

Tropic Town Public Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Utility Ordinance Public Hearing
Held Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Dennis Pollock, Brook Wiseman, and Lisa Johnson. Marie Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk & Dayne Shakespear Treasurer

OTHERS: Kaden Figgins, Kevin & Jeannee Shakespeare

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PURPOSE: Provide availability of water/sewer connections for Residential and Commercial growth.

Mayor Brinkerhoff turned the time over to Garfield County planner Kaden Figgins to review the Water/Sewer Utility Ordinance and to address questions and input the public may have.

Kaden gave a brief description of the content of the ordinance; stating the ordinance is designed to stimulate residential growth; and allow commercial growth providing the developer can obtain satisfactory water rights (Spring Creek) for the proposed development.

Comments

Jeannee Shakespeare questioned why limit water/sewer connections; wouldn't this shut down commercial development? In response, a number of comments were made on the Town infrastructure and the lack of sewer capacity and limit culinary water. Mayor Brinkerhoff explained why the increase in w/s rates and gave the status of the sewer lagoon project, as well as the water study to finish the redevelopment of Spring Creek.

It was reported that there are a number of Commercial developments wanting to come in, which include four-(4) RV/Glamping projects, and a 94 room motel; the Town does not have the resources to provide for this type of impact; placing the burden on the residents. Other comments expressed the need to keep a balance; without a residential community, there would be no jobs with Garkane, SCC, BLM, Schools, etc.; and no seasonal employees to work for the businesses. With new understanding, Jeannee recognized the reasons for the ordinance expressing the importance of residential growth, but also emphasized the importance to sustain already established businesses.

Other items discussed:

- ~Multipurpose housing * formula used to calculate the number of w/s connection per unit (ERU)
- ~Water Rights Study

Under Canvass – Glamping * Questions were emailed to Kaden that addressed and included the use of the Well, the Town to purchase water rights and then sell to them for their business, etc. The answer to these questions in in the negative; Mayor and Town Council cannot commit 8,000 gallons a day for this business venture, or any other business to place this kind of impact on the Town's infrastructure.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Dennis Pollock to adjourn – Second by Lisa Johnson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Dennis, Lisa and Brook voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

Approved this 14th day of November 2019
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk