

ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 8, 2017
7:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL

Open Meeting: The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, Larry Pine.

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes: Palmerton made a motion to accept the Minutes. Bancroft seconded the motion.
Discussion: Roberts asked for a change. The minutes state there was no “Clerk” report when, in fact, there was a written Clerk report. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes with the change made as discussed.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Lyndall Morgan read a prepared statement to the Commission regarding a problem she had at Town Hall.

Shooting Range Matters: Pat Goggins spoke with the Commission regarding the shooting range the Town has at the Lagoon site. He told the Commission one of his family members felt threatened by the gun fire that was coming from the Lagoon area. He stated others in attendance tonight are here in support of him as fellow cattle owners.

It was asked why adjacent land owners were not notified of this development.

Mr. Goggins asked for the shooting range to be abandoned.

Commissioner Roberts said she did some research and found a “blurb” in the minutes on a Police report when the shooting range was being developed. Until this time, she was not aware there was a shooting range in existence. She would like to get with the County Sheriff and possibly find a more suitable area for a range.

John Scully stated he has come in before with matters regarding the shooting range and spoke with Officer Newell and was satisfied, at that time, that it would be changed. He said he does not think it is a good idea for it to continue.

Mayor Pine answered a legal question regarding an officer shooting a firearm within Town limits.

Allen Daems suggested that the Saier pit may be an alternative site.

There was more discussion on a suitable area because there are safety concerns for not only the public but the officer as well.

Michael Sprout said this is about the livestock. They are our lively hood. He described what he saw the day the complaint occurred. He stated he understands the officers need to practice but does not think this location is suitable.

Allen Daems expressed more concerns about peoples’ safety.

Commissioner Bancroft stated he would check with Mrs. Saier to see if a range could be established on her property.

Mayor Pine stated that there will be no more use of the shooting range, at this time, while more information is gathered and while investigating for an alternative site.

Chamber Flower Basket Signs: John Way, Chamber President, spoke to the Commission about a potential variance on “Prohibited Signs” the Chamber wants to put on the flower baskets on Main Street. The signs show who sponsored the baskets.

He told the Commission the Chamber has sponsored the baskets for several years but can no longer afford to do it on their own so 8 businesses are sponsoring them. In return, the businesses would like to have a 6”x6” sign stating they sponsored that basket.

Vincent made a motion to approve the variance for the flower basket signs. Palmerton seconded the motion.

Discussion: Roberts stated variances are hard to deal with. At a school she attended she was told not to approve variances because it dilutes the Town’s laws.

Vincent disagreed stating the variance clause was written in the sign ordinance with this type of request in mind.

Leavitt stated he does not have a problem with the signs.

Bancroft said he has no problem with the signs.

John Way suggested the request seems to fit well under code section 11-6-5 a & b—

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Roberts said she is in no way against the flower baskets but is thinking to the future and what, due to this, may come up in the future years.

There was more discussion on the Town code.

Vincent made a motion to rescind his motion. Palmerton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes motion approved.

Vincent made a motion to recognize the signs on the Chamber flower baskets at “Temporary” signs. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Vincent, Palmerton, Leavitt and Bancroft voted yes. Roberts voted no. Motion approved.

4th of July: Abi King presented the plans for the 4th of July parade this year. The plans are the same as prior years.

The Chamber will do a “User Agreement” and turn it in.

The Commission approved of the 4th of July plans as presented.

Car Wash Request: Commission approved the school kids to have weekly car washes at Town Hall as a fundraiser for their science trip.

Closed Session: Bancroft made a motion for the meeting to go into closed session for an update on law suits the Town has. Leavitt seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

The Commission was updated on the law suits by Attorneys Lund and Greenbaum.

Leavitt made a motion to close the closed session. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Road Maintenance District: Kelly Elser went over where the Street funds come from. They are in 3 different areas which are: General Fund, Gas Tax and Street Maintenance. The typical amounts these funds draw in a fiscal year are: General/ \$34,000, Gas Tax/\$20,000 and Street Maintenance/\$43,000.

Elser spoke of the 5-year plan and told the Commission the Town may be a little ahead of schedule.

The year Elser plans to work on Hugel Street, E. William Street, Clark Avenue (barring a major building project) and South Second Street.

It was noted the 5th year of the plan calls for a rebuild of Pearl Street.

There was some discussion on future street maintenance.

Department Reports: Library: There was a written report submitted for review.

Ambulance: There was a written report submitted for review.

Law Enforcement: There was a written report submitted for review

Public Works: There was a written report submitted for review.

Elser answered questions about state target rates for water and sewer and told the Commission that Montana Rural Water can help with rate structuring.

Zoning: No report

Clerk: There was a written report submitted for review.

Attorney: Greenbaum said his contract is up at the end of the month and he would like to continue as the Town's attorney.

Mayor's: Pine told the Commission the Altimus building, which has an overhang that is potentially dangerous, is being fixed.

Pine spoke of a meeting with Town Pump to do another review of their plans and try to finalize the TND needs to be set up. He will email the Commission for best dates.

Commission Comments: Roberts said the Zoning regulations are coming along nicely.

Claims: Palmerton made a motion to approve claims. Roberts seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Adjourn Meeting: Palmerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Larry Pine, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk

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