

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Pro Tem
Trustees

Day
Gutierrez
Kindall
Lockwood
Nielsen

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Admin Asst
Comm. Dev./Planner

Etheridge
Cook
Pakuer
Thomson

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

Mayor Borchard and Trustee Jehorek were not present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Day asked for changes to the agenda. Administrator Etheridge stated under New Business - item d. Consideration of Grant Application for Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships (POMH) was added. A motion was made by Trustee Gutierrez to accept the revised agenda as submitted. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen to approve the minutes of December 14, 2023 as submitted. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the disbursements dated December 31, 2023. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Day called for a motion to approve the disbursements dated January 9, 2024. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Administrator Etheridge thanked Stephanie Hanson, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director for being present. Hanson shared with the Board a 2023 informational update, thanking them for all their support to the Chamber during the 2023 year. Hanson stated that Margie Joy was present as a Chamber Board member. As a Main Street community, Meeker achieved top level status of Graduate Community, adding that there are only nine communities out of twenty-six that have reached graduate level; a consultant of the Main St Project came and did a new strategic refresh changing the name to Uplift Meeker; Uplift Meeker will receive \$10,000.00 per year of grant money as a Graduate Community. In Chamber news from the year, there are now two hundred twelve memberships, eighteen of which are new businesses; statistics from the Chamber include one hundred seventy-six business emails, thirty thousand Chamber Website Users and a record breaking \$70,000.00 in Chamber Bucks sold in 2023, money that goes directly back into the

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Community and promotes shopping local. There were one hundred forty-five mailed visitor packets; two thousand five hundred incoming calls; one thousand three hundred sixty-four visitor center inquires and twenty-two thousand “Visit Meeker” website users. For grants and donations: CO Tourism Office \$4,173.00; Members \$2,000.00; AARP \$4,347; Lodging Tax \$10,000; Town of Meeker \$60,000.00. There was a setback on the Market Street Banner project where the engineering took longer than expected and includes a specific and unique banner pulley system. It is estimated the banners will be completed sometime this winter. In place the annual Chamber Dinner, this year there will be a Meeker Business Rally held January 31st from 4:30-7:30 at the Fairfield Center. The Rally guest speaker will be Hedi Kerr-Schaefer along with several local speakers. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Pro Tem Day thanked Hanson for the presentation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration of Ordinance #01-2024 approving and certifying a Mill Levy and levying general property taxes for the fiscal year 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Day opened the public hearing at 7:20 pm. Town Clerk Cook stated the 2023 Assessed Value is \$24,994,550.00 which resulted in \$244,472.00 collected in property tax, this is \$23,015.00 less than the adopted Budget amount of \$247,487.00.

Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Pro Tem Day closed the public hearing at 7:22 pm and called for a motion to approve Ordinance #01-2024 approving and certifying a Mill Levy and levying general Property taxes for the fiscal year 2024. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Special Event Permit for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Business Rally on January 31, 2024 at the Fairfield Center. Mayor Pro Tem Day opened the public hearing at 7:23 pm. Town Clerk Cook stated Stephanie Hanson, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director was present representing the Chamber. This application is for Chamber of Commerce Business Rally on January 31, 2024; held at the Fairfield from 4:00pm -8:00pm; ID’s will be checked at time of sale; the licensed area will be in the large hall which has been leased by the Chamber; there is no objection from Polic Chief Thompson;the property has been posted and staff recommendation is to approve license. Mayor Pro Tem asked for questions or concerns, upon hearing none closed the public hearing at 7:24 pm and called for a motion to approve Special Event Permit for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Business Rally on January 31, 2024 at the Fairfield Center. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Seconded by Trustee Lockwood. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Ute Park Permit Agreement for David Smith Ranches. Administrator Etheridge stated Mr. David Smith was present representing the David Smith Ranches. Etheridge informed the Board the agreement verbiage is the same as last year only changing the dates accordingly for 2024.

Mr. Smith confirmed the dates in the agreement are as discussed. Hearing no further discussion or concerns Mayor Pro Tem Day called for a motion to approve Ute Park Permit Agreement for David Smith Ranches. Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Nielsen. Ayes: Kindall, Lockwood, Nielsen. Nays: Gutierrez. Motion carried.

Consideration of Ute Park Permit Agreement for Meeker Classic. Administrator Etheridge stated the Agreement for Meeker Classic is the same as it was last year. President Halandras is currently out of town, however he will stop by Town Hall and sign the agreement when he returns. Trial Director Mary Cunningham has reviewed and signed the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Day called for a motion to approve

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Ute Park Agreement for Meeker Classic. Moved by Trustee Gutierrez. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Letter of Support for Business grant application. Planner Thomson stated she has been working with Stephanie Hanson, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director who is also present. This grant will serve up to six local businesses for up to fifty thousand dollars each. There has been a lot of interest expressed in this grant, Thomson is currently in the final writing and reviewing stages, it is a very competitive one-time funding grant with no required match. One of the requirements for this grant is to submit a letter of support. Hearing no further questions or concerns Mayor Pro Tem called for a motion to approve a Letter of Support for the OEDIT Community Business Preservation grant application. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Gutierrez. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Grant Application for Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships (POMH). Administrator Etheridge stated Chief Thompson was present for the Police Department. Currently Meeker PD is uses a remote, call-in service for co-responders; this service is funded by a County grant which expires in December 2024; this proposed grant would continue servicing Meeker PD and County Sheriff department from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The deadline for this grant is January 19th with a February 20th projected award date and the amount being requested is just under \$200,000.00. Chief Thompson stated that the co-responders service has been helpful so far and he hopes to expand the availability of the service with this grant funding, if awarded. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Pro Tem called for a motion to proceed forward with the Grant Application for Peace Officers behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships (POMH). Moved by Trustee Lockwood. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

MANAGERS REPORT

- Administrator Etheridge relayed a message from Mr. Regas Halandras, who was not able to make the meeting, regarding an application for the CPW Non-motorized Trails Grant. On behalf of MAMBA (Meeker Area Mountain Biking Association) Halandras was seeking a possible fiscal agent for the grant if awarded and was turned down by the ERBM Recreation & Park District due to capacity and wondered if the Town would be willing to assist. General consensus from the Board was to offer assistance if necessary based on staff capacity and additional information regarding the grant requirements.
- A letter of support was sent to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission regarding the regulation of licenses. Etheridge received notification from our local Commission representative that a letter of support would be helpful and requested the issue letter from Darby Finley, CPW Biologist for reference, a copy was included in the Board packets. Etheridge did hear back from two of the Commissioners that they had received the letter, but she could not say if it will be considered for their agenda and public hearing.
- Public Works has put out a bid for a department vehicle, this bid will close on February 9th. When the team is not plowing snow they have begun upgrades to the town shop, remodeling the office, break room and storage.
- Police Department newest police pickup is still in Denver for outfitting and should be available by the end of this month. There was a press release today regarding an incident within the School District. Etheridge wanted to commend Chief Thompson and his department on handling the event stating they were discrete, efficient, thorough, and effective.

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- Town Hall will be closed Monday January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

MAYOR'S REMARKS


Mayor Pro Tem Day shared with the Board information from the Representatives' Town Hall regarding legislation on property tax evaluation and short term rental.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

None.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Day adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.



Travis Day, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:



Lisa Pakuer, Admin. Assistant