

**TOWN OF ENNIS COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 03, 2021
6:00 PM
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Open Meeting: Mayor Leavitt opened meeting at 6:01 pm

Attendees: Mayor Leavitt, Jason Schroeder, Kristy Ranson, Lisa Roberts, Cory Hardy, John Bancroft

Pledge to the Flag

Text Amendments to the Zoning Code

Discussion on status of TND, process improvement discussions, continued conversation about past meetings, discussions and recommendations from Cushing Terrell and Madison County Planning Board, Alex Hogle.

Comments in favor of leaving TND. Comments on recommendation from Cushing Terrell to keep TND.

Acknowledgment of Alex Hogle resigning/leaving the Madison County Planning Board.

Comment from Susie Sprout on her ongoing work with Cushing Terrell, working on permit applications, process flows, TND and Conditional Use Permits.

Comment from Town Attorney in favor of TND. Says the criteria and process is not that complicated and comments on working with Susie.

Roberts comments in favor of amending Conditional Use Permit. References height concerns from community in regards to text amendments.

Set to discuss with further review on November 18, 2021.

Discussion on advertisement time.

Greenbaum comments in favor of more specificity on requirements for CUP. Suggests that each amendment or resolution be drafted separately in order to continue process smoothly and to also add clarity for everyone on what exactly is being amended.

Street Repair Bonds and Zoning Fees

Ranson presents a generic example for street cut application and permit.

Discussion on what is currently being used (\$500 bond in the application). Comment that there has been no support or ordinance found to support the current \$500.

Eric Olson comments in favor of using a time period for workmanship; minimum of one year.

Reading examples from other towns.

Greenbaum says he will work on a draft if provided sufficient information from commission on how they would like to move forward. Suggests a two week turn-around for draft.

Discussion and review of current application and permit, further discussion on street bonds.

Discussion on other town processes sand permits; ie West Yellowstone

Comments on current water/sewer fees of approximately \$6,000 combined.

Discussion of requiring a primary structure on the permit; site plan review, tiered fees, possibly by square feet.

Multiple comments in favor of allowing Susie, Zoning Administrator and Nichole, Cushing Terrell continue working on this process.

Sprout comments on current fees being unreasonably low for the amount of work and time put into them.

Discussion on changing fees by resolution at next meeting.

Annexation Fees

Roberts asks Sprout about annexations that are currently in process.

Sprout comments (2); Riverside and property next to Madisonian.

Discussion on past annexations going through Clerk/Treasurer, training for Sprout, comment on example fees and process examples from other communities (ie Red Lodge).

Roberts requests resolution on November 18, 2021 meeting to include minimum \$500 plus \$100 per acre.

Question from Tony Treglia in audience about water rights with annexations.

Greenbaum to look into legality of creating an ordinance to require giving up water rights when annexing into Town of Ennis.

Impact Fees

Discussion on process to implement impact fees. Reference 7-6-1602 of MCA.

Someone to reach out to Kelly Lynch with Montana League of Cities and Towns to get her input on moving forward.

Business Licenses: Additions and Fees

Discussion on examples of other towns (Three Forks and West Yellowstone).

Discussion on additional fees for events, not-for-profits, vendors within events, farmer's markets, music festivals, food trucks, etc.

Discussion and comments on how to regulate licenses, industries, etc.

Discussion on short term rentals obtaining business license, their impact on the local economy. Comments in favor of requiring short term rentals be licensed with the Town of Ennis.

Comments on making updates to the ordinance, make simple and straightforward. Example of Three Forks used. Example sent to Attorney Greenbaum so he can format similar ordinance for Town of Ennis based on Three Forks format, language, etc.

Noise Ordinance

Discussion on current ordinance that is unenforceable.

Attorney Greenbaum comments in favor of details within Bozeman's ordinance as an example.

Discussion on definitions within proposed ordinance.

Discussion on outdoor events, time frames for noise, business impacts.

Comments in favor of protecting businesses with live music.

Proposal of 6 am to 10 pm during the week, comments in favor of extending to midnight on Friday and Saturday nights to accommodate live music and tourism.

Discussion and review of draft proposal.

Plan to update and propose new draft at next meeting with changes mentioned above.

Library Wages

Mayor Leavitt asks if the proposed wage increase has been presented and passed by the Library Board.

Karen Ketchu states she has presented the wage increase to each board member but the vote to pass is not on agenda until Friday morning.

Roberts comments on updated job descriptions.

Ketchu comments on how she calculated proposed wages.

Mayor Leavitt comments in favor of raising the two lowest paid employees currently at 11.67 and 13.00 per hour but questions raising the top two paid employees currently at 17.00 and 21.00 per hour.

Discussion on length of employment and wage increases at budget time working within current library budget. Comments in favor

Roberts motions to have a resolution prepared for November 18, 2021 meeting.

Discussion on further reviews and wage increases for other departments.

Comment from Sprout, Town of Ennis employee, opposing the manner in which wage increases have been presented for one department and not others. Comments in favor of Library and their services but clarifies that she believes it is unfair for the library to be considered for these wage increases when there seems to be no consideration of wage increase for others, specifically based on longevity.

Bancroft comments in opposition of raising wages outside of budget time.

Multiple comments from Library Board Members, volunteers and other community members in attendance online in favor of increasing library wages.

Questions of clarification come from the audience on how the library budget is determined.

Mayor Leavitt calls to vote. All vote yes.

Ranson moves to adjourn. Bancroft seconds. All vote yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

*Live recording of all Town of Ennis Public Meetings is available for viewing on YouTube at the following link or by searching “Town of Ennis Montana Public Meetings”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFA-L4QnVfTQqOD2QEOsWVA>

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Brittney Hirsch, Deputy Clerk