

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Open Meeting: Commission Chair, Vincent, opened the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Ennis Town Commission at 7:00 p.m.

Commission Present: Vincent, Bancroft and Palmerton.

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes of the October 2015 Commission Meeting: The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 2015 meeting. Palmerton made a motion to approve the minutes. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Flood Plain Variance Request: Jonathon Weaver, Great West Engineering, explained what the variance is for and cited the specific section of the Town's Flood Plain Ordinance of which the variance is being asked for.

Weaver showed the Commission diagrams to aid them in better understanding what the variance is asking for.

Weaver answered questions about culvert and bridge sizes. He told the Commission, once the project has been completed, Madison County will have a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) done which will show any changes that will occur with the Flood Plain.

Vincent told the Commission he spoke with County Commissioner, Jim Hart, prior to the meeting about the project in regards to County Bridge Standards as opposed to the Town Ordinance.

Attorney Greenbaum asked Weaver if flood velocity was considered. Weaver answered that it was considered and is documented.

Attorney Greenbaum asked the Commission to please note that MCA indicates there needs to be a vote of four Commissioners to grant a variance of an Ordinance. (MCA was checked and it was determined the code was referring to a Zoning Board of Adjustment.)

Bancroft made a motion for the Moore's Creek Culvert Project Variance request to be granted according to the letter and plans presented. Vincent seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Sign Variance Request/Madison Meadows Golf Course: Zoning Administrator, Art Behar, told the Commission he sees this as an "Instructional/Directional" sign. It is 32 square feet and located on the North 40 Development property. The only issue with the sign is the size.

Behar recommended the sign variance only be good as long as North 40 Development owns the property. If it changes ownership the variance would no longer be in effect.

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Palmerton asked if this sign falls into “off premise” signs. Behar stated it could but he considers it a “directional” not an “advertising” sign.

Bancroft made a motion to approve the conditional use for the Madison Meadows Golf Course sign with the condition, if the property changes in any way and/or property changes ownership the conditional use will be voided. Palmerton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports: Library: Librarian, Molly Aagard, submitted her written report to the Commission and reviewed it with the Commission.

Law Enforcement: Police Chief, John Moore, submitted his written report to the Commission. Moore spoke with the Commission about doing an addition and/or changes to the Parking Ordinance. There are people parking on both sides of Otis Avenue and it is impeding traffic. He, having received North 40 Development owner’s agreement, would like to make Otis Avenue parking allowed on only one side of the street. Moore will present more at the December Commission meeting.

Ambulance: Co-Manager John Moore submitted the written report for Ennis Ambulance to the Commission for review.

Public Works: Public Works Director, Kelly Elser submitted his written report to the Commission for review.

Zoning: Art Behar, Zoning Administrator, told the Commission there have been 7 single family dwelling permits one, of which, has been halted until it is deemed to be out of the Flood Plain.

Clerks: Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer, submitted her written report to the Commission for review.

Attorney: James Greenbaum, Town Attorney, updated the Commission on the eviction process for the mobile home on the Pearl St. lot. He suggested the Town file suit to get a declaratory judgement. Good progress has been made with this matter.

Greenbaum asked the Commission to review and consider the form he supplied them with regarding road/alley abandonments.

Commission Comments: Vincent spoke to the Commission regarding Mayor Vujovich being unavailable due to a family illness. He told the Commission, at this time, he has signing authority so things can move forward. There was some discussion on whether the Mayor may opt to take a leave of absence. The Commission’s major concern was the welfare of the Mayor’s family and what the Town may do to help.

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

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

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The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Brian Vincent
Commission Chair

Ginger Guinn
Clerk/Treasurer