

Tropic Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting
Held Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Lisa Johnson, Gene Anderson, Marie Pollock. Michael Ahlstrom excused. Marie Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk & Elaina Purcell – Tropic Town Treasurer.

OTHERS: Ward Williams, Katy Parkin, Michelle Morris, Ron Harris and Kerry Alvey

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PRAYER: Marie Niemann

PLEDGE: Ward Williams

VISION STATEMENT: Katy Parkin

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: A motion was made by Gene Anderson to approve the minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting held January 14, 2021. Second by Marie Pollock -Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Marie Pollock to approve the agenda. Second by Lisa Johnson - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

THE COMMUNITY

Community Garden

A proposal for a community garden was presented to the Town Council by Katy Parkin, providing residents a place to actively participate in planting and raising produce for personal use. Location and water source is limited, but the suggestion was given to contact Dayne Shakespear the Agriculture teacher at the high school for use of the greenhouse and a project for the students. A concern was expressed regarding participation and residents reaping the benefits without providing any service. Council asked Katy to head the project, form a committee to work out details and a plan of action; extending their support in the project.

Michelle Morse

Michelle is working on her nursing degree and is researching the health and lives of rural communities by assessing people’s concerns to make improvements. Michelle expressed her concern with available “green space” and felt the Town Park playground equipment needed upgrading. As with all facility maintenance and improvements funding is the concern. Discussion commenced on what grants are available; Rural Community grant, Recreational grant, Community Rewards program through South Central Communication is also an option; it was noted Escalante City was able to fund their playground equipment using SCC reward program. Mayor Brinkerhoff and the Town Council gave their support; encouraging Michelle to look for possible grants, fund raisers, etc. to make the improvements she feels is needed.

Along these lines, Mayor Brinkerhoff reported BV Elementary Principal Pete Peterson applied for a “Safe Sidewalk” grant providing a walkway along Hwy12 from Francisco Lane and Bryce Meadows; but it was not approved.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ward William ~ Building Permit * Home

A building permit application for a residential home was submitted and reviewed by the planning commission. All zoning and code requirements were found to be in order. A motion was made by Gene Anderson to approve a building permit for a residential home – Second by Marie Pollock. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

Council member Gene Anderson gave a report of other items reviewed by the Commission. A building permit for Mr. & Mrs. Sullivan was approved in December 2020 for a modular home in the Bryce Meadow’s subdivision was revised to include a garage which would be a secondary dwelling unit/storage garage to live in while until their home was available in June.

Due to recent conflicts and town code, the construction of accessory building prior to a primary residence and it not in line with the General Plan the Commission felt it was not in the best interest of the Town and denied the project.

Inquiries along the same lines were discussed with Robin Huddleston, who purchased the Merrill Willis property located at 145 North 300 West. Robin is a flight attendant for Sky West and lives in Tooele and plans to retire in a couple years and settle in Tropic; wanted to place an accessory storage building prior to her home. In providing this information to Robin, the Commission asked Robin to submit a complete project outline with a plot plan. One other item was for restrooms and the rodeo arena for McLain Mecham – Mr. Mecham was not in attendance.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

Quickbooks Online: In managing the financials, making reports and preparing the audit, Elaina is finding the Online Quickbooks more productive than the desktop version currently being used. A motion was made by Gene Anderson to approve the use of Quickbooks Online financial program – Second by Marie Pollock. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

ANIMAL CONTROL: No Report

FINANCIAL WARRANTS

The motion was made by Gene Anderson to approve the financial activity and warrants for January 2021. Second by Lisa Johnson - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

Elaina gave an update on the alarm system bids, having only received two bids; one from C & D and Front Point. Mayor asked that two additional bids be pursued, directing Elaina to contact Mountain Alarm. Elaina report that we currently have Mountain Alarm and preceded to explain the problems with the service, alarm calls, and billing. Ruby’s Inn has Mountain Alarm; Ron Harris gave Elaina a contact person for her to follow up with.

CULINARY/SEWER

Phase I of the water project is underway; Brett reported the 10 new water meters are stalled, as well as new fire hydrants and are in service; one remains to be installed by the baseball field. Phase II will begin in the weather warms; that of the spring development.

Installation of the 12’inch line is complete and in service; the 6’inch line is eliminated. The installation of a new sewer line on 200 North is complete.

ROADS/STREETS

Repairs are needed on a sinkhole near Wyatt Mecham's home on 50 South; also a valve box by Stan Mecham's home will be replaced. Crack sealing is complete.

PARKS/RECREATION: No Report

HERITAGE CENTER

Council member Lisa Johnson reported on waiting one additional bid on the fencing. There has been discussion on how to increase general fund revenue, which could be used to purchase Main Street Christmas decorations and other misc. expenses. One suggestion was to open small souvenir shop using the resource room; Lisa expressed that the room would be better used as office space.

Elaina reported the office space rented by Carl Boyd was now being rented by BV Coalition. Another interested prospect is Chad Cottam, a physical therapist wanting to rent space to see clients. Sherrell Ott had stopped by the office to check it out for him. Mayor and Council agreed to clear the room and open it up for office space.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ComNet Cell Tower Contract

Following up on the ComNet Wireless cell tower upgrade and the funds received from AT&T for rent discussion in January, Elaina reported funds have been going to the Fire Department Association. How the cell tower first came about and its use was reviewed by Fire Chief Ron Harris and Kerry Alvey, reporting that funds to build the tower were received from 911 Emergency Grant. Ron felt mistrust coming from the Mayor and Council; and expressed the lack of communication between the fire department and Town Council, which Mayor Brinkerhoff and Town Council agreed. Contracts including their terms, monthly payments, etc. was reviewed and impressions Ron felt regarding mistrust was discussed; comments from Mayor and Town Council clarified that there isn't any mistrust only non-communication. To better support the fire department, Council Member Gene Anderson and Fire Department Liaison Council Member Marie Pollock asked Ron to informed of fire department's activity.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Storage Shed Bid Opening

One bid was received for the storage shed; the bid was placed by Brett Chynoweth for \$50. A motion was made by Gene Anderson to accept the bid. Second by Marie Pollock - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Marie Pollock to adjourn. Second by Lisa Johnson – . Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, and Marie voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

Approved this 11th day of March 2021
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk