

**BOARD MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Day
	Trustees	Browning
		Day
		Jehorek
		Nielsen
		Sizemore
Town Staff Present	Administrator	Etheridge
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Attorney	Massih
	Comm. Dev./Planner	Thomson
	Public Works Supt.	Willey

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor 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 Trustee Lockwood.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Trustee Jehorek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Trustee Browning. All ayes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Sizemore to approve the minutes of June 4, 2024, as submitted. Second by Trustee Day. Ayes: Trustees Browning, Day, Nielsen, and Sizemore. Trustee Jehorek abstained due to her absence at that meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated June 18, 2024. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Vicky Edwards introduced herself as the new County Administrator stating the County has not had an administrator for approximately 10 years. Edwards said she is looking forward to participating with the Towns and talked about why bounce houses were no longer allowed on the Courthouse lawn; she informed the Board of a meeting the next day to discuss the Mormon Cricket abatement and whether the application methods are working, also stating that supplies for mitigating them are running low, she invited the Town to attend. Edwards also reported she had been talking with Carly Thomson about a possible ice-skating rink where the basketball/pickleball courts are located on the Courthouse lawn.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Administrator Etheridge informed the Board Chief Thompson attended the annual statewide Police Chief’s conference the week prior. The patrol vehicle that was ordered in 2023 finally arrived and has been outfitted

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for the K9 unit. Trustee Sizemore, referring to the monthly status report, requested that an explanation of what the Municipal Code referred to be included on the door hangers that are issued.

Public Works Superintendent Willey reported 142,699,052 gallons of water pumped for the month of May. He and ORC Kilduff had spent a full day on the sanitary survey; PW staff will begin painting streets this week in preparation for July 4<sup>th</sup>, and now that the ditch is on they have begun watering Ute Park.

Community Development/Planner Thomson reported her project update as well as the Building Department's update was included in the packets. Thomson stated she had submitted the Local Capacity grant the Board approved at the last meeting; she had spoken with the Chamber Board regarding their involvement in the housing needs assessment and they are excited to participate. Thomson also reported that through Uplift Meeker she had been researching materials and potential grants for the ice rink previously mentioned by County Administrator Edwards.

Town Clerk Cook reported she had been working with the Town's website designer, Kasey Cox on the mandated website accessibility. The Town will be publishing an accessibility statement on the site and providing a process to support people when they need accommodation. The Town must comply by July 1<sup>st</sup> or show a good faith effort to comply, which we have. Mayor Day suggested the Town publish our mission statement on the site.

Town Attorney Massih reported she helps where needed, and that everything is going well; there will be no court again this month as the judge had a conflict so next month will have a longer docket.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

***Consideration of Special Event Liquor License application from Meeker Lions Club for July 4, 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at RBC Fairgrounds Grandstands.*** Mayor Day opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m. Town Clerk Cook stated the application is for the Range Call Celebration rodeos to be held at the Fairgrounds, 700 Sulphur Creek Road. Mark Rogers is present representing the Lions Club, Travis Goodwin will be the event manager. The licensed area is the grandstands, the license will be from 12:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. The fenced perimeter of the permitted area will be signed with "No alcohol beyond this point." IDs will be checked at the bar, and food will be available. Permission has been received from the Commissioners for use of the property, the public hearing was advertised, and the property posted. Police Chief Thompson has no objection to the license and staff recommends approval.

Mayor Day asked for comments. Trustee Sizemore pointed out a correction regarding the number of licenses on the application. Mark Rogers commented that it will be the typical 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration for the Lions Club. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Day closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. and called for a motion to approve the Special Event License for the RBC Fairgrounds Grandstands. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes via roll call vote. Motion carried

***Consideration of Special Event Liquor License application from Meeker Lions Club for July 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at RBC Fairgrounds Arena and Ballfields.*** Mayor Day opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. Town Clerk Cook stated the application is for the Range Call Celebration concert and barn dance to be held at the Fairgrounds, 700 Sulphur Creek Road. Mark Rogers is present representing the Lions Club, Travis Goodwin will be the event manager. The licensed area is the indoor arena and ballfield, the license will be from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The licensed perimeter will be the indoor arena during the barn dance and during the concert the fenced perimeter of the ball field, both will be signed with "No alcohol beyond this point." IDs will be checked at the bar, and food will be available through concessions and food trucks. Permission has been received from the Commissioners for use of the property, the public hearing was advertised, and the property posted. Police Chief Thompson has no objection to the license and staff recommends approval.

