

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2021  
7:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

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

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

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion. Discussion: Roberts and Schroeder asked for a change of words in Commission Comments regarding law enforcement. Corrections made. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** There was no public comment.

**Pollinator Gardens:** Dave Laufenberg introduced and spoke to the Commission about putting some Pollinator gardens in the Town of Ennis. Commissioner Hardy had spoken with Mr. Laufenberg earlier regarding this topic and both felt this may be a good opportunity for the Town.

Laufenberg stated he has seed and personnel available to help with this project. Areas for the gardens was discussed which included the green space behind Town Hall, the Park on Main Street and possibly Lion's Park. Hardy asked about the North 40 islands that are parks.

The Mayor asked about financial support. Laufenberg stated he is not asking for monetary support at this time. The Commission agreed unanimously this is a good project and for the Conservation District to move forward.

**Farmers Market:** Commissioner Hardy and Cece Weldon presented the Ennis Farmers Market idea. The group has been working on bringing a Farmers Market to Ennis. They are working to raise \$2,000 for the purchase of signs, insurance, etc. They read the Mission Statement they have written.

They stated they are looking to have a start date of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Waldon stated they are in the process of being able to accept WIC and they are also working on ways to promote the Jeffers and Twin Bridges Farmers Markets as well.

**Street Maintenance District:** It was stated that a 5year street maintenance budget needs to be done. Kelly Elser explained how the 5-year plan is put together and that the cost will be approximately \$2000-\$3000 and can likely be done fairly quickly.

Elser also spoke of the need for a process to list the new lots and whether they are to be charged, currently, \$35 or \$75.

**Parking Ordinance:** Tabled, no discussion

**Ambulance Rent for Parking:** The Mayor said he spoke with the Hospital Administrator regarding this and suggests the Town charge \$500 a month on a month-to-month basis.

The Commission decided that \$500 per month was a fair charge for the first year. They want a lease drawn up that includes the Hospital having renter's insurance.

**My Willow TND:** Breann Johnson said the Conditional Use is scheduled with the Planning Board on April 26, 2021 and will be ready for the Commission meeting May 6, 2021.

The Mayor asked if the Commission has any questions on the Conditional Use application.

Roberts stated her concern about pedestrian traffic on Otis and the parking. She asked what could be done, if parking remains on the West side, to mitigate pedestrian traffic.

Johnson stated she believes the sidewalks are standard size and they will match adjoining properties.

Roberts said she would like to see the East/West pedestrian area be 8-10 feet.

Roberts stated she would like to see a Landscaping Plan and made some suggestions.

Johnson said they are in the process of planning the storm drainage, landscaping and pedestrian accesses. She received clarification from Alex Hogle today so these things are now being worked on.

Roberts asked if any of this project is adjacent to a Park and would they consider being "stakeholders" in Park development. Johnson stated she would have to speak with her clients.

Schroeder asked about occupancy numbers, what type of siding, and design.

Johnson stated she will speak with her clients regarding occupancy numbers. The siding is not finalized but she will get back to the Commission with a materials list if wanted.

Schroeder said the rendering looks more modern than what he would like to see in Ennis.

Johnson said there may be some variables. They would need more precise guidelines to look at and consider.

Johnson stated the TND (Traditional Neighborhood Development) is fairly open to interpretations. They want to meet the spirit of the TND but a budget is necessary so they will need specifics as to what the Town wants and/or needs.

Johnson told the Commission, when asked, that there is no price range available at this time and the units will be sold as individual Townhouses.

**Dissolution of Ambulance Manager Position:** The Commission was told the Hospital is to take over the Ambulance on May 1, 2021 and the Town's Ambulance Manager position will end on that date.

**Department Reports:** Library: Librarian, Karen Ketchu, submitted a written report and spoke with the Commission about the Library. Commissioner Hardy asked about the Landscape Plan and Ketchu told him it is still in process.

Police Department: John Moore submitted a written report to the Commission for review. There was some discussion by the Commission in regards to a full-time, part-time employee and possibly checking into getting a Madison County Deputy for part-time hours.

Public Works: Kelly Elser gave the Commission a verbal report of activities in the Department.

Schroeder asked about the Water/Sewer capacity assessment. He was told it is underway and may be ready by next month for the meeting.

Schroeder also asked if Rural Water can come in also.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report to the Commission for review.

**Mayor Report/Comments:** Mayor Leavitt told the Commission the Hospital has been given Annexation paperwork for the proposed location for a new Hospital.

The Hospital has the day-shift Ambulance crew on board and are working on getting the night-shift set up. The Hospital hired Nick Efta as the Ambulance Manager.

The Mayor said Alex Hogle (Planning Board) and Jim Hart (County Commissioner) are interested in helping the Town with Zoning and he will be working on an Interlocal Agreement for such.

The Mayor said Town Hall will be opening the door to the office on Monday.

**Commission Comments:** Hardy asked about the Armitage Alley case.

There is a scheduled meeting with the Judge in March.

Roberts said the Tree City USA grant is due the 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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Blake Leavitt, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer