

**TOWN OF ENNIS PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2022  
7:00 PM  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Mayor opens meeting at 7:00 pm**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes of February 10th Meeting**

Ranson motions. Palmerton seconds. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

**Approval of Minutes of February 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

Ranson moves to approve. Palmerton seconds. Mayor calls to vote. Hardy abstains, all others vote yes.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

No public comment.

**Appointment of Zoning Board of Adjustment Members and Terms- Town Code 11-1-9 (A)**

Mayor gives update on board. Announces Maria Lake as Chair. Council is responsible to appoint terms. There have been letters of interest for open seats.

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

**Update on Pending Civil Litigation**

Mayor gives update that there is a court date pending for April 2022.

**Findings of Facts submitted in support of Zoning Setback Chart changed by ordinance on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Mayor comments on documents to be submitted into record.

**Set date for second reading of Noise Ordinance repealing and replacing current Ordinance**

Set for April 14, 2022 during Commission Meeting. Commission Meeting to start at 6:00 pm

**Draft Ordinance 147 An Ordinance to Abolish Ennis Ambulance with findings of fact to be submitted, set date for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

1<sup>st</sup> reading set for April 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Draft Ordinance 148 An Ordinance to Lease Space at 328 W. Main Street to MVMC with findings of fact to be submitted, set date for 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

1<sup>st</sup> reading set for April 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Resignation of Town Commissioner John Bancroft**

Mayor Haas announces Bancroft's resignation and reads letter from Bancroft. Asks for ideas for present. Mayor to plan appreciation event.

**Appointment of new Commissioner by majority vote within 30 days of seat being vacated**

Votes for scheduled meeting to interview each interested candidate with all Commission Members to begin at 5:30pm, Monday March 14, 2022.

**Appointment of Jon Siddoway as urban supervisor to Madison Conservation District on the Board of Supervisors - per Montana Code 76-15-311 (2)(a)**

Mayor announces appointment term of 3 years. Palmerton moves to approve. Ranson seconds. No public comment. No discussion from Commission. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

**Review and Vote on Lions Club project for Fish Wildlife and Parks Grant to improve ADA-accessible amenities, aeration improvements at Lions Club Park**

Ranson moves to approve the work at Lions Club Park. Hankins seconds. No public comment. Comments in favor from Commission; thankful for the work from LC. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

**Review changes to business license code and fees, set date for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Public Comment

John Way makes comment on draft business license fees for short term rentals (STR). States there is a lack of STR. Comments in favor of more STR. Does not believe this will solve the long-term rental problem; decrease in fees to those that serve or work for these STR. States he would be all for the fees if they knew where the money was going to go and how it would benefit.

Heather Hale, MVPM co-owner comments against the fees for STR. States that STR owners will not turn their home into a long-term rental because they visit and stay at their home when they come to Ennis. Comments against the long-term rental business license fee.

Carey Croy comments against rental fees, states that it will not help affordable housing.

Tony Treglia comments against making vendors at events have business licenses; asks for clarification on not-for-profits needing a business license.

Patsy Eckert comments from the Arts Association, against requiring vendors to have a business license.

Leann Reinch, vacation rental owner downtown would like to know the purpose of STR fees, where did the fee come from and where will the money go. States that STR is just like any other business – why would STR has a higher fee than other businesses.

Trevor Lockhart, owns property management company. Comments that STR are less likely to use prop mgmt. company. States that STR is still is a business and although he thinks the fees are high, STR should still need to register as a business within the Town.

Lisa Carruthers comments on the regulation of STR at the State level – believes that more fees will take away from businesses in town.

Lori from the Long Branch comments against the increase in business license fees. Makes comment that money should be spent on other infrastructure and professional services for growth rather than getting more business fees. Suggests a slow increase.

Breann Johnson comments on HB 259 for the Commission to review.

Lisa Roberts comments that STR play a significant role in the Ennis economy. Comments

against the proposed fee structure for STR but suggests finding a balance.

### **Commission comments**

Mayor makes comment on State bed tax. Comments on tourism being the new industry of our area. States the Town does not see the benefit from tourism. Comments on figuring out how to pay for these big projects that need to be funded. Ranson comments that the Town needs to make money to pay for the increase. Comments in favor a resort tax so that tourism pays for itself. Hardy comments on his personal struggle of where government should and should not step in. Comments on the loss of community when an area gets too many STR. Ranson comments that STR are a business and although initial fees may be high, they need to register. Palmerton states that all business should participate in business license fees. Mayor calls to set a work session to work on business license. Work session set for Monday March 14, 2022 at 2:00pm

### **Madison County Planning Board Representative for Ennis, Lincoln Roberts, report**

Comments Flat Iron Development in Big Sky that is awaiting approval from Madison County. Comments on Madison County review of Town of Ennis Master Plan. Comments on happenings in Sheridan with large housing development. Comments on RV park on Reynolds Pass; there is no zoning that stops them from being in that location. Comments on the development growth moving from Big Sky to Madison Valley. Comments on the One and Only development stating those employees will likely live in Ennis. Comments on the Jack Creek Road opening discussions. States that Ennis really needs to have their ducks in a row before the flood gates open. Comments that zoning within Ennis only extends 1 mile radius from Town limits. Hardy comments on Master Plan mentions of STR.

### **Department Reports**

Library – reports on activity, events, programs, summer reading program. Gives kudos to all community support members. Comments on and requests input from Commission for landscape project.

Law Enforcement – written report.

Public Works – written report.

Zoning – written report.

Clerks – written report.

### **Commission Reports**

Hankins comments on her writing a thank you to DOT letter and Library Board. Palmerton comments on. Hardy comments on Bancroft and Farmer's Market.

### **Mayor Report**

Comments on recent meetings. Comments on Lion's Club Park remaining closed to the public; including softball fields. Comments on Executive Forum takeaways. Comments about working on the creation of master documents for processes and organization. Comments on Bozeman event for Commission and Clerks first week of May. Comments on HR event in Great Falls hosted by the City and MMIA. Comments on pretreat ordinance requirement from DEQ.

### **Claims**

Palmerton moves to approve. Ranson seconds.

**Adjourned at 9:45 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>

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Nici Haas, Mayor

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Brittney Hirsch, Deputy Clerk