

The Town of Mantua Council Meeting Minutes

Held on May 21, 2020

6:30 pm Zoom Meeting

Council Members present: Mayor Michael Johnson, Paul Nye, Sandra Russell, William Hodgins, George Wouden and Jan Palmer-Recorder

Audience present: Rajan Zed, Eric Ellis, Brenda Dixon, Chief Justin Brown, Harper and Janis Johnson

Invocation: Rajan Zed

Motion to approve the minutes for May 7, 2020

Motion: Paul Nye

Second: Sandra Russell

Yes votes: Mayor Michael Johnson, Paul Nye, Sandra Russell, William Hodgins and George Wouden

No votes: none

All in favor; motion passes

Development outside of Town limits: Harper reminded the Council that last fall it was brought to the Council's attention that the Planning Commission was concerned if there was development outside our Town limits in the unincorporated Box Elder County it could impact us with the use of our roads to get to their community. Right now, we can only control what happens in Mantua but not what happens outside of our Town limits that would affect us. We need to contact Box Elder County and see about getting an ordinance into place like Cache County has done. The Mayor will approach Box Elder County about this matter.

Police Staffing: Chief Brown said it had been discussed about the Town hiring a grant writer, he wondered if anyone had any concern or comments about doing so. The Council decided we should hire a grant writer; they do feel we should open it up to others that might write grants not just the person the Chief has talked to. They also would like to have grants written for all departments not just the Police Department. William thinks we should also have Sheena train alongside whoever is hired so she can also learn to write grants also. The Chief would like to have the grant writer housed under the Police Department, but he does think it is a good idea that other departments have access to that grant writer. Should the Chief go ahead and draft something to go in the paper or on our website? The Mayor has already taken care of that and has asked Sandra to take that over.

Current Bowery Rentals in Non-Compliance of Governors orders: William would like to clarify that is how he may have asked for that to be worded on the agenda but that is not what he meant. We are in compliance with the Governor's orders in the rental of the bowery. William asked if we are going to police the bowery when it is rented? The Mayor doesn't think we need to do that unless it is abused then we could have the police department go over there. Brenda will hand out flyers that explain the restrictions for the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mayor said that while we are on the subject of the bowery rentals, he would like to discuss what exactly you get when you rent the bowery. Could we rent the pickleball and basketball Courts and with the bowery? It was decided after a discussion between the Councilmembers that we should have two different rentals. One for the bowery alone and one for the

bowery with the pickleball courts included. But if you rent the pickleball Courts you do have to rent the bowery. There will be reserved signs posted in the bowery and pickleball courts with the family names when it is rented. The bowery rental fees will be raised to cover the costs of cleaning the bathrooms and bowery before and after it is rented.

Motion to increase the rental fee for the Bowery to \$50 per day for residents, \$100 for non-residents, to add pickleball/basketball court rental to Bowery rental will be \$100 per day for residents and \$200 for non-residents or \$10 per hour for residents and \$20 per hour for non-residents.

Motion: George Wouden

Second: Paul Nye

Yes votes: Mayor Michael Johnson, George Wouden, Paul Nye, Sandra Russell and William Hodgins

No votes: none

All in favor; motion passes

Emergency Preparedness: William reached out to two of the three wards to get help with the Emergency Program. He has ordered books and pamphlets from FEMA to include in a folder for every home in Town. He explained if we did have a catastrophe, we need to be certified with FEMA so we could get money to help with funding for the Town, so he is checking into that. The Mayor has asked William to oversee the Police Department so he would like to ask Sandra to take over the Emergency Preparedness program. Sandra has already talked to William and she thinks maybe a committee is a good way to handle the program.

The Mayor and Paul would be willing to help Sandra with this assignment.

Motion to move \$6482.00 from the assigned Fire Department Funds to the General Fund to pay for radios

Motion: William Hodgins

Second: Mayor Michael Johnson

Yes votes: Mayor Michael Johnson, William Hodgins, Paul Nye, Sandra Russell and George Wouden

No votes: none

All in favor; motion passes

ATV Registration Fees: Chief Brown explained that we are going to have to repeal our Off-Road Ordinance. He explained the choices we have to allow off-road vehicles on our Town roads. The Council decided to allow off-road vehicles on the road without Mantua stickers as long as you are a licensed driver, your vehicle is registered with the State of Utah and has the Utah registration sticker on it. The Council also made the decision to allow these vehicles to travel the speed posted by speed limit signs in Town.

The new ordinance will be emailed to the Council, Sandra would like section 4 to say drivers have to be 16 or older and change section 5 to 25 miles per hour.

Land Code Violations: Harper said there have been some questions lately as to who will enforce the Land Use Code violations. The Mayor said this is something he would like to discuss at a later time.

Consideration of the Bills: no discussion

Town Celebrations with citizen groups: George presented to the Council Members the groups and individuals he would like to be in charge of celebrations held throughout the year. (Attached)

Parks Committee: George presented a letter which describes the action groups he would like for the park and trail development. (Attached)

The Mayor then turned the time over to Eric Ellis. Eric explained that the feeling among the Parks Committee has been frustration that they have plans for the parks and then the Council has made other decisions concerning the parks. Eric said, "They have been working together as a collaborative group to try and make sure they are not stepping past the plans they have had for the next five years. USU has put together some plans for both the south parks and they have been on Facebook for the residents to review. They have existing plans and improvements at the Main Street Park that we plan on doing this spring. This letter George has drafted is very surprising to me as the Parks Committee Chairman since Karen is currently working with the playground and has good ideas for improvements in the park but the Main Street Park is not under Karen. There are a lot of divisions of responsibilities in that park, Richard owns the pickleball court and George is procuring a basketball standard for the multiuse court. To divide these parks out into action groups like George has suggested defeats the opportunity we have of managing the overall funds for all improvements. If we do divide these funds out then there would be no one to oversee these funds other than what George calls the Town Council. The Parks Committee has a clear plan for over a 3-5-year period, they would like a chance to continue as they have been and appear before the Council in June to present the plans for Maple Springs Park. What I hear in George's letter is in direct opposition to what the Parks Committee has been working toward for the last two years".

William explained that one concern of the Council was that we would go into fall again without having the projects in the Main Street Park completed. The main concern is the finances. We had to cut from other departments to make the budget work including the parks. Nothing that was removed from the budget had anything to do with Impact Fees for the parks, those fees are for parks. He likes the plans the committee and the USU came up with he just doesn't know if it is going to be useful for citizens to use within 5 or 10 years. He would like to give George's plan a chance to give residents an opportunity to be involved with the parks closest to where they live. Eric feels that we aren't listening to each other. If we look at the proposal, he presented last time it provides an explicit 5-year plan, but there are some things being said that aren't true. He went on to explain the projects that will be done this summer.

The Mayor doesn't know if the Council is going to come to a consensus on this subject or not. He feels the new residents have come to Town and they have to pay for impact fees because of the impact on the Town and those residents that were already here. He has lived here for 35 years and he has paid taxes for 35 years. He has paid for whoever has taken care of the Main Street Park for 35 years, he has paid for upkeep on the roads for 35 years. Those that have just moved in and think they have something over on him because they had to pay impact fees for the impact they have had on the whole Town are wrong. He has been here for a long time and he thinks he has paid his dues. He feels we can use some of those impact fees for the Main Street Park. Sandra has a concern about people thinking their impact fees were used to pay for the park improvements in their development. if she goes down to that park with her grandkids, are those people going to think she can't go there, even though it is across the street from her house, because her money didn't pay for the improvements in that park? She doesn't want

that kind of division in Town. She feels like the Mayor, she has also paid those taxes for 35 years; those impact fees should be used for all parks. She thinks it will be 10-15 years before these parks are completed. Sandra knows it is not feasible to expect to finish the parks in a short time frame, she does know there has been a lot of work that has gone into this plan. She would be happy to have a grassy area for the kids in the meantime. They do not need skateparks and play equipment to use in the parks immediately, they would be happy to have a grassy area to play in. The Town just doesn't have that kind of money. Paul doesn't like the idea of segregation of separating the parks so he would agree with the Mayor and Sandra on that.

Eric would like the Council to table this and give the committee an opportunity to present their plan. He would like to get the parks so they have grass, like Sandra said but he would like the opportunity to present their plan because he feels the parks committee is being torn apart. George told Eric that is not what he is trying to do. George said it is the Council that needs to set these priorities for the parks.

George went over the sources for each park. He would like to point out that any decisions on how impact fees should be spent should be a Council decision, the Mayor agreed with that.

Eric wanted to say that the Parks Committee is not making the decisions, they are just making a clear plan to have the parks completed. He thinks that what George is suggesting takes the impact fees and allocates them for the parks in which residents that paid those impact fees live. If that happens, there won't be enough funds to finish the Jeppesen park. The Town did not implement impact fees soon enough to involve the Jeppesen development in those impact fees.

Streetlights: Harper reported there is nothing new.

Water tank: Harper did get hold of Kyle Smith and got the information to get them the check for \$4000. William did say maybe we should have a bill of sale which Harper will get to Kyle which will specifically say it includes the easement for the water tank. Harper does know the Box Elder Planning Commission was holding a meeting tonight and they are discussing the Spiers rezone. He doesn't know at this time how that went. He does know that Kirk Spiers knows that they need to get going on the land swap with Mantua no matter what the outcome of the Planning Commission is tonight.

