because the line is broken and they are not using it. We did talk about some issues and getting it jetted, anything else Kory on that?

Kory: I think that covers it.

Roy: On the streets and alleys, we were going to get a price to hire someone to grade the ally's, We wanted to wait until it rained or early fall to see how much that would cost and get a price. We are looking at a couple different people to do that. We talked about the sidewalk project and how good it looked. We talked about starting some other projects and getting lined up for it. We talked about the chip seal project and how good it looks and it looks like it is going to hold up this time.

Summer: We also talked about if someone has a leak, we only go back two months. As a consumer, if you have a leak, you want to report it and get it fixed. Come and fill out a complaint form otherwise, we are not going to go back farther. We are not going to go back 6 months; we are only going to go back 2 months. That's enough time for people to find and fix the problem.

T.I.F.F.:

Bridget: We talked about our projects and we wanted to do a bunch of sidewalks and get these corners done for handicap access and we can apply for grants to get the sections in between done which we could never apply for before. So, it's better to hold off on the T.I.F.F. just paying for what we've been doing with patch jobs and wait to see if it pans out and use our funds in different directions. Then after that we went through the applications we had and I think we approved every single one. They are on your list I see on the Agenda. I understand that the forms have gone out to the people and they have already started at the community center and I am excited to see some new progress in Town.

CTAC:

Alison Richardson gave an update on Golden Sunlight Mine, JLDC and the meat processing plant. See recording.

VII. Public Comment:

Maxine Samuelson: I just wanted to thank everyone that has taken their mask off while speaking because it is a lot easier to understand. Thank you.

Pat Peterson: Things have been going on in Town that has not gone through the Planning Board. It looks like there is an addition being build onto the Napa building. Planning Board has no word of this. A few other things have gone on and we would really like stress the reason for the planning Board. The reason is to keep Whitehall looking good and developing in the right way. We're not just being pushy, we're just trying to be consistent and make sure everyone is following the same rules.

Mayor: Napa did go through the Planning Board but it has been over a year and I don't think they realized it expires.

Pat: I talked to Lori and it wasn't approved because they needed to get an engineer blueprint done and none of that was done. They have to get State approval because it is a commercial building and none of that was done.

Mayor: Oh. Good to know.

Summer: There's a little bit of confusion, I talked to Ryan because I have had lots of phone calls from the Planning Board. There was somehow a miscommunication between him and I, I don't know. I will take full responsibility. He did go through the rights steps with the State so, he will come and see me in the morning and we will go from there.

Joe Granvold: I live up on Skyline Drive and for over a year now, I have been trying to get the road patched that's been there for over a year now. I believe it's from NorthWestern Energy and I would appreciate if you guys could call them.

Kory: I've called them twice Joe.

Joe: I know you have so maybe we need more than that.

Leonard Wortman gave a report on happenings in Whitehall and the County.

Jeanne Farris: I just wanted you all to know that we have a new Library Board member. Her name is Via Errett, some of you probably know her and she has joined Diane Ward and Velda Bowman as our 3 Whitehall Board Members. I also have a young man volunteering. He has pulled all the weeds so please don't call and tell me someone is pulling our flowers. I've already had that happen, he's pulling weeds and he has about 10 more hours he wants to volunteer for us and it looks great.

Bill Lanes: I just wanted to thank the City, especially Kory for allowing us to use City cones for the food drive. It was very successful and very commendable of 25 resident that volunteered and worked really hard for over 3 hours to take on the load of people that came through. That represents Whitehall well.

Mayor: You did very well Bill and it was very impressive.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board

David Schreiber / 107 W. 3rd Street / tabled need more info.

Brad Dana / 201 S. Main St. / old add on to mobile home, amended / approved

Brad Jones / 7 N. A St. / fence / tabled

Tavenner / 304 N. Brooke St. / fence / approved

William Mclaughlin / 11 W. 1st St. / fence / tabled

Leon Johnson / 201 W. 2nd / fence / tabled.

Friends of the Library / 110 W. 1st / replace bench / approved

Maxine Samuelson / 300 E. 2nd / add concrete pad to back steps / approved

Business License

Camilla Baycroft AIRBNB

Devon's Contracting

Mountain Valley Enterprises

Ballard Cleaning

Bob Hanson Construction

Pool Board Member

Kate Welch

Fire Department

Two new volunteers / will be announced at Council Meeting.

Max Jordan

Chandler Balabanoff

Roy made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Aaron Edwards from the Center of Mental Health / Office will be in Borden's.

Julie Prigmore filled in for Aaron Edwards and gave a presentation on the services that they will provide such as family/ children counseling, medication management and community presentations for Whitehall. Tele-health services will be provided as well as phone therapy and there are different entrance options for confidentiality if needed.

X. Unfinished Business:

A. Discuss rough draft of Nuisance Ordinance and Business License.

Bill: So, I've sat with several over the past several months in adopting and improving this Nuisance Ordinance and I appreciate those that are doing this and updating. Primarily updating has been grammar, various things like that. As a Council Member, I'm fully in support of these actions with some additions which we've discussed at some past meetings mainly for the purpose of clarity. So that residents are treated fairly in consistency across our City. I've taken some time just to listen and look for clarification and there's basically two areas that I have identified. One is weed control on personal property or adjacent City property that residents are responsible for. That's something in this whole process that I was not aware of and it's helped me to understand and I think there are many citizens that still do not understand that they are responsible for the property outside their fence line to the City, just because they are not aware of that. Number two is junk or dismantled parts etc. Listed in the nuisance orders. Basically, my thoughts are, are we simple going to adopt these orders or rarely enforce them or insist that we enforce them. That's my main concern because I believe we should be very consistent in doing that across our community. Bill continues. See recording.

B. Discuss and approve private donation to keep electricity on in Legion Park.

Mayor: At the last meeting, Bill motioned to keep the power off in the Park until it's paid for with Shawn seconding. We have a private donor willing to pay \$50 a month to cover the electricity in the Park which runs about \$600 a year. Then, the money we bring from people actually using the electricity will cover anything above and over that.

Pat motioned to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Roy: The issue is not only the money. Kory spends a lot of time and I don't know how much time we spent this winter getting people out of there that have had junk, crap sitting there plugged into our power for free. That's just not becoming to the Community period. Every time Kory has to go down there and tell people to get out of there, it's time and he doesn't have that time. The \$50 on the Community is a drain. If you are going to use it, make the people pay up front for it. If they pay for it up front, there are no issues. They park, they stay, leave and don't leave out their junk. I just think it's much easier if we control who's in there by having the power turned off and turning it on once they ask us. If we need to, I don't have a problem getting a key and I'll go down and turn it on so Kory doesn't have to come into Town. He says he's in Town 4 nights a week checking sprinklers anyway but that is part of his job. We moan and groan about keeping our Community clean and then we let campers come in. I watched three campers sit there for I don't know how long and we struggled to get them out of there last winter. If we take that ability to go in and stay long, I think it's far better for our Community.

Mayor: Well, the private donor was only going off of what the motion was and what was in the minutes.

Roy: I still think it's best for the power to stay off.

Bill: Legion Park isn't a trailer park of any sort.

Mayor: No.

Roy: No, we are not in the business of running a camper spot.

Mayor: When this was installed 10 years ago now, they were all over the Country. People just stopping through could hook up, stay overnight, get gas and maybe eat at the restaurants or go to the grocery store. It's a welcoming thing. It's a little disheartening when one Council spends all this money to put electricity in the Park and the next Council doesn't want it. If the money was the issue, that's taken care of and I don't think we should let a small minority take away from the majority who play by the rules. It seems rather unfair.

Roy: Obviously we don't have a lot that play by the rules if we only brought in \$270 last year and spent \$650.

Summer: It was actually \$235 and just last year it was \$600. I don't know what the year before was.

Roy: Someone is not playing by the rules. If it's off, they have to play by the rules.

Mayor: Yeah, and you're always going to have that. If you do shut it off, Kory does have to turn it on for Farmers Market every Saturday. We also have to have it on for the Christmas lights and different things.

Recording issues.

Roy: I make the motion to keep the power off and only tun it back on when it's paid for in advance.

Shawn: I'm not there yet. I'm still trying to process what it would mean if we take a private donation. It's not like an endowment, it could last a year or a month. I don't know who it is.

Mayor: This person is good for it.

Shawn: How do we address the issues that concern us? The people squatting there.

Summer: It's hard to get rid of them.

Shawn: I guess that's what I'm asking, what is our recourse when that happens?

Summer: Usually what me or Kory do is go and shut the power off so they can't use it. I've had to go down there on several occasions and ask them to pack up their stuff and leave.

Bill: And by this move we decided last month, we eliminate some of those complications. It's kind of a tough place to be. I understand what you are saying, maybe a smaller group of people but what happens if the complications transpire into other things. Sewage leakage out of their RV onto the ground?

Mayor: We've never had that happen.

Summer: One time.

Pat: I second Roy's motion.

Ayes: Logan, Shawn and Bill. Nays: Katy. Motion passes.

XI. New Business:

A. Discuss and approve T.I.F.F. Grant applicants.

Katy made a motion to discuss and approve with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discuss and approve the Library putting in benches.

Roy motioned to approve with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and approve Resolution 2020-7 setting Mill Levy

Roy motioned to approve with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Discuss and approve Resolution 2020-8 Employee wages.

Roy motioned to approve with Pat seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Discuss and approve Resolution 2020-9 20/21 Final Budget

Roy motioned to approve with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XII. BILL/ CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shawn made a motion to approve the bill claim approval list with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date