

TOWN OF ENNIS PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 14, 2022
6:15 PM
ENNIS TOWN HALL

Public Hearing opened at 6:20 pm

2nd Reading of Marijuana Ordinance 150. An Ordinance to allow for the sale of recreational marijuana in Title 3 of Ennis Town Code - Discussion and Vote

Public Comment

Christopher Young – attorney representing Top Shelf Botanicals – shares appreciation for TOE moving forward with updating ordinance to allow for sale of recreational marijuana. Young comments that 3-6-2 compliance part A may cause issues with a chicken and egg scenario where the Town and State want timing of certain documents.

No commission discussion.

Ranson moves to approve. Hardy seconds. Hankins asks for clarification on Young’s comment.

Hirsch comments working with State authorities will be the route necessary to move forward.

Mayor calls for vote. All present vote yes.

1st Reading of Pretreatment Ordinance #152 an amendment to Title 10 setting for uniform requirements for Industrial Users of the Public Owned Treatment Works- Discussion and Vote

Olson clarifies that pretreatment is a necessary step to protect the lagoon and keep the Town in compliance with DEQ.

Mayor comments on requirements for DEQ permit and next permit renewal timeline with unknown

Public Comment

Aaron Moore, owner of Madison Valley Campground, asks who authored the ordinance.

Mayor states Great West Engineering. Moore asks if capacity is an issue and states that his largest concern is lack of definition and specific quantities within the ordinance. He needs something to measure. Lists examples within ordinance that are unclear and examples that are clear. States that current draft using the word “may” leaves standards open so that business owners do not know exactly is expected of them. Would like to know what exactly needs to be constructed to meet the pretreat requirements. Mayor clarifies that the overall goal is to make all industrial users meet the same levels as household. Requests that testing be done on his waste to better determine what impact his industrial waste has on the system. Requests a specific timeline to be determined rather than left undetermined so he knows how long he has to meet requirements. States he cannot understand the costs associated or the timeline in which he has to complete project with the way to draft is written now. Wants to know what BOD levels and ammonia levels need to be so he can move forward – states that there is only an assumption of what he is putting in the system – if the Town has never tested the waste coming from his system. He has presented this draft to an outside engineer and was told it is very unclear what is being required.

Attorney Greenbaum states Moore’s concerns are legitimate. States the enforcement comes down to the Town working with residents and business owners to get on the same page.

Comments about complete unknown costs associated.

Ranson moves to table. Allison seconds. Mayor calls to vote. All present vote yes.

Mayor opens regular meeting at 6:55 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes for June 9, 2022 meeting

Ranson moves to approve. Hankins seconds. Mayor calls to vote. All present vote yes.

Approval of minutes for June 23, 2022 meeting

Hankins moves to approve. Ranson seconds. All present vote yes.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – None

Planning Board Formation Update

Hardy nominates Ranson as member of Commission. Present commissioners in agreement. Ranson accepts. Current – Ranson, O’Donnell, Ramirez, Abernethy. Hankins to ask Agueda. Mayor to ask Oehler. Ranson or Hardy to ask Scignoli. Jeremy Ramirez mentions he may have an interested party and will confirm.

Discussion on anti-camping regulation as it pertains to Martin vs Boise – Commissioner Hardy

Hardy comments that he thinks it would be smart to make it a multi-use area similar to Twin Bridges. Discussion. Mayor requests Attorney Greenbaum to draft ordinance for review by Commissioners.

Parking on North 40 – Title 7 Chapter 7 Section 6 Subsection H to add parking restrictions – set dates for public hearings

Commissioners request public hearing at regularly scheduled August meeting.

Resolution 575-2022 Resolution of Intent to amend Town Code Title 10 to define bulk water and implement a fee schedule - Discussion and Vote

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

Update from Public Works Director Eric Olson on the street maintenance and use of maintenance district funds

Olson comments on getting the Town grader up and running. Steffens and Ennis plan to be paved in August. Beaverhead turnout repaired and improved. Pause on Comley because a culvert needs installed – working with State on that. Large patches to fix on First St. Otis to be repaired by contractors and homeowners in North 40. Plans to use some funds for new plow truck. Hankins brings up concerns from residents on where snow is piled in front of their residents. Asks if there is a reason for where it gets piled. No discussion on matter. Crack sealing to be done – Olson considering hiring out since the Town does not have proper equipment.

Jack Beals asks for clarification on where pavement is going to be done. Olson states he would like to finish Mirza to Beaverhead as that street is mostly developed.

Hardy asks about agreement with County for road maintenance. Mayor states she is working on MOU and will be meeting with County Commissioner Heckler next Monday to review draft.

Discussion about weed maintenance. Four hydrants need replaced before winter; valves are in disarray.

Resolution 577-2022 Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Short-Term Investment Pool (STIP) Montana Board of Investments - Discussion and Vote

Hardy moves to approve. Ranson seconds.

Commissioners ask for clarification on what STIP is. Guinn states that it is a state approved investment pool. Mayor calls to vote. All vote yes.

Review for Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Ennis and Madison Valley Public Library - Discussion and Vote

Ketchu comments on process and completion of MOU.

Attorney Greenbaum comments on his concerns. Believes there is conflict between the Mayor's authority to hire and fire. Requests an amendment that states nothing within MOU supersedes Mayor's authority. Discussion on language within MOU.

Ranson moves to adopt with no changes. Hankins seconds. Greenbaum asks Mayor if she is going to request amendment. Ketchu does not want it to conflict with Library Board.

Greenbaum says there is clear conflict and that a brief amendment to 5.C.2 subject to Mayor of Town of Ennis authority. Discussion. Mayor does not believe there to be a conflict in her authority and with this being the first year for these MOUs with Libraries and Towns, she anticipates updates and possible changes after the first year. Does not agree to amend any language in the MOU as it was prepared to fit MMIA's requests.

Mayor calls to vote. All present vote yes.

Department Reports

Library – written report.

Law Enforcement – written report.

Lisa Roberts requests focus on ordinance enforcement of Town Code without written complaint report. She thought that EPD would enforce ordinance more with a second officer and she does not believe that formal complaint should always be necessary to enforce ordinance.

Public Works – Discussion on weed letters and future plans to legal publish notice in Madisonian rather than put hours and monies into mailing letters. Leak detection in progress.

Zoning – Sprout verbal report. Pippin and Heckler will be going to ZBA August 2nd for variance. Moen-Johnson carwash is the only pending CUP. Sprout states attorney has sent text change documents. Hardy ask if Riverside is looking for a text amendment. Sprout confirms.

Deputy Clerk – Hirsch verbal report. Comments on the new alerting system that the Town is using specifically for water line repairs and notifications. States there has been nothing but positive feedback from all users – everyone is glad to be informed. Provides update on business license renewals and applications coming in for 2022-2023 year; packet for short term rentals and requirements are available on website. ~ 410 mailed out business licenses, ~ 110 received and being processed so far. Commissioner Hankins asks how many short-term rentals have completed their applications. Hirsch states that two have completed fully and only a couple others have called and asked questions and/or are working on getting their State and County requirements completed. Newly adopted resolution for utility fee schedule is on website.

Clerk/Treasurer Guinn written report, verbal update that claims for water damage pending.

Town is waiting on tax assessment docs back from State to prepare final numbers for draft budget.

Commission Reports

Hardy plans to attend the tourism grant writing class on the 27th.

Mayor Report

Working on MOU with county for road maintenance. Will be working on public records

request fee schedule. Working on Hazard Mitigation plan.

Unscheduled matters

Claims Ranson moves to approve. Hankins seconds. All present vote yes.

Ranson moves to adjourn. Hankins seconds. Adjourn at 8:50 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>

Nici Haas, Mayor

Brittney Hirsch, Deputy Clerk