Public Comment:

Harper would like to thank Eric for all his help on the park. There has already been division in Mantua as old Mantua and new Mantua and the Council has tried to push that away. There is going to be a division if we do the parks individually. The last thing the Town wants to see is an unfinished park. We have paid taxes to finish these parks, if we start saying which impact fees go to finish certain parks you have now created a division in this Town, so he agrees with Sandra and the Mayor on this.

Council Comments:

Sandra wanted to thank the Town residents and their corporation in working together and she appreciated the opening invocation.

Paul wants to thank all the Council and all they do.

William does appreciate all that Eric and the Parks Committee has done he knows they have put in a lot of time. He hopes he hasn't offended anyone; he doesn't mean to. He is appreciative of all they do. He is just concerned about putting too much attention into one park.

The Mayor has noticed this week how overwhelmed he has been and he does appreciate everything the Council and Parks Committee have done.

Motion to close this meeting and go into closed meeting to discuss an issue involving a Town employee and the Land Use Code.

Motion: Mayor Johnson

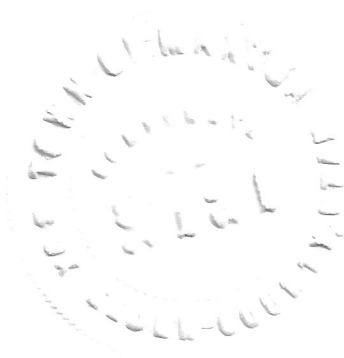
Second: William Hodgins

Yes votes: Mayor Michael Johnson, William Hodgins, Paul Nye, Sandra Russell and George Wouden

No votes: none

All in favor; motion passes

Adjourned at 8:42 pm.



5/21/2020

Town Parks and Trails – Citizens' Action Groups

The outlook for our town parks and trails is bright! The future is bright, thanks to the wonderful citizens of this town who voluntarily give of their time and efforts as well as the continued support of the Town Public Works department and the support of the Town Council towards these improvement efforts. Everyone can be pleased with the improvements that have already been made and the new park developments that are planned. There is a lot of excitement and no doubt that excitement will continue to turn into volunteer work, volunteer planning and even donations towards the projects ahead.

To build upon this enthusiasm, and to encourage continued community involvement for parks and trails development, volunteer efforts have been organized into 4 citizens' action groups:

Main Street Park Citizens' Action Group, group lead: Karen Nelson.

Jeppesen Subdivision Park (Danes Park) Citizens' Action Group, group lead: Eric Ellis

Maple Springs Park Citizens' Action Group, group lead: Keith Johnson

Trails Citizens' Action Group, trails master: Don Wallentine.

These groups will give every citizen involved the opportunity to work on the development of the area they are most interested and passionate about (usually closest to their residence). The clarified focus for each park will help all feel involved and validated, will enhance the planning efforts and volunteer recruiting, and will better encourage donations of materials, labor, and funding.

Each group will report directly to the Town Council. Funding from the Park Impact Fees will be allocated primarily to the park closest to where the impact fees were collected. Project priorities for each park can be established and recommended by the Action Groups and expenditures made with the approval of the Town Council.

The clarified funding allocation and the "Citizens Action Group" organization will greatly enhance the progress and improvements that will be made for all the parks and trails in Mantua over the coming years.

Thank you for your continued support in making our beautiful little Mantua valley such a wonderful place to live!

George Wouden

Town Council, Parks and Celebrations

5/20/2020

Town Celebrations Citizen's Action Groups

Town celebrations are a meaningful way to enjoy life and fellowship in our beautiful valley. The citizen's action groups listed below help to make these celebrations a reality.

1. Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday before Easter)
Group lead: Heidi Redington
2. Fall Barn Dance ((Saturday after Peach Days)
Group lead: Cherry Burnett
3. Santa's Visit to Town (First Saturday in December)
Group Lead: George Wouden
4. Christmas Day Party (Christmas Day 11:00 am)
Group Lead: Ted Jeppsen
- 5a: Little Valley Days "Dam" Race (Mid July)
Group Lead: Julie Bailey
- 5b: Little Valley Days Car Show (Mid July)
Group Lead: Bill Shoemaker
- 5c: Little Valley Days Fireworks (Mid July)
Group Lead: Fire Chief, Dave Dericot
- 5d-z: Little Valley Days Activities (Mid July)
Executive Committee Group Lead: Cherry Burnett
 - Parade
 - Children's Games
 - Games and Contests
 - Food Vendors
 - Sales Vendors
 - Fund Raising Raffle
 - Patriotic Night
 - Mr. Mantua
 - Miss Mantua
 - Little Miss Mantua
 - Dance
 - Music Program
 - Golf Tournament
 - Boat Races
 - Rock Climbing
 - More...