

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
JUNE 8TH, 2020

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers garage at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, June 8th, 2020.

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

VISITORS: Jason Crawford, Alison Richardson, Bill Carhuff, Rusty Guilio, Colton Howser, Tim Mulligan, Doug Dodge, Jeannie Ferriss, Lori Young, Kristi Wilson, Pod Moriarty, Gayle Walter, Allissa Christensen and Elizabeth Perdue.

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:

Pat made motion to approve the Agenda with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Shawn motioned to approve the May 2020 minutes with Pat seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: Our next Public Hearing will be on June 23rd at 6pm. This is for the Public Safety Mill Levy that we have been discussing. We will also have a budget workshop and it starts at 7pm. We've been working on getting the pot holes patched before they come and re-chip seal the streets. As you've probably noticed, they have started the ADA Sidewalk Project. They have started on the west end of Legion Street. So, that project is up and running and that will be a great improvement to the sidewalks for the Town of Whitehall. Thanks to the T.I.F.F., we have our flowers in the Park and here at Town Hall which is always cheerful. It makes us realize that spring is finally here but, if you live in Butte and you woke up to 7 inches of snow you might think "what in the world is going on?". I had two young boys knock on my door last week and they wanted to ride their bikes at the Bike Park but the Bike Park was in pretty sad shape. I said that we could put it on Facebook and see if we can get some help. So, we did and my brother Jeff Janacaro and our friend Mark Robinson helped the young boys over at the Bike Park and it is up and running. The kids are welcome to go over there and ride their bikes but I was just very impressed with these young boys that they would come and knock on my door, had their proposal all ready and were enthusiastic. I want to encourage that because I think it is important that the kids feel like they are part of what goes on in our Town. Just on a personal note, if you have been wondering why the Mayor has been walking like a penguin it's because all that disco dancing in the 1970's finally caught up to me and I'm getting a new hip on July 3rd. So, hopefully soon I'll be back to disco dancing, I don't know, how long would you say Pat?

Pat: I'd say 2-3 years.

Laughter.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report:

Ed Guza: I had a meeting with our engineer that's involved with our water system project. It was a very good meeting with a 71-page contract that the Town Council has kindly placed with me to review and provide feedback on which I have. The Engineer and I were able to harp through about half of the different issues we have outstanding today, but we made a lot of remedial progress. (Recording issues) I hope to have this contract done and into the Mayor hopefully this week for signature that being the first step for this project moving forward and we are all really excited about it and it's a great thing for Whitehall.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Summer Fellows: Tomorrow we have a meeting with the Auditor and hopefully we can get 2018 finished up. The next audit we will need to do actually only has to be a financial review. We still have two more payrolls and months of bills for the new budget. We will have more excruciating numbers for the 23rd.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: We did get all the pot holes filled on the streets that they are going to come in and chip seal. So, it's all done and ready to go. We did fill quite a few holes down at the Country Store. That's kind of an ongoing project and we are working on that. The Cemetery, we had no graves. The power company finally did come in and get that gas line put in so, that was nice to have that cleaned up. We did have one water break that was on someone's service line and we did fix two other breaks on service lines. We

started the pivot this weekend and we don't have a whole lot of water. Cell 1 is at 6 feet, 4.5 and then 7 so that calculates to we usually use a quarter of a foot turn on the pivot and we can use approximately 5-9 feet. So, 27 turns on the pivot really. All the sprinklers are up and going except the Pool's. The tree trimming guy came in and tree trimmed a lot of trees, took down a couple of trees and did a lot of work on Whitehall street. We got the flowers out, there were 6 re-reads and 15 locate tickets.

Ed: How's the Hardrives situation going?

Kory: They came in and did one sweeping and he told me they wanted to come and do one more sweep before they start the project. He hasn't set that date with me yet but he still has 3 weeks. The 8th is what they said it might be so right after the 4th of July. It wasn't a hard date but he told me that's when we should expect them.

Ed: And do you think everything is going well with them?

Kory: I do.

Fire Chief's Report:

Colton Howser: Last month, we only had one call in the City limits and it was on 2nd Street and it turned out to be nothing. It ended up being an electrical issue.

Sherriff's report:

Summer: Chad Cross has advanced to a Detective.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Lori Young: First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for being patient with us during the pre-approval process for the month of May without having a Board meeting. We did get all the information packets to all of our Board Members. John Kreis and I did do onsite visits for the preapprovals that we submitted to you guys for your main meetings. So, we much appreciate you guys taking that into consideration to keep the process going. We did have a meeting on the 1st of June and we had 4 items on our Agenda, I don't see all of them on the Consent Agenda though.

Summer: They were added later.

Lori: Ok. With our meeting, we did pass all of them unanimously. There was one change on Kimberly Nerlin's and her address in 310 N. Whitehall Street. She did ask rather than there being 6-foot gates, she wanted them to be 4-foot gates. We did go through and initial that so we ask that you consider that. Everything else is pretty basic. We only had one Board Member absent and he was out of Town.

Recreational Complex Board:

Shawn: Not much to report there. We did lose Dave Cole off the committee. We've talked to Bill Gellispe and I think that is going to happen, He'll be on the Board from now on. We discussed a little bit about as far as improvements, possibly putting in a service disconnect panel instead of on each pole. Right now, we are using the breakers to turn the lights on and off.

Pool Board: No Meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

Logan: We met on May 26th and I want to thank Public Works, everything at the Cemetery looked great and we got lots of compliments on that. There was no spring clean due to Covid-19. I don't know if you've heard of it, but it's a thing right now.

Laughter.

Logan: For new business, the T.I.F.F. gave us \$1500 for new flowers for the Town flower planters. They were out for the 8th grade graduation and they looked great. John Carlson said that the Garden Club applied for a Grant to buy flower and fruit trees, they got it and they are going to put three out in front here and two in the back. Also, some in the Cemetery in areas that don't have trees. The Farmers Market will start June 20th and there will be social distancing. The Arbor Day Grant was \$750.00 this year. Kory will get the trees and plant them in the new area of the Cemetery and Todd Britenfeld donated a tree from his front yard to the Cemetery also in memory of Jan and Sky which we think will be great. Kory wanted to ask for a \$3000 increase in the budget for a lawn mower and we discussed the planters.

Water/Sewer/Garbage: No Meeting.

Streets/Alley/Sidewalks: No Meeting.

T.I.F.F.:

Alison Richardson: T.I.F.F. Board met two weeks ago and we are currently working on our Grant that should come out very soon. So, those will be for businesses in our T.I.F.F. District. They are pretty popular Grant's and for those applications, we threw around an idea of one would be up to \$5,000 and would be a matching Grant. The other one would be \$2,000 specifically would be for façade improvement and for businesses as well that may not have the matching money. Again, that work is in progress and I expect that to be in the paper and for T.I.F.F. people to go door to door to the businesses to share that information. If any businesses have any questions, contact Town Hall and they can give that information as well. CTAC had their meeting May 14th. It's the second Thursday of every month. We met via Zoom and we'll be meeting via Zoom again. We had about 22 people on that call and it was a pretty popular meeting for 8am in the morning on a Thursday.

CTAC:

Alison Richardson gave a brief update and the CTAC Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month.

VII. Public Comment:

No comments.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board

William McLaughlin / 11 West 1st/ garage / approved

Ron Jung / 20 Rocky Mountain Drive / 12 x 10 shed / approved

Business License

Kopf Sports (fishing poles)

Sutey Oil Inc. Co / DBA Thriftway Super Stops

Pat motioned to approve with Logan seconding.

T.I.F.F.

Appoint Roy McBride as Chair for T.I.F.F. Board

Resolution to approve By-Laws

Pat moved to table the approval for the T.I.F.F. Bylaws with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parks, Trees and Cemetery

Approve Barb Lein on Garden Club

Rec Complex

Appoint Bill Gillespie to Rec. Complex Board

Plat Approval

Tim and Andrea Mulligan/Amended Plat Approval

Logan motioned to approve with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Allissa Christensen gave a presentation on her proposal for the pool to open as well as a game plan to maintain CDC guidelines for Covid-19. See packet.

X. Unfinished Business:

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

Bill: I sent those to each of the Council members with some suggestions and wondering if there are any suggestions?

Pat: I reviewed the Ordinance and a couple of points, not related to your Ordinance but frequently in many of the Ordinances it references "Town Enforcement Officer" or "Town Marshall". So, we need to clarify that in the Ordinance. If we don't have that, call it something else. Just so we can get it consistent among the Ordinances.

Roy: To implement those changes if we choose to do so, what's it going to take?

Summer: It takes three months.

Roy: Ok.

Summer: There's a first and second reading but I think before anything else there needs to be a committee. So, me, Montana and Katy spent lots of hours together going over these Ordinances. So, I think there needs to be a Committee meeting that is open to the public so people can come and put their input in if they want to. It was hard when we did it because we didn't get anybody. Not until something is changed is when people come in.

Mayor: So, Bill I would like you to be on that committee.

Bill: I'd be glad to.

Mayor: And just for the Public if you would read some of your thoughts of how you would like to improve.

Bill: I actually didn't bring the email copy with me. Basically, my attempt and I want to state this that Summer, Montana and Katy have put in way more hours than I have. I'm just reviewing it but, my main thoughts are some consistency among some of these Ordinances that we have. A few examples are; Junk vehicle means "any vehicle, machinery, trailer or parts thereof on public property or on private property". My basic question is, we have lots of items around our community when you look this out from wagon wheels and meanings of decoration according to this Ordinance would be in violation. So, my attempt would be to clear some of that up and be consistent because I think that we should be treating everybody on the same level of that. I'm not opposed to those decorative items obviously. I don't know if any of the Council Members had questions on a few of those. It's written "has a broken or missing fender, door, bumper or hood" and it lists details like this. Well, all kinds of vehicles in our Community have those. This would be impossible to police and enforce because who has all the time in the world to go around and check on every door handle and vehicle whether it's a junk vehicle or licensed vehicle. I did bring up the suggestion of creating some kind of clause for a hobby or classic car permit of a one-time fee. Just an idea. There are people around our community that do restore cars and they do that in a good manor and are not junk collectors. So, I think those were some of the highlighted ones.

Mayor: So, you can decide when you guys want to meet then, just bring it back to the Council.

Lori Young: I'd be willing to join that Committee.

Mayor: Well, I'll sign you up. I love it when people volunteer out of the blue!

B. Update on Budget.

Summer: Well, we kind of went over that at the Public Meeting. We have no money. Like I said, I don't have the numbers yet on the General Fund. The Enterprise Funds are okay but the General Fund where the tax-payers dollars are not okay. I gave you guys the numbers earlier and we have as of now have spent more than we have brought in.

Mayor: The Budget Workshop will be June 23rd at 7pm.

Summer: So, the next week is the next pay day and I will then be able to forward that payroll on to you guys and then we will have one more payroll in the month. Like I said, some of the numbers are not going to be there until after July 1st. But, by the 23rd, you'll see that get much worse.

Bill: What is the typical plan when you are over budget? Since I'm the newbie here.

Summer: So, we'll give you a budget amendment and basically it will have to be approved by the Council. Know what you are approving because that money will be coming out of the reserve. Like I've told you all, when I started with this Town, there was a reserve of over \$500,000 and now the reserve is \$300,000 and some.

Shawn: It's \$382,000 and that was over a 5-year term.

Summer: Four years and that was pretty good but like I said, we are not bringing in the money to run the Cemetery, Streets, Rec Complex.

Mayor: The Town. The whole Town.

Summer: You pay a fee to get a service so, the General Fund is running on tax dollars.

Mayor: So, come prepared, June 23rd at 7pm.

XI. New Business:

A. Discuss and Council determination on accepting the winning proposal for Garbage Pickup.

Mayor: We received three bids, they are all sealed and we will open them now.

Summer: The three bids are from Dillon Disposal Services, Guilio's and McGree. McGree came in at \$120,000 per year, Guilio did a monthly estimate at \$12,866.75 and Dillon Disposal Services came in at \$160,000 per year. So, the lowest one of the three would be McGree.

Roy: Does he meet all the criteria?

Summer: That's not for me to say but that's where Ed comes in.

Mayor: The motion would be pending requirement review.

Shawn made a motion to approve McGree's bid pending review that it satisfies all criteria. Roy seconded the motion.

