



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Town Council Work/Regular Meeting**  
**Dutch John Conference Hall**  
**July 10, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL : July 10, 2024**

**Present    Absent    Excused**

**Mayor: Butch Johns**

**x**

**Council members: Sandy Kunkel**

**x**

**Al Pulham**

**x**

**Amy McDonald**

**x**

**Harriet Dickerson**

**x**

**On-line: Christian Colovich**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1.1 Minutes of meeting: June 26, 2024 - Corrections.**

**1.2 Business Licenses: Patrick Krause, Ron Campbell, John Dickerson**

**1.3 Expenditures: BVE \$508.78, Daggett County \$680.50, Mr. Pulham asked if the cemetery was included and which month. Discussion of the water system at the cemetery as there was an overage of \$700 in May. The water hadn't been programmed correctly. Mayor Johns said we should just pay this and make sure the issue is corrected. Dominion Energy \$50.97, Union-tel \$68.43, G&H Garbage \$2,602.95, iWorQ \$5,500, Cody Kunkel \$576.**

**1.4 Correspondence: Peggy White asked if we were going to participate with the elected officials luncheons in September. We did say we would in the Fall and Ms. Dickerson said it is probably our turn to host the luncheon in September.**

**1.5 Financial Report: Ms. McDonald submitted report for review. Mayor Johns had a couple of questions. He asked if we could close out the Budget by the end of August and add additional funds to the PTIF fund. We can do this.**

**Ms. McDonald moved to accept the Consent Agenda with noted changes to the Minutes. Mr. Pulham seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**2. COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS**

**Mayor Johns commented on the Fireworks breakfast, saying how great it was how the community came together to make this the huge success it was. Ms. McDonald reported we took in about \$4,000 and there should be minimal expenses to come out**

of that. Mr. Pulham said Amber Kelly, who collected money for breakfast, said several people donated more than the amount owing for their breakfast. Everyone was enthusiastic. It is possible that we served 2,000 people. It was incredible. JayDee did a marvelous job organizing the event and also said he has some ideas for doing more next year. It is also possible there were 4,000 people at the fireworks themselves. Mr. Colovich said he helped with parking and if you considered 4 people to a car, there were easily 4,000 people.

Mayor Johns received an email from Mike Harrington regarding our participation in an ILA with the Uintah Basin for Building Inspectors. This is necessary because of a new State law setting a short time period for inspections to be completed after a request is received. If an inspection is not completed, the individual/business may hire an outside inspector of his choosing and the entity would be billed for the service. The ILA will generate a list of acceptable inspectors who can be used by individuals and if they choose to use someone else, it will be at their own expense.

Re: Ambulance. The ambulance funding bill has cleared the house and is waiting for the Senate to approve the budget piece. We are working with Nate Zilles on this. When it passes we will need to look at all the rules of the Dept. of Agriculture that are involved in actually getting the money and be sure to follow them.

Re: EMT Training. Mayor Johns talked with Sam Davis about initiating training which will be easily accessible for individuals in Dutch John. He is willing to work with us to get this much needed training started. Mr. Davis teaches at Utah State University in Roosevelt, and they are starting up a new class which perhaps can be adapted to meet some of our needs. Mayor Johns will follow up on this.

Re: Housing Authority. Nate has looked into this and it would be almost impossible for us to try this on our own. He suggested we do what Vernal is doing – contracting out this project with Myton Housing Authority which is already set up and functioning, to move this forward and manage everything. These are small houses which could be used for people who are not here full time. Nate will be here at our next work meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> to talk to us about this and other things. UDOT has funding to get this started. Details and hurdles to consider but affordable housing is a major issue for everyone.



Ms. Kunkel asked how much money total we raised for the fireworks. Ms. Dickerson said she is thinking about \$11,000 from donations and we will receive approximately \$6,500 from the Chamber so about \$17,000.00.

