

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Borchard
Day
Gutierrez (attended by phone)
Kindall
Nielsen
Lockwood
Jehorek

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Attorney
Lieutenant
PW Superintendent
Admin. Assistant

Etheridge
Cook
Massih (attended by phone)
Hayes
Overton
Pakuer

Citizens Present: Kracht, Betty; Borchard, Kristofer; Borchard, Kevin; Thomson, Carly; Turner, Nikki (attended by phone); Creecy, Scott (attended by phone)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Borchard asked for changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to accept the agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Kindall. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Day to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022 , as submitted. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the disbursements dated January 4, 2022. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration of Retail Liquor License (Brew Pub) for Smoking River Brewing Company, LLC. Mayor Borchard opened the public hearing at 7:05pm. Town Clerk Cook stated owners Kevin Borchard and Kristofer Borchard were present. Pursuant to C.R.S. 12-47-101 the following

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has been determined: there has not been a denial of an application by the Town Board, State of Colorado or neighborhood for a new Brew Pub License application at location 101 East Market Street; a lease agreement dated December 1, 2021 shall continue on an annual basis, showing Smoking River Brewing Company LLC as lessee of the premises; selling alcohol in the manner proposed is not a violation of the zoning or other applicable Town ordinances or any rules or laws of the State of Colorado; the building does not appear to be within five hundred feet from any public or parochial school. Within the designated neighborhood of the building there are the following existing other outlets: two tavern licenses, four hotel and restaurant licenses, three retail fermented malt beverage off/premise licenses, one retail fermented malt beverage on/premise license, three retail liquor store licenses, one brewery and sales room license. There are no petitions presently on file with the Town of Meeker for the applicant. There are no petitions on file with the Town of Meeker supporting or opposing the application and no letters were received in opposition to the application. Cook informed the board that staff recommends approval contingent on receiving the fingerprint documents from Colorado Bureau of Investigations. Applicant Mr. Kevin Borchard stated Smoking River Brewing has no plans to change what they are currently doing other than this new licensing will allow food to be served. Mayor Borchard asked for questions or comments from the public and the Board, and hearing no further discussion he closed the public hearing at 7:10pm and called for a motion to approve the retail liquor license (Brew Pub) for Smoking River Brewing Company, LLC. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Ordinance 01-2022 Minor Subdivision for Eastern Rio Blanco Health Service District. Mayor Borchard opened the public hearing at 7:13pm. Administrator Etheridge stated Ms. Betty Kracht was present representing White River Consulting. This subdivision is going to take lot 2 which consists of 51.8 acres and divide off a five-acre parcel on the southwest corner creating lot 2B, the remaining 46.8 acres will then become lot 2A. On October 26th the pre-application conference was held at town hall planning office for the re-subdivision of lot 2 in the Meeker Terrace Minor Subdivision and a pre-application conference summary report was prepared by Western Slope Consulting; the owner of this property is Eastern Rio Blanco Health Services District. The application was submitted November 29th and was determined to be complete; it was then sent to referral agencies on December 6th, these agencies stated there were no other concerns that would affect this re-subdivision. Staff recommends approval of the preliminary plat and notes that the final plat shall be subject to staff review prior to recordation. Mayor Borchard asked for further discussion, and hearing none he closed the hearing at 7:20pm and called for a motion to approve ordinance 01-2022 Minor Subdivision for Eastern Rio Blanco Health Service District. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Resolution 01-2022 for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees and administer the Oath of Office. Administrator Etheridge informed the board Tiffany Jehorek was present to be sworn in for the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve the Adoption of Resolution 01-2022 appointing Tiffany Jehorek to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees and administer the Oath of Office. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Cook administered the Oath of Office to Tiffany Jehorek.

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Discussion regarding job description for Community Development/Planner. Administrator Etheridge reminded the board the 2022 budget included a full-time position with a maximum salary of seventy thousand dollars for a Community Development/Planner. Etheridge asked the board for their approval and insight as to the presented job description in their packet. Town Clerk Cook stated that this position requires somebody with a planning background, and that currently quite a bit of time is spent by the Administrator, Town Clerk and Building Inspector researching and answering questions in a timely manner for the public. A planner could also help pursue the housing shortage dilemma we are currently facing. After a lengthy discussion the Board of Trustees approved for Administrator Etheridge to continue moving forward in this process stating the sooner the better in getting a qualified applicant on board.

Discussion regarding Office of Just Transition funding opportunity. Administrator Etheridge stated Carly Thomson was present representing Rio Blanco County. Etheridge informed the board the Office of Just Transition (OJT) funding has money coming available and entities within Northwest Colorado are starting to apply for their share. There is \$2.769M for this region consisting of nine entities that are qualified to apply for a portion of the funds. The participating entities are: Rio Blanco County, Moffat County, Routt County, Meeker, Rangely, Craig, Hayden, Yampa and Oak Creek. The Town of Meeker, Chamber of Commerce, Town of Rangely and Rio Blanco County have all been meeting to decide what will be the best course of action that will benefit our community. Town of Meeker would like to apply for \$300,000 to help support the Chamber of Commerce reorganization and reinstate the Meeker Business Grant program. The program requires a 50% match from the business owner which demonstrates the community's commitment to upgrading the downtown district aesthetic and accessibility. Unfortunately, due to a 60% decline in mineral lease and mineral severance taxes the town was not able to offer the business grant program in 2021. Also, part of the \$300,000.00 could be used to help with the upstairs remodel project in Town Hall in preparation of relocating the Chamber of Commerce there. After a lengthy discussion the board advised Administrator Etheridge to continue moving forward requesting funding from the Office of Just Transition.

STAFF UPDATES

Superintendent Overton reported 10, 972,000 gallons of water were pumped for the month of December; the Public Works crew has been busy plowing and hauling snow; employees used a total of 151 hours of vacation time before the end of the year.

Lieutenant Hayes reported during the month of December there were 6 summonses issued, and 9 warnings. The totals for the year 2021 were: a total of 24 arrest, 162 summons and 85 warnings.

Town Clerk Cook reported the Cash Assets for December 31, 2021, were \$7,209,045.45 and all departments came in under budget for the year. Cook reminded the board that packets for the elections are due back to Town Hall by January 24, 2022, so far four packets have been picked up.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Etheridge reported the Land Use Code status is the same, currently we have not received chapter six, and she would like to discuss how to move forward with this project at a board meeting in February. The Circle Park Phase II grant application has been posted on the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) website and we will hear if the Town has been approved in early March. The Town has to submit a concept narrative to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) by February 22nd, if concept is accepted then in April the Town will receive an invitation to apply for the full grant.

ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Administrator Etheridge suggested the board get together to look at plans and come to an agreement on the Circle Park Phase II project before the meeting with the Rec Center. A workshop was set for Tuesday, January 25th.

Trustee Lockwood informed the board the Rec Center declined on maintaining the pond for ice-skating at Circle Park. Lockwood followed up with Executive Director VonRoenn about exploring the options for snow removal off the pond that is used for an ice-skating rink and whether the Rec Center would have a problem allowing the Town to do it; the reply was that would be fine but would require a change to the lease agreement. PW Superintendent Overton stated all the equipment the town owns is too heavy to put on ice for snow removal. The board asked Attorney Massih to investigate the legalities. After further discussion it was decided to put this issue on the February 1st agenda.

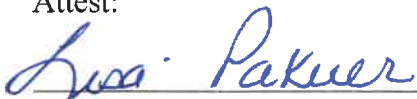
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.



Kent A. Borchard, Mayor

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant