

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 2020  
7:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL/328 W. MAIN STREET**

**Open Meeting:** Mayor Leavitt opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Commission Present:** Bancroft, Hardy, Ranson, Schroeder, Roberts

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Board of Adjustment meeting were reviewed. Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Bancroft, Ranson, Schroeder and Roberts voted yes. Hardy abstained as he was not present at the July meetings. Motion Approved.

The Minutes from the July, 2020 Commission meeting were reviewed. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion. Discussion: A spelling error was noted and was corrected. Roll Call Vote: Bancroft, Ranson, Schroeder and Roberts voted yes. Hardy abstained as he was not present at the July 2020 meeting. Motion approved.

**Madison County Floodplain Study:** Tiffany Lynden from the DNRC Floodplain Program along with Alex Hogle from the Madison County Planning Board and Jonathon Weaver the Ennis Floodplain Administrator gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the floodplain study that is taking place for Madison County.

The new mapping shows less risk than the current map that has been in existence since 1974. It was also noted that the Moore's Creek floodplain map was updated recently.

The Madison River update now has "early draft" update matter. So far the study shows there is not much flooding area within Ennis Town limits.

Alex Hogle told the public that the Madison County Planning Office has a map with base flood elevations for public view.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Mayor Leavitt read the "Public Comment Statement" that tells how public comments will be handled.

Lindsey DeGroot read the statement of support she previously sent in regarding the Main Street Demo Project.

Amy Kelly stated she has 2 businesses on Main Street and that she agrees with Lindsey. As a business owner she applauds the Town for bringing this demonstration project. She also feels the Town should find areas for more parking and work with businesses to find solutions.

Robin Blazer stated that this demonstration project came as quite a surprise to most people. Most of the accidents that have occurred happened at night and that is what was asked to be addressed. This is "off base" from that. Also, there is a seeming lack of transparency. Blazer went on to tell what the research they have done shows.

Claudia Sneigoski: Addressed the term “Walkability” and read of definition of such. She talked of Ennis’ Main Street and its size and how it is not suitable for Ennis.

Duncan Hedges stated most communities that do this are larger. The issue he has with this project is: Main Street is not wide enough for this. The Town needs to look at traffic and data.

David Clark asked who is conducting this study and what data are they using. He is opposed to the project. People are not using the crosswalks. Private parking lots were mentioned for use and that is not feasible plus the lot owners hold responsibility.

Dulcie Clark stated she was taken aback by the lack of transparency and believes a lot of frustration is due to this. This is very disheartening and frustrating. She agrees that traffic needs to be slowed. Upon observation from her place of business maybe 1 of 5 people are using the crosswalks.

Duncan Hedges admitted to being one that has not used the crosswalks. Rumble strips may be something to look at. Lighted signs may be something else to research.

Public Comment Closed.

**Discussion to revisit Patrick Johnson’s Variance Request:** Tabled

**Resolution 523-2020:** A Resolution requesting the BaRRSA (Gas Tax) monies.

The Mayor read the Resolution.

Roberts made a motion to approve Resolution 523-2020. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Master Plan Request for Proposals:** The RFP for the Master Plan was submitted to the Commission and employees for review. It was stated that Headwaters RC&D helped prepare the RFP.

Roberts stated the Town wants it to be Community driven so there will be many public hearings, etc. She gave a brief description of what the document can be used for and ideas of what can be looked at.

The deadline for changes is August 24<sup>th</sup> for distribution on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to submit it September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Department Reports:**        Library: Karen Ketchu submitted a written report for review and gave information on the Library statistics for this year. Karen answered a question on hours of operation.

Ambulance: No report submitted. The Mayor said the Ambulance is in collaboration with the Hospital and an On-Call schedule is being set up.

Police: John Moore submitted a written report for review. He answered questions on the Trump sales trailer and speeds on Main Street. (Primarily semi-trucks.)

Public Works: A written report, done by Paul Bills, was submitted for review. Kelly Elser answered some questions regarding street patching and sewer plugs and back-ups. Schroeder asked if we can do a public information campaign to educate the public on the sewer system.

Zoning: There was no zoning report submitted.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report for review. A Budget meeting was set up for September 1, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Mayor Comments/Report:** The Mayor said the Main Street Demonstration Project has taken up a lot of time. The Fish, Wildlife and Parks matters regarding the Madison River have started again and the economy of Ennis needs to be considered in their proceedings.

The Mayor spoke with the Governor on Tuesday regarding Covid-19, mask mandate and the Public Health Board needing more help.

**Commission Comments:** Bancroft told Roberts she overstepped her bound by purchasing the Main Street Demonstration Project supplies with her personal funds. Roberts stated that at the June 25<sup>th</sup> work session there was a consensus to make the purchase. She stated ordering the supplies personally seemed the same to her as getting reimbursed for travel expenses.

Ranson explained her frustration with the Main Street Demonstration Project. The Mayor told her that no vote from the Commission was necessary as this is a trial. Ranson responded it is a “trial” with a future that the public had no input on.

Roberts stated the demonstration area is temporary and can be adjusted in real time.

The Mayor stopped this conversation as it needs to be discussed under an Agenda item.

Roberts stated she will wait for reimbursement until the Budget is passed.

Roberts stated this project is a reflection of her work on the Ennis Town Commission and that she takes public comments seriously.

Hardy gave thanks for the work done on this project. He stated he hadn’t seen plans and was surprised to see that so many parking spots were taken.

**Claims:** Roberts made a motion to pay claims minus the white delineators and butyl pads for reimbursement. Schroeder seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Executive Session Was Called.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Blake Leavitt, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer

**\*\*\*The full recording of this meeting can be viewed and listened to at the: [Town of Ennis YouTube Channel](#).**