

**PUBLIC HEARING
3 RIVERS ANNEXATION REQUEST
DECEMBER 10, 2020
6:50 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Mayor Leavitt opened the public hearing for the 3 Rivers Communications request for annexation of Block 1, Lots 12-13, Comley Addition to the Town of Ennis.

Commissioners present were Hardy, Schroeder, Ranson and via GoToMeeting Roberts. Bancroft was absent.

The Mayor read a letter from Kristee Sturgill regarding the proposed annexation into record.

The Mayor asked for Public Comment. There were no public comments.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2020
7:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Open Meeting: Mayor Leavitt opened the December 12, 2020 Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag

Commission Present: Hardy, Schroeder, Ranson. Roberts was present via GoToMeeting. Bancroft was absent.

Minutes: The Commission reviewed minutes. Hardy made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Roberts said that the language in the motion for the Lindstrom's requirements of the TND they are planning be changed to read: 3)" Install" a 6-foot sidewalk.....

Roll Call Vote of the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Public Comment: Josh Vujovich was present to do a preliminary presentation of the "Pre-Application" of Phase 6 of the North 40 Development. Josh stated he is willing to meet with any of the Commissioners to answer questions and do a walk through if they want.

3 Rivers Annexation: Mayor Leavitt read Resolution 557-2020 (A Resolution of the Town of Ennis, Montana approving the annexation of Block1, Lots 12-13, Comley Addition).

Schroeder made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Town of Ennis for the annexation of the land in the request. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Western Transportation Institute/Results of Main Street Demonstration Project: Mathew Madsen (WTI) presented the draft report/results of the traffic calming study. He explained that it is an opportunity to test traffic calming without construction.

The process began with discussions the Winter of 2019 with a kick-off of the project March 2020. A "Walk Audit" was done May 2020 and the Pop-up study was up from August 3 - October 19, 2020.

(The draft is on file at Ennis Town Hall and on the Town of Ennis website.)

Madsen went over the Community Survey and reported that the response was very high. Specific numbers can be seen in the draft report/results.

Madsen said the next steps in this project is to have community involvement which there is great opportunity for with the Master Plan process beginning. He went over some recommendations and stated the ideal situation is to have the Crosswalks visible for driver yielding.

Hardy asked if WTI has any ideas for Gateway Treatments. There was some discussion on these and WTI is going to send something to the Town.

The Mayor asked how many projects WTI has done on US highways. They stated this is their first project working with the Montana Department of Transportation.

Roberts thanked WTI for the work they did and the ease of working with them.

Schroeder thanked Mathew for the hard work. He asked about the speed data and higher speeds being shown. Madsen stated they may be skewed but will look and see if some accuracy correlation can be done.

Schroeder also asked about yielding rates on curb extensions. Madsen stated curb extensions have the effect of increasing driver yields.

Roberts explained the white cones used were temporary. If a permanent project was done there would be curbs, curb extensions and gutters and they would not "stand out" like the cones did. Beautification of those areas could be done with planters on the platform area.

The Mayor asked about the 3rd Street crosswalk. It was stated the project included adding a crosswalk at 3rd Street so data was collected there as well.

Brittany Hirsch asked about having tables and chairs, etc. right next to the highway. Madsen said there are safety concerns and the Montana Department of Transportation has specifications/standards that have to be met.

Hirsch asked whose responsibility it is for upkeep of those areas if constructed. Madsen said the Town would pay fees to the Montana Department of Transportation then it is up to the Town how they are managed.

Roberts asked that being it is a Federal Highway does it not give the Town more flexibility/control for economic development on Main Street?

Schroeder asked for the difference between Parklets, Pedlets and curb extensions. He was told the curb extension is put in then the Parklet or Pedlet is put in the gained space but a Parklet and/or Pedlet can be done without a curb extension.

Ennis Chamber of Commerce Survey Results: Danika Lewis, Ennis Chamber President, spoke with the Commission about the survey they conducted in regards to the Traffic Calming Project on Main Street this year.

Lewis went over the results of the survey they put out. She stated they had a large number response to the survey. Overall, the survey results from the community and businesses were not favorable to the demonstration project that was done.

Mayor Leavitt told everyone the information received will be part of the development of the Master Plan. The Community needs to continue to pay attention and engage in the process. He said the Town is trying to be progressive and keep a “safe” Main Street.

Lewis stated that Marshall Betendorf (Chamber) and other business owners on the walk audit felt misled as to what the Traffic Calming project was all about.

Schroeder stated he had emailed numerous businesses directly affected by parking space reductions.

Lewis stated the Town failed in communications of this project and that moving forward communication is key.

Roberts agreed that a communication breakdown occurred. Now, with the Master Plan starting, the community needs to be well informed and thanked them for their input.

Lewis asked if the semi rollover(s) was a part of why this started. The Mayor answered in the affirmative and said the process is one step at a time.

Rate Structure for Water & Sewer: This item was tabled as it was found in putting the numbers for this together more information was needed.

Department Reports: Library: Karen Ketchu submitted a written report for review which included a Draft landscaping plan. There was some discussion on the landscaping plan.

Ambulance: There was no report submitted by the Ambulance Department. The Mayor spoke of doing an ad in the paper thanking the volunteers for all their service to the Madison Valley and congratulating the Medical Center on their new venture of managing and running the Ambulance Service.

Police: John Moore submitted a written report for review.

Public Works: The public works department submitted a written report for review.

Zoning: No Zoning report.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report for review.

Mayor Comments: Mayor Leavitt stated the Street Maintenance District will be on the January meeting agenda.

There have been numerous Freedom of Information Act requests, from one person, that derives from the Suzuki variance approval. Attorney Greenbaum will be looking into this matter for the Town.

The Mayor spoke of Covid-19 and the need of everyone to keep working on continuing to reduce the numbers in Madison County.

Commission Comments: Hardy stated he would like to look at getting some pollinator gardens around Town where possible. He suggested that some of the island parks in the North 40 Development may be a good location.

Schroeder spoke of setting up a communication plan so the Town can stay on top of what the Town is doing and information going out to the public.

Ranson stated that Lindsey DeGroot is looking to start a community outreach program that there will be a meeting January 11th.

Roberts stated there was an Economic Development meeting and she was the only Ennis resident in attendance. She agreed that a Communication Plan would be good so the Town can get more information out.

Claims: Claims were reviewed by the Commission. Schroeder made a motion to pay Claims. Hardy seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Hardy, Schroeder and Ranson voted yes. Roberts abstained as she did not have a chance to review the claims. Motion approved.

Adjourn: Hardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Schroeder seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners present voted yes. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer