

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor

Borchard
Day
Gutierrez
Jehorek
Kindall
Lockwood
Nielsen

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Attorney
Police Chief
Comm. Dev./Planner

Etheridge
Cook
Massih (by telephone)
Thompson
Thomson

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. Administrator Etheridge stated the agenda had been revised after publication to add Item D under New Business, consideration of a resolution opposing Proposition HH and to remove Item A under Old Business, consideration of an Extraterritorial Water Tap Agreement. Trustee Nielsen made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of October 3, 2023, as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to approve the disbursements dated October 17, 2023. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Regas Halandras representing the Meeker Classic recapped the 2023 trials by presenting a flyer prepared by the Chamber of Commerce with statistics gleaned from a survey of the spectators. Halandras reported attendance was over 10,000 people, double the number of surveys were returned, and read some of the positive comments from the spectators.

STAFF UPDATES

Police Chief Thompson reported during the month of September his department responded to 226 calls for service, issued ten citations which resulted in two arrests, four dogs were picked up and returned to their owners and one was relinquished.

Clerk Cook reported in addition to working on the budget, she had been researching Proposition HH, working on liquor licenses and insurance renewals for 2024. Cook presented the third quarter financial report stating cash and investments at the end of September totaled \$9,694,567.49, it appears at this time we will not need to use the budgeted reserves in the general fund, the water fund will require \$396,827 of

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the budgeted \$821,563. Operation and maintenance show positive balances in both funds, each department's expenses should be at 75% or lower for this time period and every department is under budget. The largest revenue account in the general fund is sales and use tax which is at 80.44% with the largest income producing months being within the last quarter. Water service is at 81.34% and noted the Town has collected \$97,151 more in interest this year than budgeted and \$14,500 more in water taps.

Community Development/Planner Thomson referred to the planning update report provided in the Board packets and reported she had been working on a large application for which the public hearing will be on November 7th.

NEW BUSINESS

Opening of Circle Park Meeker Riverfront Project bids. Mayor Borchard opened the bids for the Riverfront Project: X Field Service's Bid for the Circle Park portion was \$1,907,038; Diggin It River Works, Inc. \$999,880 on the Circle Park portion and \$541,730 for the irrigation, and work at 3rd and 10th Street accesses. Administrator Etheridge said she will reconvene the subcommittee to review the bids and place the award of the bids on the agenda for the next meeting on November 7th.

Award of Downtown Streetlight bid. Administrator Etheridge stated a total of 10 bids were received, several which met the general specifications but some that did not have the official dark sky compliance; WREA helped review the bid specifications and two products were bid by three different vendors. The bid from Border States is the least expensive that meets all the specs, however it is not a high-quality veneer and won't match the current downtown lighting. The bid from LOGIQ in the amount of \$133,066.94 meets all the specs as bid, has 130 lumens, and is the recommended. Kyle Thomson of WREA suggested we obtain a sample to make sure it fits with the poles and looks good before we purchase all the lights. The Revitalizing Main Street grant is \$150,000 with a required minimum match from the Town of \$16,667. There was Board discussion regarding the Town's purchasing policy and if it included a local preference as the bid from Ducey's Electric was close in price at \$157,950 and similar in style. Attorney Massih stated a local preference was offered a few years ago, but the Board was not able to come to an agreement about it. Administrator Etheridge said she didn't have the policy in front of her, but it states we should accept the lowest responsible bidder. Trustee Nielsen said if we don't have a local preference in our policy we should go with the lowest bidder. Trustee Day commented, if we choose a local bidder, they are more able to service the product when needed. Trustee Gutierrez made a motion to accept the bid from Ducey's Electric in the amount of \$157,950 with the provision they supply a sample. Second by Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding parking for Fire District on 7th Street. Administrator Etheridge stated that in September a question was brought up at a Board meeting if we could reserve parking on public streets, particularly 7th Street in the block of the firehouse, as Caroline's restaurant is taking up spaces that could be used by the Fire District during calls. The Board asked for staff to look into the matter, Etheridge said she had spoken to Fire Chief Luke Pelloni and Michele Morgan, owner of Elk Mountain Inn where the restaurant is, and the three of them had agreed the Fire District could restrict the east side of the street with three spaces for emergency vehicles only.

Trustee Day stated he was the one who initially brought it up thinking it would be a simple way to honor our volunteers in an emergency and can't believe the negative response he has gotten about the additional spots requested on the west side of the street. Fire Chief Pelloni then presented the additional request of dedicating the first two spaces south of the alley on the west side of 7th Street as those spaces could accommodate responders coming from the north without having to make a J-turn in the middle of the street to park. Trustee Nielsen stated the conflict is a few hours a day, five days a week when the restaurant is open, emergency services are 24/7.

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After much discussion on parking options in empty lots belonging to businesses in that block, different spaces around the firehouse and restaurant employees parking further north on 7th Street, Michele Morgan said she thought they had come to an agreement and at that time Chief Pelloni was not looking at the west side of the street, it is public parking, and Mr. Lima, owner of Caroline's, has asked his staff to park elsewhere so she didn't think we need to dedicate more parking on the west side of the street; Ms. Morgan said she has never had a problem with the Fire District when they have had to utilize the street for trainings or meetings. Mayor Borchard asked how many additional spaces could be added on the east side of the street, and Police Chief Thompson said he didn't think more could be added and still maintain required sight distances. Mr. Lima (present on the phone) stated that no one had come to him specifically and taking additional parking on the west side of the street becomes an issue for him and his business.

Trustee Gutierrez suggested on the west side to dedicate one parking space, both above and below the alley, or give the entire east side of the street from Main to Market Street to the Fire District. Chief Pelloni stated he would like to keep the spots closest to Main Street open for their customers. Trustee Gutierrez made a motion to allow the east side of 7th Street from Main to Market to be painted red for emergency services parking only. Administrator Etheridge stated painting the curb in the winter is not that effective, not that the Fire District couldn't paint it, but we may also want to consider adding signs. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried. (Town Clerk Cook was approached after the meeting by Trustee Day who stated he had voted "Nay" on this motion).

Award of Downtown Streetlight bid, continued. Bob Amick approached the Board suggesting samples be obtained for comparison from both LOGIQ and Ducey's Electric so they may be compared side by side. Trustee Gutierrez said this would have been a good suggestion to have had prior to making the original motion. Mr. Amick said this is a one-time shot for Meeker and he would like to see the Town receive the best product. Trustee Lockwood made a motion to rescind the previous motion awarding the lighting bid to Ducey's electric and to obtain the two samples and conditional upon WREA's cooperation to install them for comparison. Second by Trustee Jehorek. Aye: Gutierrez, Jehorek, Kindall, and Lockwood. Nay: Trustee Nielsen. Motion carried. (Town Clerk Cook was approached after the meeting by Trustee Day who stated he had voted "Nay" on this motion also).

Consideration of Resolution #07-2023 opposing Proposition HH. Town Clerk Cook said the resolution was proposed by CML as the proposition lowers property taxes by temporarily lowering the assessment rates, imposes an unnecessary and arbitrary limit on growth of property tax revenue for local governments, excluding school districts and home rule governments, and permits the state to retain money that would be otherwise refunded to taxpayers under TABOR. It also affects other taxing entities such as the health and fire districts, rec. district, etc. If Proposition HH passes on November 7th the Town's property tax revenue is estimated to decrease by \$23,038 in 2024 and will continue to decrease over the next ten years. The deadline for when the Assessor's changes in assessed valuation will be pushed out to December 29th and the Town must certify the Mill Levy to the Commissioners by January 5th, which may leave us with a meeting on January 4th.

Mayor Borchard asked what the purpose of the resolution was. Cook replied she hoped it will send a message to our voters that Proposition HH is not a good thing for local governments. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Borchard called for a motion to approve Resolution #07-2023 opposing Proposition HH. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carries.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Etheridge reported:

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- Chamber Director, Stephanie Kobald, held a meeting today with the Town, County, School, and Rec. District to address any preliminary questions or concerns about the Ride the Rockies event wanting to come next June. We have a “yellow light” to move forward but will have the Event Planners go to the County Commissioners for final permission as they will be utilizing the whole Fairgrounds campus for tents, parking, etc.
- We hope to have an offer by the end of this week for the PW Superintendent position and will let the Board know as soon as it’s official.
- Gmail has apparently increased security features recently and will no longer accept my group messages unless intense re-coding of my email is done. For this and other reasons, Doug Merrill has proposed getting each Board member a Town email. This will enable them to keep all Town-related emails separate within our server system and therefore remove their personal email from being subject to municipal review and e-discovery. The Board concurred to move forward with this.

MAYOR’S REMARKS

None.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Lockwood said he had seen for the first time the crosswalk utilized at 5th and Market Streets, but that only traffic on one side of the highway stopped while the other did not and asked if the light could be changed to red. After a brief discussion the Board directed staff to investigate options.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Borchard adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.



Kent A. Borchard

Attest:



Lisa Cook, Town Clerk