

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting  
February 14, 2019

Present:

Mayor Clyde Watkins  
Brent "Ole" Olsen  
Sommer Arnold  
Derek Mecham (arrived at 7:18 p.m.)  
Melba Markham, Town Clerk  
Shawn Keel, Town Employee  
Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Department

Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:00 p.m.)

*A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.*

Serena Brotherson – Banners for Main Street (7:01 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins reported that Serena Brotherson had talked to Melba about coming before the council to discuss placing banners to show respect for our veterans. Melba added that Serena would be making the banners and wanted to place them on the poles where we put the Christmas decorations. Serena would be charging people for the banners, but there would be no charge to the Town. Glen stated that he was in favor of allowing her to use the poles but did not want the Town to commit to putting the banners up or taking them down. Melba stated that Serena would put the banners up in September and would take them down in November.

Mayor Watkins stated that the only conflict would be if the Town wanted to put flags up for Veteran's Day or other conflicting occasions. Glen stated that the Town currently puts flags up, but they are on the ground, so they could be up the same time as the banners.

Shawn stated that he built brackets to slide into the poles to make installation of Christmas decorations easier, so Serena could look at those and see if she could use those.

Mayor Watkins believes the banners would be a positive addition to the Town. Melba stated that she would contact Serena and let her know about the council's decision.

Fire Department (7:07 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town had not added anything to the ordinances about fire safety. He has obtained a sample ordinance entitled Fire Health Safety Welfare which could be added to our ordinances. The council members and Josh Phillips can review this and make changes to make the ordinance more applicable to the Town of Altamont. Mayor Watkins suggested that Chief Phillips meet with other fire departments to see if they have any similar ordinances and gather ideas. Mayor Watkins believes that adding this ordinance could help protect the Town. If Chief Phillips becomes aware of other things that should be added, he should advise the council.

Chief Phillips state that 10 of the firefighters have signed the SOGs. He asked the council how to best handle things that need to be changed. They are currently keeping track of those changes in their office minutes, and then having fire fighters sign when those changes are made. The council agreed that it is fine to keep track of changes that way.

With regards to necessary repairs, Chief Phillips stated that the pump on the Tinder 156 needs to be replaced. Kelly Bird has contacted someone who could rebuild the pump for \$900 to \$1300. Additionally, the pump on 153 is leaking and probably needs to be rebuilt or sealed. He is looking into prices for that repair. The alternator went out on 152. Brandon Peck has ordered a new alternator and will be replacing it. The last alternator was rebuilt and only lasted six months.

Chief Phillips reported that the County is currently looking at getting rid of one of their trucks. It is a 2005 or 2006 Dodge Hemming, which is the same as the truck we already have, but 30 years newer. The council agreed that Chief Phillips could obtain some prices from the County for the council to review on possibly purchasing that truck.

Chief Phillips stated that Greg had ordered one set of turnouts last year, but the department could use one more set. The council agreed that he could purchase one set of turnouts.

Melba stated that the light bill for the fire department was unusually high this past month. She wondered if the heat tape on the building made the difference. Chief Phillips stated that a heater may have been left on or something so he will talk to the department and make sure that everything gets shut off.

In a related issue, Sommer stated that someone keeps leaving the lights on at the park under the pavilion. She had her son turn them off. Shawn stated that he will also look into that.

#### Planning and Zoning (7:23 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that there may be some training coming up for our Planning and Zoning board members to attend. It is a five-hour session to be held at the USU extension in Vernal. The training is free, and the next session will be held February 23. There will be five other sessions offered throughout the year. He will be getting e-mails about those and can pass information on to Sommer.

Melba stated that the council also needed to determine how much to pay members sitting on the planning and zoning board. Our ordinance asks for three people to sit on the board. Melba has a file about the zoning ordinance that she will provide to Sommer.

Mayor Watkins spoke with a representative (Skye) who asked if the Town would like to update our planning and zoning maps. Mayor Watkins stated that the Town of Altamont would be interested in any help they could get with this update.

Melba stated that she has the new ordinances on a flash drive and will e-mail those to each council member so that they can start reviewing the ordinances.

Mayor Watkins stated that he inquired as to why the school district has not approached the Town to have the high school annexed into the Town. He was told by Mark Thacker that the board had approved the annexation, and as far as he knew, the annexation was already complete. Mayor Watkins informed him that the Town had not heard anything back from the school district or the County about the annexation.

When the annexation is complete, the Town will lose money on the sewer so some adjustments may need to be made there, but one benefit of having the school annex into the Town will be that neighboring landowners will then have the option of annexing into the Town. The benefit of having a planning and zoning board will be to assure that the Town and landowners are all treated fairly and to help ease concerns about water shares.

Secondary Water (7:37 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the BIA Water Assessment will be increased \$1.00 per share.

Miscellaneous

As trainings come up the Town will make sure that council members are aware of what is available. When the Town applies for CIB funds and other funds, they are often asked how well the council is trained. It is important for council members to stay up-to-date on training.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on March 14.

*A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ole Olsen at 7:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Derek Mecham. Motion carried unanimously.*

Read and approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

e-mailed to

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Date: March 2, 2019