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Mayor Day asked for comments. Hearing none, closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. and called for a motion to approve the Special Event License for the RBC Fairgrounds indoor arena and ballfield. Moved by Trustee Sizemore. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes via roll call vote. Motion carried.

***Consideration of Special Event Liquor License application from M.A.C.C. for Meekerpalooza on July 19, 2024, on the RBC Lawn, 555 Main Street.*** Mayor Day opened the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. Town Clerk Cook stated the application is for the Meekerpalooza to be held on the courthouse lawn at 555 Main Street. Stephanie Hanson representing M.A.C.C. will also be the event manager but couldn't attend the hearing. The licensed area will be the grassy area within the sidewalks and to the west end of the lawn; the area will be staked every twenty feet with signage, "No alcohol beyond this point." IDs will be checked at the bar and wristbands placed on patrons over 21. There will be food vendors, and the WREA's annual meeting will be held in conjunction and they will be serving a meal to everyone attending. Permission has been received from the Commissioners for use of the property, the public hearing was advertised, and the property was posted. Police Chief Thompson has no objection to the license and staff recommends approval.

Mayor Day asked for comments. Hearing none, closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. and called for a motion to approve the Special Event License for M.A.C.C. at the courthouse lawn. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Day. All ayes via roll call vote. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

***Bid award for sale of Public Works 2002 Ford F150 and 1983 Mobile Street Sweeper.*** Administrator Etheridge reported that the Board packets include the Invitation to Bid for two Public Works vehicles: the shop truck is the 2002 Ford truck that is now out of rotation with the purchase of the new truck this year; the Street Sweeper is a 1983 model that still runs but is not used by the department. The deadline for bids was last Thursday at 3:00 p.m. and as advertised, we held a public bid opening where three staff members and no public were present. There was one bid received for each vehicle. The bid received for the Shop Truck was from Sandra Johnson in the amount of \$1,278.00. The bid received for the street sweeper was from X-Field Services in the amount of \$100.00. Staff recommendation is to accept both bids as received. Mayor Day called for a motion to accept both bids. Moved by Trustee Browning. Second by Trustee Jehorek. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

***Consideration of MOU with PMC for Community Development Block Grant.*** Mayor Day stated the MOU is the same as the Board saw at the last meeting except for Item B which now includes "and subsequent award amounts." Trustee Nielsen made a motion to approve the updated MOU with Eastern Rio Blanco County Health Service District. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Administrator Etheridge updated the Board on the property damage claim: on May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department responded to a theft report of one of our Public Works vehicles. This event resulted in damage to Town property – specifically one of the garage bay doors, a street sign, and the vehicle – a 2012 Dodge Ram Shop Truck. We filed a property damage claim with CIRSA and helped them to determine a statement of loss. This statement was finalized last week and details the total cost of repairs/replacement of damaged property. In this statement, the vehicle was found a total loss and was surrendered to CIRSA for the loss amount. After some research, staff have found that the most efficient and cost-effective replacement for the Town Shop truck could be the Animal Control 2008 GMC Canyon that is being replaced.

Administrator Etheridge said she had spoken with Jane Turnburke with County Weed & Pest yesterday about an update on the cricket abatement plan. The County is still working diligently to spray and were able

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to make an early impact on the hatch, but the concern now is that the infestation could get to Town via Ute Park. Etheridge stated she would be attending the planning meeting tomorrow at the County to make sure we have what we need to be ready if this happens. Trustee Nielsen asked what they were spraying with and Trustee Jehorek stated permethrin.

**MAYOR’S REMARKS**

Mayor Day reported that he and County Administrator Edwards had attended a Representative’s meeting where they gave an update on the new laws from the last legislative session. Mayor Day asked about bringing the Workforce Center back to Meeker and were given indication they will get with us to discuss a few alternatives to help us achieve something.

Mayor Day asked about getting a joint workshop together with the County, and the Towns of Rangely and Meeker, he asked Administrators Edwards and Etheridge to facilitate that meeting.

**OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

Trustee Jehorek referred to a letter from Christine Rambo and a meeting with the ColoWyo Mine manager where he was asked if they would wait until 2029 to shut the mine down, his response was they could potentially shut the mine down at any moment. The Office of Just Transition (OJT) is getting ready to come out with a bunch of new programs specifically targeting coal workers and their families offering to pay for education expenses and grants. Trustee Jehorek said she had also heard that TriState is potentially looking to build a gas-powered plant in Josephine Basin. County Administrator Edwards said that on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Craig is an in person public utilities commission meeting the Commissioners are planning to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After more discussion on varying topics Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.  
/s/Travis Day, Mayor

Attest:

/s/Lisa Cook, Town Clerk