Ms. McDonald reported Planning & Zoning has a request for a Conditional Use Permit from Andrew Morse for a Short Term Rental. John Morton has received two building permits.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT . None**

### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

**4.1 Fire District Resolution – Discussion and Possible Action** Ms. Dickerson moved that we accept Resolution 2024-02 that states the Town Council will take the position that we are opposed to joining the Fire District. Ms. McDonald seconded. Discussion followed. We believe this issue is going to be placed on the election ballot. Mayor Johns believed the Council had this before them last year and he believes this current Town Council needs to take a position on the issue. His personal position is that it is not good for this Town to be a part of this Fire District because he doesn't see a benefit for the Town. They are asking the Town to join and when we do everything we have goes to the Fire District and we are taxed on it. This is our fire station and our equipment. Ms. Kunkel asked what we would get back. Mayor Johns feels nothing we can't do for ourselves without giving up what we already have. Ms. Dickerson stated her opinion is also there is no benefit to the town at this time. If the District is successful in obtaining EMTs and if they can get some grants then maybe it would be beneficial for the town a year or two down the road. Manila joined but they had lots of debt that was moved from their town to the District, i.e. building, fire trucks, etc. Ms. Kunkel reminded the Council that we had a choice to put it to a vote because the council felt that we did not have the right to make that decision for all the people. Mr. Pulham said there are advantages to being with the District and he feels we should look at the possible potential of having a full time fire chief here in town, someone who would have more time to dedicate to the fire station, taking care of the building and equipment and staff us with updated fire equipment and do the maintenance and pay the utilities. Perhaps, they can find EMTs as well. So we need to put it to a vote and let the citizens decide. The matter of taxes came up and Ms. McDonald reminded us that if we join the fire district there will be an additional tax and then the town is going to initiate its own property tax and that tax could be used to hire our own fire chief. She believes cooperation with the District is a good thing, we could do fire trainings together etc. but joining is not necessary. Ms. Kunkel said she doesn't

believe we need a Resolution at this time to sway votes. Mr. Pulham agreed saying let the people vote. Mayor Johns feels the people have voted – they voted in the Town Council to do the business of the town and this is the business of the town. Everything he does is the business of the town and he believes deferring to letting this issue go to the ballot without taking a stand is not doing the business of the town. Long discussion exploring what we have and what we do and what things cost, etc. and whether or not the Council should sign the Resolution. Because the Resolution was in draft form, no formal action could be taken and the matter was tabled.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Posting for New Maintenance Worker – Discussion and Possible Action.** Mr. Hodges is moving and a long discussion regarding the needs of the Town and how best to move forward followed. We need to post a position for a new maintenance worker. The question of how many hours we should include and the skill set required for the new position. We need someone who has a variety of skills, including the ability to run the Town's equipment as well as maintain it in good condition. Flexible hours are needed to complete projects. We need to do a more comprehensive job description. Council members should come with suggestions to our next work meeting.

**5.2 Weed Spraying Contract – Discussion and Possible Action.** Mayor Johns has come in contact with a man working for the USFS this summer, who has the certifications necessary for control of weeds and he is asking Council if he should pursue a contract with this individual at this time. Ms. Kunkel asked if there is a time period when spraying weeds is not effective. It was felt that this is an ongoing need and we have had difficulty finding someone certified, so the Mayor should proceed with the discussion. Although we may be able to use some County equipment for the actual work, it might be best to consider purchasing our own. It was decided to ask the individual to come and give us an estimate on time required to bring everything under control and then move forward. Ms. McDonald made a motion that Mayor Johns pursue this discussion. Mr. Pulham seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McDonald moved we recess Regular Session and go into Executive Session to discuss 6.1 RDA Legal Discussion. Mr. Pulham seconded. 8:15 p.m.

## **6. Executive Session, if necessary\* Pursuant to 52-4-20**

### **6.1 RDA Legal Discussion**

Council moved back into regular session at 9:00 p.m. There being no further business, Mr. Pulham moved to adjourn. Ms. Kunkel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harriet Dickerson", written in dark ink.

Harriet Dickerson, Clerk