

**TOWN OF ENNIS PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 28, 2022
6:00 PM
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Public Hearing

Ordinance #149 Repealing and Replacing Town of Ennis Business License Title 3 All Chapters except Medical Marijuana.

No public comment

Mayor opens meeting at 6:02 pm

Roll Call of the Council – Allison, Hankins, Palmerton, Ranson, Hardy

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Julie Bartos states she is sorry for being absent at the previous meeting when the Commission voted unanimously to deny the request for a dog park at Lion's Park. States that the plans were not given to Town to ask permission but rather to let the Town know what the Lion's plan to do and that the Lion's Club has always done whatever they want with the park.

Larry Pine via email: *I understand that in the past there have been situations where somebody hooks up to water/ sewer and they are not paving the street after the fact, and it is up to the town to pay for the paving. I would like to ask the council to consider a quick remedy to prevent this happening again. Either increase the bond, or possibly not issue a water meter to the homeowner or some other scenario in order to prevent this from happening in the future.*

Vote on Resolution 571-2022 Two Mill Emergency Levy for repairs created by gorging of the Madison of River in January 2022

Hardy moves to approve. Palmerton seconds. No public comment. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

Vote on 1st Reading of Ordinance #149 Business License

Ranson moves to approve. Palmerton seconds. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

Discussion on repealing and replacing town medical marijuana ordinance with Madison County marijuana ordinance.

Comments from Ranson on Town adopting county ordinance. Mayor comments on the undetermined decision on jurisdictional authority – whether the county can enforce their ordinance over the Town's ordinance. Discussion on impact to existing marijuana business within Town and their ability to renew their business license in July while the Town business license does not call for recreational sales. Mayor to contact Town Attorney regarding where within Town Code a Marijuana Ordinance best fits. Discussion on limiting the number of businesses allowed with Town limits to 3.

Discussion regarding camping regulations and parking restrictions in view of Martin v Boise - municipal responsibility to provide overnight parking for homeless persons where no homeless shelters are available

Tania Cubell asks for clarification on the Town's plan. States that she believes that changes could open up Ennis to attract a homeless population

Trevor Lockhart comments in agreement with previous comment.

Mike Delaney comments against inviting homelessness; asks what the Town has to do, minimally, to be compliant with the law.

Kirk Cordoso comments on the difference between homelessness and transients; suggests creating hours

to limit overnight camping.

Julie Bartos comments that she does not believe this issue needs to be dealt with right now because homelessness does not impact Ennis.

Tony Treglia comments from online that he would like to see the
Comments from Commission

Mayor makes comments on her frustration that the Town of Ennis is commonly behind the ball on issues and the goal of this item is to get ahead of an issue that is being seen across many other communities near and far. Makes clarification on the definition of sleeping area and that it could be limited hours in the night. Nikki Hankins comments against using the location of Lion's Park for homeless camping and addresses many concerns that come with homelessness areas. Commission considers other places owned by the Town. Mayor asks Commission to look into Town leasing space or calling Churches.

Discussion on Pretreat Ordinance (in regards to sewer system)

Eric Olson comments on the need for pretreat ordinance to protect the Town system and lagoon. Makes strong request that no businesses be grandfathered in – says that is the biggest take away from the conference he attended and speaking to other cities and towns that implemented a pretreat ordinance. Commission asks what it would require of each business to pretreat their waste. It is dependent on each business and what type of waste they have. Common industries that have the hardest impact on systems: distilleries, breweries, camp grounds, car washes, meat plants. Ranson to call Clerk in Glendive to ask about their process for implementing pretreat ordinance. Ranson suggests an education push on sump pumps in the summer. Mayor will be checking in the Town Attorney on language for no grandfathering. Discussion on allowing sufficient time for businesses to implement pretreat – acknowledgement of the cost to the businesses.

Discussion on items for future agenda

Resolution for bulk water fees, resolution to implement various fees for delinquent utility bills, resolution to increase street bond and site permit fees

Mayor requests to set public meeting for May 19th at 6:15 pm to review Condition Use Permits.

Discussion on future plans spend funds from Commission Projects to help pay for the repairs at Lion's Park.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm – Ranson moves to adjourn. Palmerton seconds. All vote yes.

*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>

Nici Haas, Mayor

Brittney Hirsch, Deputy Clerk