

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting of the Evansville Town Council, Evansville, Wyoming

August 22, 2016

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.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Phil Hinds at 7:00 p.m. and upon roll call the following were present: Mayor Phil Hinds, Council Members Doug White, Ernie Blackford, and Jory Delinger, Town Treasurer Alexi Erickson, Chief of Police Tom Laughrey, Public Works Director Dan Adcock, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, and interested citizens.

Council Member Joseph Knop, Town Attorney Phil Willoughby, Town Engineer Shane Porter, and Fire Chief Leo Malsom asked to be excused.

Mayor Hinds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Ernie Blackford and seconded by Doug White to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the regular meeting on August 8, 2016, were presented for approval. Motion was made by Jory Delinger and seconded by Ernie Blackford to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #6-2016: An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 15 of the Town of Evansville Code and Adopting an Updated Chapter 15. First reading. Town Clerk Janelle Underwood summarized Ordinance #6-2016. Motion was made by Doug White and seconded by Ernie Blackford to approve Ordinance #6-2016 on first reading. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CATERING PERMIT- HAT SIX TRAVEL CENTER GRAND OPENING: Town Clerk Janelle Underwood advised the Governing Body that Hooch's LLC has applied for a Catering Permit for the Hat Six Travel Center Grand Opening event to be held on September 3, 2016. She advised that the application was sent to the Governing Body, Chief of Police Tom Laughrey, and Town Attorney Phil Willoughby. She advised that the event will be held outside in an area that will be fenced off, that identifications will be checked for those who are of age, and that wrist bands will be required in order to purchase alcohol.

Motion was made by Ernie Blackford and seconded by Jory Delinger to approve the Catering Permit for the Hat Six Travel Center Grand Opening. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE: Business License Application for Kamikaze Customz was presented to the Governing Body for approval. Motion was made by Jory Delinger and seconded by Doug White to approve the business license application for Kamikaze Customz. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BUILDING PERMITS: Building Permit applications #4264 and #4265 were presented to the Governing Body for approval. The applications were for fences. Motion was made by Ernie Blackford and seconded by Jory Delinger to approve permits #4264 and #4265. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: During public comments, Jennifer Sorenson, 741 Camp Davis Circle, stated that she would like to thank the Governing Body for moving forward with the water issues in the Reshaw Subdivision and making positive steps. She stated that she trusts that the Town is going to continue working towards addressing the ground water issues. Jennifer Sorenson asked the Governing

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Body how many members were on the Fire Department and what the Town pays for equipment and retirement.

Mayor Hinds stated that there were eight (8) fulltime firefighters including the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief. He stated that there are part-time members of the department who are compensated at thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per call and that there are volunteer firefighters.

Town Clerk Janelle Underwood stated that the Town pays fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month for a portion of the paid-per-call firefighters and some of the volunteers. She stated that over a year ago, the Town placed a cap on the amount of paid-per-call firefighters that the Fire Department could have.

Jennifer Sorenson stated that she was looking at the wages that are posted and noticed a wage gap. She stated that the Fire Chief makes more than the Police Chief and wanted to know why. She stated that the Police Department's call volume is higher and that the Police Chief has more responsibilities and liabilities than the Fire Department. She stated that the Police Department responded to approximately four thousand five hundred (4,500) calls and that the Fire Department responded to approximately one thousand (1,000) calls. Ms. Sorenson also stated that the Police Chief has more experience than the Fire Chief. She stated that the Town is required to have a Fire Department but not required to have emergency medical services. Ms. Sorenson stated that the Fire Department received a new ambulance and building and asked what the Police Department had received. She stated that she feels that the Police Department is lagging behind and that at times only has one police officer on duty. She asked when the last time was that the Town purchased an ambulance and brush truck and asked how it was funded.

Mayor Hinds stated that he disagreed with Ms. Sorenson's statement that the Police Department has more responsibilities. He stated that both the Police and Fire Departments have a lot of responsibilities. He stated that the ambulance was purchased last year with One Cent funds. He stated that the brush truck was purchased some time ago and that it has paid for itself on Federal Wildfire assignments. Mayor Hinds stated that he was not aware that there was an issue with the Chief of Police wages.

Ms. Sorenson asked if the Town had a plan in place to alleviate the furloughs so that the police officers can get back to forty (40) hours per week. She also stated that she has nothing against our current Town Treasurer as a person, but asked if she has the qualifications to handle the kind of money that the Town receives.

Mayor Hinds stated that the plan is to go back to a regular schedule when the Town's funding improves. He stated that the Town has no control on its funding. He stated that the Town is funded by what revenues the State of Wyoming provides. Mayor Hinds stated that our Town Treasurer has the qualifications for the job, that she trained for more than a year with the previous Treasurer, and that the only thing that our current treasurer does not have is the Certified Public Accountant license because that is a direction that she chose not to go. He stated that she is a very good accountant.

Jayne Carey, 792 Whipsaw, advised the Governing Body about the need to call for a police officer the night before because of very suspicious foot traffic, that the officer arrived and that the officer then had to leave to respond to a car accident. She also asked how the ground water was supposed to be routed from her sanitary sewer to the storm sewer. She stated that the ground water is currently plumbed into the sanitary sewer and that she is not going to allow someone to jackhammer on her foundation. She stated that she suffers on a daily basis because of this problem. She asked how the

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Town will handle permits in the future to avoid the problems that she has endured. Ms. Carey asked if anyone looked at her building permit and house plans.

Mayor Hinds stated that the plan was for Stonecrest Construction to run the ground water from the sump pumps through a line that Stonecrest will install from the backyards of the houses affected out to Town property. He stated that the line will then be ran to the north and then tie into the existing storm water drainage. Mayor Hinds stated that once the moratorium is lifted, each permit will be gone through to see if there will be a potential for ground water. He stated that there will be stricter guidelines that must be met before a permit is issued.

Councilmember Jory Delinger stated that when he reviewed the permit applications, he saw several applications that had basements. He stated that there was a liability clause statement on the certificates that the Town did not recommend basements and was also signed off by planning. Councilmember Jory Delinger stated that the responsibility lies on the developer and the builder.

Ms. Carey stated that she never saw the papers that indicated that basements were not recommended for her area until she came into the Town Hall. She stated that she thought this was odd because all of her papers were copied and sitting on the counter ready for her when she came in.

Town Clerk Janelle Underwood stated that prior to Ms. Carey picking up the copies, someone indeed did request a copy of the file that pertained to her address and that she thought Ms. Carey was who made that request.

Danielle Mann, 791 Whipsaw, complained to the Governing Body about issues that she is seeing with the traffic at the Reshaw River Park. She stated that people are speeding down the road almost constantly and that in the last week, someone had an accident and hurt a dog. She stated that she does not understand why the park is not monitored more closely and that perhaps some speed bumps would slow people down.

Mayor Hinds stated that they can have the Police Department patrol that area more frequently and that speed bumps are a good idea. Mayor Hinds stated that if residents see a problem, they should call the Police Department.

Justin Burt, 602 Toll Street, stated that he had a procedural question for the collection of utility payments. He stated that people get behind from time to time and that everyone knows what the economy is doing. He stated that he got about fourteen (14) days behind on his utility account and made payment arrangements to pay the bill when he got paid. He stated that he called the Town Hall around 4:50 p.m. - 4:55 p.m. to make his payment. He stated that he was advised by the utility clerk that the computer was shut down for the day. He stated that the next day when he got home from work, he went to pay his water bill and learned the water was shut off. He stated that he started looking at the Town ordinances and that he feels there are a few procedural issues that were missed. He stated that he has gotten behind again this month and that he has realized that he has not received a notice from the Town. He stated that when other residents have gotten two months behind, they have received a notice. He stated that his utilities were shut off for being fourteen days behind. He stated that he would like to present a Freedom of Information request for information on the operating procedures for the utility bill collection process, for information on accounts that were behind May, June and July, and for information on how many notices were sent out on those accounts.

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Sisco Valdez advised the Governing Body that he recently purchased some property in Evansville. He stated that he has some concerns about the enforcement of weeds and accumulated junk. He stated that he believes in "live and let live" but asked if there is some kind of enforcement on weeds and junk. He stated that Evansville is and can be a nice community. He stated that he has driven around to different parts of the Town and that he has some areas of concern.

Mayor Hinds stated that if there is an issue with weeds and junk, residents should call the Police Department so that an officer can be sent out to address the problem.

Chief of Police Tom Laughrey stated that his department currently does not have an officer that is assigned specifically to code enforcement. He stated that when his department receives a complaint, they try to address the issue at that time. He stated that the time frame for the infraction to be addressed depends on the complaint. Chief Laughrey stated that sometimes the response time may be slower because they are dealing with empty houses and empty lots.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by Doug White and seconded by Ernie Blackford to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____

Phil Hinds
Phil Hinds, Mayor

ATTESTED: _____

Janelle Underwood
Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk