

**TOWN OF ENNIS COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021
7:00 PM
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Open Meeting: Roberts opens meeting at 7:01 PM

Pledge to the Flag

Commission Present: Shroeder, Ranson, Roberts, Hardy, Bancroft. Mayor Leavitt not in attendance.

Minutes: Bancroft moves to approve. Hardy seconds. Roberts calls to vote. All vote yes.

Public Comment:

Whitney Lake comments on the school expansion in favor of using solar panels and the benefits siting energy buy-back programs which would produce year-round income for the school.

Ennis School Presentation on Addition Plans

Casey Klasna presents with a new Design Concept D that can be found at ennischools.org. Klasna comments that they'd like to see opportunity for more community use with the improved facilities. Plan to move track field to 50 acres. States that school is working with a bond committee. Town Commissioner Kristy Ranson is part of that committee. Comments on plans to distribute information around town, via mail to all taxpayers, bulletins, online, etc. Opens to questions.

Bancroft asks about bus routes. Klasna states the lanes in front of elementary will remain.

Ben Erickson comments on design thoughtfulness and specific aspects of the plans.

Hardy asks if any improvements will be made to Ballard Lane.

Erickson says that is likely but they are unsure.

Shroeder asks if the gate on Charles will still be closed during the school day.

Klasna comments that gates will now remain open. Roundabouts will be installed on Charles.

Erickson comments further on layout plans and details of phases during construction.

Roberts asks about the mention of slight movement of Charles St to the west and if property realignments will need to be done.

Erickson comments that they are in too early of conceptual phases to determine if that will be needed but they will follow up if needed when they get further down the road.

Robin Blazer comments in favor of the school expansion but asks what the move would be if the bond does not pass.

Further comment and discussion.

Masterplan Presentation: Cushing Terrel

Full presentation can be found at: Cushingterrell.com/envisionennis

Wayne Freeman presents a slide deck that can be found at cushingterrell.com/envisionennis

Roberts asks for clarification on recommended planning board.

Hardy comments on his recent meeting with Danny Bearschweilder (sp) – the head of the MT State Resort Tax.

Freeman comments in favor of a resort tax.

Nora comments on details of resort tax options.

Discussion on resort tax clarification and options.

Roberts asks about an implementation process for Master Plan.

Freeman clarifies next steps and what will come with the initial draft of the implementation process.

Discussion on a work session open to the public.

Hardy asks about the recommendations for the issues of the truck traffic coming from south of town.

Freeman says CT highly recommends working with MDT to install rumble strips to test them out south of town. Warns that noise may be the issue but that it is proven the strips work.

Work session set for Tuesday, October 26 at 5:00 PM at Town Hall.

Darcy S. comments from online asking for a second stakeholder meeting with business owners.

Discussion on Master Plan and necessity of reaching business owners.

Resolution 561-2021: Gas Tax Monies

Roberts reads resolution.

Ranson moves to approve 561-2021. Hardy seconds.

Ranson moves to vote. All vote yes.

Resolution 562-2021: Discount on Utility Bills

Roberts reads resolution.

Ranson moves to approve. Bancroft seconds.

Ranson moves to vote. All vote yes.

HR Audit Discussion

Item moved to Oct 26 meeting for motion and vote.

Roberts comments on MMIA process for HR Audit. Main focus on job descriptions. Mention of hours audit.

Department reports

Zoning – written report.

Discussion on upcoming and pending projects.

Sprout confirms that the Williams St project has went to the Planning Board. Comments on zoom meeting regarding conditions of the Steffens St project.

Ranson asks about status of application and fees.

Discussion on Sprout working with Cushing Terrell to update form for more usability.

Clerk/Treasurer – written report.

Discussion on pending annexations.

Police – written report.

New hire – Matthew Fisher

Public Works – Kelly states hydrogeologic study will be presented at the next meeting.

New hire - Shawn O'Donnell

Library – written report.

Attorney James Greenbaum

Presents draft public meeting policy for Commission to consider adopting.

Presents draft of form for Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Land Use Agreement.

Roberts asks about process for adopting the policy presented for public town meetings.

Greenbaum confirms it can be adopted as a policy, does not need resolution or ordinance.

Commission Comments

Schroeder comments that he spoke to Officer Moore about the mill leavy and Moore will have an update at Nov meeting.

Roberts comments on recent work with Ennis Public Schools 6th and 7th grade, Public Works and the Tree Board with Bailey Landscaping on planting new trees and removing dead trees around town.

Hardy comments on information, options and details he has learned about resort tax. Comments on property tax refund as a perk of resort tax. Comments on pollinator garden. Asks about getting funds to Conservation District.

Roberts requests special meeting to accomplish a list of outstanding items Commission has been working on: Increasing Library wages, Zoning Text Amendments, Zoning Fees, annexation sees, impact sees, Street Repair Bond, Business License and Noise Ordinance

Discussion on coordinating work on above mentioned items before meetings.

Mayor Report/Comments Mayor not present.

Claims

Hardy moves to approve. Ranson seconds.

All vote yes.

Bancroft moves to adjourn. Schroeder seconds.

All vote yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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