

Meadow Town Council Meeting

September 27, 2023

Meadow Firehouse

7:10 p.m.

*****THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED *****

Attendance: Mayor Gary Bishop, Councilmember Dustan Starley, Councilmember CJ Stott, Councilmember Channing Stott, Monica Dearden, Christine Scott, Sunny Guild, Zane Murman, Ed Zmirchavitch, Tony Cowley, Mark Cowley, Lloyd Robison, Lynn Bond, Dennis Bond, Ranae Williams, Camille Jensen, Justin Jensen, Allen Erickson, Andee Holdaway, Jess Peterson, Leo Stott, Ray Stewart, Derrick Dearden, Jill Averett, Farrell Larson, Paul Peckham,

Excused: Tyson DeWolf

1. Opening Ceremonies (three-minute limit): Because opening ceremonies were held in the Public Hearing, this was not done again. Mayor Bishop introduced Christine Scott as the new Meadow Town Treasurer and welcomed her.

2. Review of minutes: Town Council Meeting on 08.15.23. CJ motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Dustan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Declaration of conflicts with or personal interest in any agenda items: No conflicts.

4. Public comments: Public comments: Issues and/or matters to be discussed and expressed by the public. (Limited to three minutes per person.)

- a. Tony Cowley: Tony stated that he accepted Channing's challenge from June 20th to "come back when you have the facts" referring to the question Lloyd asked about Meadow applying for a CIB grant and how the town ended up on the priority list, to which Mayor Bishop had stated that he had not applied. Tony said that on 07.24.2023 he initiated a GRAMA request from Six Counties Association of Governments requesting the annual CIB surveys from Meadow Town or Mayor Gary Bishop for the years of 2022 and

2023. Tony would like the GRAMA request and response scanned into the minutes as a record.

- b. Dennis Bond: Dennis stated that he has served on the Meadow Town Council for 28 years. In that time he has never seen so much bad mouthing, contention and criticizing as he has seen in the past year. When he had the opportunity to vote for a new Mayor, he looked to see who had management experience and voted for Mayor Bishop, as did many others. He also said that Channing and the council have received much criticism for the water purchase that was made. Cedar City has spent millions on water and four cities in Millard County are struggling with water now. Meadow has improved a lot in the past 28 years and continues to try to improve. Dennis thanks the council and states that he supports them one hundred percent.
- c. Lloyd Robison: Lloyd said that if the Mayor would have told the public how Meadow Town got on the CIB priority list from the start, that would have saved a lot of contention. He then referred to Mayor Bishop's gratitude in his last monthly letter for those who volunteer in Meadow. He stated that in the last three years the Mayor and Council Members have been paid over \$30,000 in wages whether they come to meetings or not. He questioned where the Mayor and Council volunteer.

5. Public agenda topics (time allocations for presentations is seven minutes. Additional time may be allocated to the topic as determined by the Town Council and/or Mayor to address questions or follow up with a presentation).

- a. **Jill Averett- Welcome to Meadow monument:** Jill Averett shared her visual aid with those in attendance. She would like to hold a contest to design a Welcome to Meadow sign/monument. She would like this to be open to those in the community, all ages. She would then like a committee to pick the top three designs and then have the community or a panel vote for a winner. The sign would need UDOT approval. Jill plans for this to be of no cost to Meadow Town and will ask for donations and do some fundraising. Mayor Bishop asked if there were any questions for Jill and if what she was hoping for was a thumbs up from the council. CJ and Channing both stated that they thought it was a great idea. Dustan wondered if there was a plan B for a location if her first choice wasn't an option. Ranae Williams stated that Rex had offered to donate some property if needed. Mark said that the area Jill indicated is outside Meadow Town limits. Ray wondered if she had any ideas of what this would cost, Jill said not yet. Mayor Bishop questioned if Jill would like the

donations to cycle through Meadow Town, which, yes she does and how would that work. Monica isn't sure, but will look into that. Farrell Larson felt that it would be beneficial for Meadow Town and the Planning & Zoning commission to write letters to the state in support of Jill's idea. Mayor Bishop offered to write a letter of support will coordinate directly with Jill on that.

Jill's Visual Aid:



- b. Derrick Dearden- Millard School Districts financial options to build/add on to schools on the November ballot:** Derrick has asked to be on the agenda as a sort of public service announcement. He wants to share the initiative that Millard School District will have on the ballot and why it is needed. This initiative is to do a large add on to Millard High School and Fillmore Elementary along with a smaller addition to the Delta Technical Center. As the Principal of MHS, Derrick sees a need. Seven years ago the student body totaled 326 today they total 421 students. They are experiencing growth, but are out of space to accommodate that. The school currently has 22 classrooms that are at capacity, with every available space being used to create classroom space. The proposed addition will give the school 36 classrooms. The Millard School District understands that a bond will not be voted to pass by the public. They plan to take loans to finance this and plan to repay the loans with the recent increase in the WPU and the funds that have been freed up by repaying the loans for the Delta school. What the public has the opportunity to vote for on the ballot in November is the ability for the School District to take low interest rate government loans, a general obligation bond for \$50 million. If the public does not vote for this, the District still plans to go ahead with the building plans, but will seek bank loans at a much higher interest rate.

6. Accounting Reports: Accounting reports are reviewed. CJ motions to approve reports and Channing seconds. All in favor. (council signs reports).

7. Water Department: Channing reported that we are running on the springs only and that this will be the last meter read for this calendar year. Mayor Bishop thanked Channing for stepping in and reading the meters this month because we have not yet hired a new town employee.

8. Electrical Department: Mayor Bishop entertained a motion to open the budget for the purpose of adjusting the Electric Budget Funds. Dustan motioned, CJ seconded. All were in favor.

- a. Open the budget and move funds to balance:** It was proposed to change the line 5140 (Electric Sales) to be \$253,000, making the total operating income \$256,250 eliminating the deficit that the state found when the 2024 Meadow Town budget was submitted. Dustan motioned to make this change, CJ seconded. All were in favor. Leo questioned if the electric rates had gone down after the increase in the summer of 2022 and in February of 2023. Dustan said no and that he doesn't think that will happen anytime soon.

9. Road Department: Mayor Bishop talked to Tyson and he had no business for the road department.

10. Parks and Cemetery: There are three reservations for the upcoming month of October, because of this CJ feels it would be helpful to leave the dumpster in place for another month. One of the reservations is from the UVU Physics department. There will be an annular eclipse on the morning of Saturday October 14th. They will be bringing solar glasses and telescopes and setting them up for viewing and discussions to the residents of Meadow. Millard County has sent a flyer that they would like communities to distribute encouraging people to prepare for an influx of those coming to view the eclipse in our area.

11. Fire Department: No business.

12. Planning and Zoning:

a. Discussion and possible approval of the Annexation

Application: The council received copies of the most updated form of the application to annex. It has been looked over by Justin Wayment, Meadows legal counsel and some changes made. Justin Jensen clarified that this is only an application to annex, not an approval. CJ said it looks nice. Channing motioned to accept this as Meadow Towns Application to Annex and CJ seconded the motion. All were in favor.

13. Building permits: Mayor Bishop is not aware of any.

14. Administrative:

a. Discuss a resolution to cancel Meadow Towns 2023 Election:

Meadow Town Council has two terms that will become vacant in 2024 and two people that have chosen to run for those seats. Because of this there is no election needed. Resolution 2023-2 was drafted to cancel the election and declare Sunny Guild and Justin Jensen as elected to those seats. A roll call vote was held. Dustan Starley- Yay. Channing Stott- Yay. CJ Stott- Yay. Mayor Bishop also approves. Tyson isn't in attendance, but the motion is carried and Monica will follow up with him for a signature and will file the motion with the Millard County Clerk and the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

b. Discuss pay rate increase for Town Employee:

Meadow Town has had no applicants for the vacant position of Town Employee. The council approved raising the pay for reading meters monthly from \$180 to \$280 and re-listing the job.

c. Garbage Rate increase from Millard County for UDOT:

Meadow Town received an email from Millard County stating that the UDOT garbage rate will increase from a Class 4 price of \$29.50 per month to a Class 5 rate of \$232.00 per month. The council discussed and the price increase will be reflected in the upcoming billing.

d. Centracom presentation:

Paul Peckham with CentraCom introduced himself and shared a presentation on bringing fiber

connectivity to Meadow Town. He stated that during COVID shutdowns many found themselves without the broadband capabilities to keep up with work or school requirements from home. From this funding became available through ARPA to be used to build this in areas where the need is greatest. Meadow falls into that category. Because of this CentraCom would be able to make this happen through using grants in which 75% was covered by ARPA funds and 25% from a CentraCom grant. All the liability would be on CentraCom. If the existing power poles in Meadow were not sufficient, CentraCom would replace them. CentraCom has made this happen in 35 towns with no issues, but the clock is ticking and the projects must be completed by the end of 2024. This would only be available inside Meadow Town limits, and would be at the customers cost to go outside. This does include installing only the infrastructure for the town. The first step would be for a tech to come out and measure and map Meadow, this takes about two weeks. From that a plan is built, which takes an additional two weeks. Then the builders come in and begin the work, which averages a month and finally splicers. Any poles that are replaced still belong to Meadow Town and CentraCom works with Dixie Power. There would be a franchise agreement that allows work in the Meadow Town easements and not on private property. Mayor Bishop asked if the council was open to a tech to begin the first step of an assessment. Channing said yes. CJ also said yes. Dustan said yes, but he is planning to do some checking around and asking more questions still.

15. Other business: None

16. Closed Session (UCA 52-4-205 & 205) to discuss one or more of the following (if necessary): The character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual; collective bargaining; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares; the sale of real property, including any form of water rights or water shares; deployment of security personnel, devices or systems; investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; contract negotiations, the disclosure of which would be detrimental to the city's bargaining position: None

17. Any action necessary as a result of the Closed Session: None

18. Adjourn: Channing motioned to adjourn. Dustan seconded. All were in favor.