Pat: If the cost of one is higher but they provide more service, could that be accepted? Or, does it have to be the lowest bid if they meet the requirements?

Mayor: By law it has to be the lowest bid.

Summer: If this helps at all, just so we are clear on what we will be spending money on, we budgeted on Garbage to bring in \$154,000 and right now we are at \$127,000. With \$120,000 being our lowest bid, that leaves us \$7,000 to do the rest.

Shawn: Just to clarify that number, it's \$127,000 in revenue for Garbage?

Summer: Yes.

Discussion continues. See recording.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discuss and Council determination on Pool opening July 14th- August 22nd, 2020.

Shawn made a motion to discuss with Logan seconding.

Roy: We closed it because of the Covid as everyone already knows but we've gone back and looked at it and now we've reached Phase 2. It's a tough decision and one of the things we are going to have to do is back our dump truck out of there that we've approved to make that work which I don't have an issue with. I think it needs to be opened July 1st and no later. There's no sense in running shorter hours because you have to pay the same running it at 4 or 5 days. I visited with Steve Antonioli and he didn't think we needed to chemical wash it, that's Kory's call. He said there were hardly any stains on the Pool at all. He told me Sunday that he could get it up and running for us if we do decide to open it. He said he could have it operational in 10 days. That's just what he told me and I'm just passing along the information but he's willing to do it. He said there is not a lot of maintenance on it and it looks pretty good. I have to take his word for it because I don't know. Kory, what is your opinion?

Kory: Steve is on top of it, he knows the Pool more than anybody.

Roy: I'm going to go against what I said the first time and say that I think we should open it and I've gotten several calls. I'm going to be very candid I hardly ever get calls. So, I guess if people are calling me, they really want it open. The main reason is for the kids to have something to do. I know it's an expensive proposition but we've got to find a better way to run this somehow. Either through fundraisers or look at a different organization so it doesn't put so much pressure on the Town. We're going to have to rob someone to pay for this.

Mayor: We always budget for it every year.

Roy: Yes, but I think we should run it for \$20,000.00 and close it when the money runs out. There's not a single Pool that makes money and if you know of one please let us know. It's just one of those things you either learn to live with it or let it go to waste. I'm willing to give the dump truck up and so is Kory.

Shawn: On the personnel side of things, what are you thinking?

Allissa: I talked to a gal in Helena and I explained to her it would be contingent on Council approval but she would be willing to come to Whitehall quickly.

Roy: Do you have to have those kids in the water?

Allissa: So, Since Covid-19 has hit, it has changed the training immensely. Seven hours of it is done online now and some is in the water.

Roy: So, you would have to go somewhere else to do that?

Allissa: If Steve could get it up and running, we could do it here.

Logan: What was the price of that for training?

Allissa: I budgeted \$1,000.00 but she told me \$175.00 per person.

Roy: Do you know how much chlorine we have Kory?

Kory: I haven't been over there to really look.

Allissa: I need to go over and look too. I don't know the exact number but I do know we had some buckets left over.

Kory: The other thing I think we need to do is find a certified Boiler operator to control that boiler.

Conversation continues. See recording.

Kory: I think the Town of Whitehall needs a Pool for the kids.

Logan: With the restrictions, six-foot difference, how will that work?

Allissa: Yes Logan, you are right in reading that. However, with the CDC guidelines, with their wording, these are "considerations". So, we are not going to be penalized if a kid bumps into another kid. It's just an advisement.

Shawn: Ed, do you have an opinion on Town liability on this situation or is it just guidelines?

Ed: It is just guidelines.

Shawn: So, it is just guidelines and not mandates. Ok.

Ed: It would be nice to know what MMIA is suggesting as far as Covid goes.

Mayor: Another thing to keep in mind is Jefferson County has only had two cases period. They have recovered and no one else has gotten sick. We have to take that into consideration. I don't think kids from New York City are going to come to the Whitehall Pool.

Shawn: I want to be clear, it's not all about Covid. It's a lot about money.

Allissa: Absolutely and believe me, I understand that. If the Pool doesn't open, I'll be fine. I'm just doing what I feel is best for the kids.

Shawn: I've gotten more phone calls on this topic than the Medical Marijuana Shop. Definitely more on this.

Bill: In favor or against?

Shawn: In favor.

Lori Young: I just think the kids have been really short changed because of this pandemic and it doesn't matter what age they are. They all have and they don't understand it. We are just a bunch of crazy adults making them stay home and wear masks. I just think anything positive we can add for the kids will be a huge emotional plus in their lives. Some kids don't even get to go out of the house. I just think the Pool is really important and I know that it is a hit on the community but I really do think people will dig down deep in their pockets, or fundraisers but let it be known to the public. I just think these kids now more than ever need this this summer.

Jeanne Farris spoke in favor of the Pool opening and what a significant impact it has on the Library and the kids in our Community.

Pod Moriarty, Tim Mulligan, Gayle Walter, Alison Richardson, Kristi Wilson and Elizabeth Perdue spoke in favor of the Pool opening.

Mayor: Any more discussion?

Ed: My Firm would be happy to donate \$500.00.

Jason Crawford: Triple Tree will too.

Mayor: And Nick and I are donating \$1,000.00.

Shawn: I think there are funds out there but the trick to this though is we need to get a sustained deal going with the Pool. We all want it, there's no question. It's loud and clear but, Summer looks at the numbers all day and I have looked at them and getting from A to B is hard every year. We need to get the Town involved and cover that shortfall every year. I'm throwing it out there, how do we do that?

Roy: Allissa, could you call Belt?

Allissa: Yes.

Roy: They run their Pool through a Corporation and it's all run through private funds. They do everything and have completely taken it off the City's hands. Maybe get ahold of the Mayor or someone on the Board and see how they run things and their structure. We have a small structure with Pool Pals but we don't have any ties to them. I can make a few calls too.

Mayor: We can also call Sheridan and see what they do as well.

Shawn: Here's what I propose, lets take your ideas here, short change the Pool this year and that puts the pressure on. It can be open as long as it can be on the budget we approve that the Town will pay. I don't know what that number is, I'm just throwing that out there. The Town Council will stay within our means on the Pool budget.

Logan: And I think we need to put that back on the trust. Keep what we agreed to originally.

Shawn: Right.

Summer: We'd have to undo what we did at the last Council meeting.

Shawn: I'm not saying undo what we did. We are coming into a new budget year.

Summer: Here's the way it works out, the funds we allocate to the Pool also have to get it started for next season. When we end the fiscal year, the Pool is starting.

Shawn: Ok so, we have \$4,689.00 in the current year's budget but it hasn't been spent because we haven't opened the Pool, right?

Summer: The \$4,600.00 doesn't go into the new budget. It stays in the General Fund.

Pat: That's to be here now and get the Pool started.

Summer: Whatever. Whatever happens.

Mayor: Whatever happens this month comes out of that budget.

Summer: We are missing two steps too. There's a Pool Board and the Pool Board has not met yet and maybe they need to meet because we will have to interview the new ones. Since I've been here, we have always required that all the kids have WSI (Water Safety Instructor) training which I don't know if we can do or not. If there is only one certified person, they are the only one that can teach I believe. Now, Katy is on the Board, Maxine was and I don't know who else.

Allissa: Right now, it's just Katy, Gayle and Steve.

Summer: I think at some point in time, we need to follow rules. If there are new hires, they need to be interviewed.

Shawn: That's why I was asking how soon can we get ramped up on the personnel side, assuming we can approve this "x" amount of dollars whatever that is. That's what I'm asking, is July 1 the number?

Summer: Like I said, Ms. Walter will have to come in and interview and its not like we wouldn't hire her. We don't have people breaking down our door to apply.

Mayor: Maybe July 7th is a more realistic date because we have the 4th of July that falls on a Saturday, we are closed Sunday and Monday and the first Tuesday would be July 7th.

Shawn: Ok.

Discussion continues. See recording.

Shawn made a motion to open the Pool with the remaining funds in the 2019-2020 budget with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and Council determination on signatures regarding the Tri-County Regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Pat made a motion to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Doug Dodge made a brief presentation on the Tri-County Regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the updates that have been made to prevent wildfires as well as asking for support from the Community.

Pat made a motion to approve with Logan 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 Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date