

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting of the Evansville Town Council, Evansville, Wyoming

October 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Evansville Town Council of the Town of Evansville, County of Natrona, State of Wyoming, was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Council Meeting Livestreamed via You Tube.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chad Edwards at 7:00 p.m. and upon roll call the following were present: Mayor Chad Edwards, Council Members Aaron Vigneault, Joe Knop, and Candace Machado, Town Attorney Alia Scott, Town Treasurer Lexi Erickson, Chief of Police Mike Thompson, Fire Chief Leo Malsom, Public Works Representative Robert Lewallen, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, and interested citizens.

Council Member Sheena Hixson asked to be excused.

Mayor Chad Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Aaron Vigneault to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A) Minutes for Regular Meeting on September 28, 2020
- B) Approval of Business Licenses – Prime Electric, LLC, and Ruby Electric, LLC
- C) Approval of Bills

Motion was made by Aaron Vigneault and seconded by Joe Knop to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Chad Edwards stated that applications were received, and interviews conducted for a Public Works Director. He stated that there were some good and talented applicants which made the decision a tough one for the interview panel. Mayor Edwards stated that in the end, the most qualified applicant was Paul Hanson and that he would like to nominate him as the new Public Works Director.

Motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Aaron Vigneault to approve the appointment of Paul Hanson as the new Public Works Director. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Janelle Underwood administered the Oath of Office and the Jurat was signed by Paul Hanson.

APPROVAL OF GRANT DRAW DOWN REQUEST – CORONAVIRUS RELIEF GRANT: Town Clerk Janelle Underwood stated that she had Grant Draw Down Request No. 1 in the amount of forty-two thousand seven hundred forty-six dollars (\$42,746.00) and that she needed authorization for the Mayor to execute. She stated that the Town had applied for a Coronavirus Relief Grant through the State Lands and Investment Board for the reimbursement of expenses due to the Coronavirus pandemic and that the application was approved. She stated that the expenses were for items such as wages paid to employees who helped man the Emergency Operations Center, personal protective equipment, and attorney's fees.

Motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Aaron Vigneault to authorize the Mayor to execute and the Clerk to attest to the Grants Draw Down Request No. 1 in the amount of forty-two thousand seven hundred forty-six dollars (\$42,746.00). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSE FOR ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY: Chief of Police Mike Thompson stated that a little over a year ago, Fire Chief Malsom and himself started working on properties in Evansville that fell under the nuisance and abatement of dangerous buildings. He stated that there is a piece of property that the Town gave notice to the property owner of the nuisance issues and the property owner did not abate the nuisances so our Town Attorney then filed a complaint in the Natrona County District Court and the court last

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December provided a court order that the nuisances needed to be abated. He stated that they had hoped that the property owner would take care of the abatement, but they have not. He stated that there is a provision in the ordinance that allows the Town to abate the dangerous buildings at the property owners expense. He stated that the property has two older trailers on it and if the property owner does not pay the Town back the Town can file a lien on the property for the cost of the abatement. Chief Thompson contacted a couple of different contractors and received two bids. He stated that the first bid was from Recycle Materials with a bid of about nine thousand eight hundred dollars (\$9,800.00) which includes the removal of any asbestos and Brutill Construction's bid was eight thousand three hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$8,385.00) with an additional charge of six thousand five hundred dollars to nine thousand dollars (\$6,500 - \$9,000.00) to address any removal of asbestos.

After some discussion, motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Aaron Vigneault to award the bid to Recycle Materials for nine thousand eight hundred dollars. Motion carried.

CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 28, 2020, COUNCIL MEETING: Due to the Christmas Holiday, motion was made by Joe Knop and Aaron Vigneault to cancel the December 28, 2020, Council Meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: During public comments, Rhonda Stypa, 695 Bozeman Trail. She stated that she had a couple of items that she wanted to ask. Ms. Stypa asked if the Mayor could advise what the ordinance currently states regarding campers on the streets.

Mayor Chad Edwards stated that when he spoke on this subject earlier that he was mistaken. He stated that he went back and reread the ordinance and it states that campers can be placed on a city street for no more than seven days out of a consecutive thirty-day period.

Rhonda Stypa asked if the Mayor could advise the citizens where the Town was as far as installing handicap accessibility for citizens at both banks of mailboxes.

Mayor Edwards stated that is something that will have to be looked at. He stated that will not be a quick and easy fix because of the removal and replacement of concrete. He stated that the Town will explore all its options.

Rhonda Stypa asked where the Town was in purchasing or coming up with something different regarding the issue of the street paint not lasting very long on the streets.

Mayor Edwards stated that he has been in discussion with the Public Works Department concerning this issue. He stated that the Public Works Department has tried different street paints and it is just not lasting. He stated that the City of Casper has been through the same thing and has started a process where the street is ground down and a thermal plastic adhesive is laid down. He stated that the thermal plastic adhesive is very expensive and in the spring the Town may try a sample and see how well it holds up.

Rhonda Stypa stated that it was brought to her attention that people are still driving and using their phones and asked Chief of Police Mike Thompson to address this issue.

Chief of Police Mike Thompson stated that the Town passed a Hands-Free Ordinance back in March. He stated that shortly after that, the Covid Pandemic came about so the police officers were trying to limit their contact with people. He stated that recently there has been over sixty people pulled over by his department for not following the hands-free ordinance. Chief Thompson stated that he recently pulled some statistics on vehicle accidents and comparatively the accidents last year compared to the same time this year are down significantly. He stated that the hit-and-run accidents were down by fifty three percent (53%) and the vehicle accidents where both parties are on scene were down eighty-three percent (83%). Chief Thompson stated that it is hard to say at this time how much of this decrease is due to the Hands-Free Ordinance.

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Rhonda Stypa asked Chief Thompson if he could advise the status of the dog park that he had spoken about that was adopted in the new animal control ordinance.

Chief Thompson stated that when the animal control ordinance was written, it was written into the ordinance to allow a dog park. He stated that because of Covid 19, it is uncertain what the future holds as far as what the revenues will be for the Town of Evansville.

Rhonda Stypa asked what the status was on the new emergency exit.

Mayor Edwards stated that the Town is still moving forward with the proposed road with hopes to start breaking ground in the spring. He stated that there have been some recent developments that may slow it down a bit. He stated that the Town must also review the comments from the lessees in the area on the proposed road easement, but he still anticipates the Town moving forward in the spring.

Rhonda Stypa presented some different options in writing for the Town Council to consider in allowing camper and RV parking and stated that the one that she most favored is not allowing campers and trailers to park on the streets from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Edwards stated that he has looked at a lot of different aspects on this issue and has even thought about the Town holding a Public Hearing to see what the people of Evansville want to see.

Tonya Brigrance, 748 Whipsaw stated to the Governing Body that she knows that there is a civil rights law firm in Colorado that has pending lawsuits against Evansville Police Officers and wanted to know if the citizens are allowed to have that information.

Mayor Chad Edwards stated that he would assume the answer would be no and that he is not aware of any pending lawsuits.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by Joe Knop and seconded by Aaron Vigneault to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

  
Chad Edwards, Mayor

ATTESTED:

  
Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk