

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, Sept 21, 2021, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor Pro Tem	Day
	Trustees	Gutierrez
		Kindall
		Nielsen
		Lockwood
Town Staff Present	Administrator	Etheridge
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Police Chief	Thompson
	PW Superintendent	Overton
	Admin. Assistant	Pakuer
	Lieutenant	Hayes

Citizens Present: Hooks, Marie and Kobald, Stephanie.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Day called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present except for Mayor Borchard and Trustee Creecy.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Day asked that items B and C under New Business be switched to allow a five-minute tour of the upstairs. A motion was made by Trustee Kindall to accept the agenda as revised. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Day stated he did not make the motion under Draft Budget Proposal reducing the amount of funding for the Circle Park Project Phase II, there was discussion that Trustee Gutierrez may have made the motion. Town Clerk Cook said she would listen to the recording, in the meantime approval of the minutes could be tabled until the next meeting. Trustee Kindall moved to table the approval for clarification. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the disbursements dated September 21, 2021. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – September 21, 2021

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration of Ordinance #2 - 2021 to approve FEMA Flood Plain Regulations. Mayor Pro Tem Day opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Administrator Etheridge addressed the Board explaining updating the flood insurance map is a process that has taken place over the past two years and has involved public participation; the ordinance amends Chapter 20 of the Town's Municipal Code regarding Flood Plain Regulations, sets limits on development within designated flood zones and describes procedures for the approval of that development. Clerk Cook added adopting the National Flood Insurance program allows members of the community to participate in the program if they choose to.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Pro Tem Day closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. and called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2, Series 2021 approving the FEMA Flood Plain Regulations. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Update from Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Pro Tem Day adjourned the meeting for a quick tour of the third floor prior to the Chamber of Commerce update. Upon reconvening Chamber Director Stephanie Kobald updated the Board on activities of the Chamber over the past few months reporting they have 19 new members, and nine new businesses; applied for five grants, one of which is the Open for Business Grant the State will be announcing the recipients end of September; completed the mural project and thanked the Board for their continued support. Kobald said the Chamber's focus was primarily on tourism as during the summer months they receive approximately 24 walk-in visitors per day and in 2020 mailed out 70 visitor information packets, the number has increased to 310 packets mailed so far this year. Kobald stated going forward the Chamber would like to place more of an emphasis on the business community and economic development and with that in mind need to expand their offices and approached the Board about possibly moving to the third floor of Town Hall to provide more room for business services.

Chamber President Marie Hooks was also present and thanked the Board for their continued support of the Chamber stating the Colorado Workforce Center of which she is an Employment Specialist, would also be interested in a larger office upstairs. Director Kobald stated there is an State OEDIT grant she would like to apply for that could help with some of the expenses of relocating their offices to Town Hall. After some discussion regarding what would be needed such as carpeting and possibly moving walls, the Board agreed to pursue the idea of the relocation and applying for the grant.

Discussion regarding Police Vehicle bid. Chief Thompson addressed the Board regarding the outstanding bid for the police vehicle that was approved earlier in the year explaining the Craig dealer still has no idea when the chip would be produced and when or if the department would receive the vehicle this year. Thompson added that another vehicle has been budgeted for next year as well and he would really like to get a vehicle this year, but the only way will be to buy one that is in stock, which they had found three with police packages out of state, but they are more expensive than the Victory Motor's bid and according to the Town's purchasing policy the only way to purchase the vehicle without going out to bid would be to declare it an emergency. Thompson said the lowest price of the three was from Dana Safety Supply and did not include the price of radio equipment or graphics but did include delivery to Meeker.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – September 21, 2021

Administrator Etheridge informed the Board they had spoken with Attorney Massih and determined this could be declared an emergency given the status of some of the department's current vehicles if they were unable to respond. Chief Thompson informed the Board the bid price from Victory Motors is locked and the department would receive that price even if they did not receive the vehicle until 2022, he asked if the Board would consider using the money budgeted for 2021 to purchase the lowest priced vehicle in North Carolina and pay for the Victory Motors vehicle in 2022.

After further discussion regarding the proposal and the current state of the department's vehicles Trustee Gutierrez made the motion, because of the emergency situation, to pursue the purchase of the F150 Truck from Dana Safety Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$52,612 plus the cost of equipment. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

STAFF UPDATES

Public Works. Superintendent Overton reported their crew completed First Aid and CPR training; repaired and painted the hand railing at Town Hall, patched asphalt, had one water leak and are still having beaver problems in Edinger's culvert at the pump house; and although he did not have the number of gallons, water usage was down considerably last month.

Police Department. Chief Thompson reported during the month of August the Department had 409 incidents, two arrests and 51 summons. One of the Trustees asked how the Jail closure would affect the department. Thompson replied we will have to transport our own detainees from Meeker to Craig which could leave the Town uncovered for a few hours but will be doable, arrests may become more of a cite and release; there will be a meeting with the SO and Craig next week so we will know more after that.

Town Clerk. Clerk Cook reported changes to the budget in Systems Development were made as discussed at the last meeting as well as a 2% cost of living raise for all employees which was calculated by increasing the projected 2022 annual payroll by 2% and dividing that amount by the number of employees which resulted in a \$1,220 increase for each employee. Reserves now needed to balance the General Fund decreased by \$1,008,293 from the draft version presented at the last meeting.

Town Manager. Administrator Etheridge thanked everyone who had participated in the previous Land Use Code workshops with the next scheduled for next Tuesday; included in the packets is an invitation to attend the CML District 11 meeting in Rangely on Oct. 13th and requested Board members let her know if they plan to attend; there is a grant opportunity to study child care needs within our community which Carly Thompson from Rio Blanco County is applying for and has the support of ERBM Recreation and Park District, Pioneers Medical Center, the School District and Etheridge requested the Town's support; advertisements will go out September 30th for Kathy Sizemore's replacement in the Police Dept. the hope is to have someone on board the first part of December.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – September 21, 2021

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Day adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



Travis Day, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:



Lisa Cook, Town Clerk