

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
November 17, 2021

Present:

Clyde Watkins
Glen Jessen
Sommer Arnold
Shilo Monney
Melba Markham, Town Clerk
Amanda (Mandy) Gardner, Town Clerk
Craig Kettle, Town Employee
Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

Public Present:

Vicky Jessen

Brent "Ole" Olsen was excused.

Also present was Kimberly Layton taking minutes.

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

Minutes Approved (7:02 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of October 14, 2021 as written. Motion seconded by Shilo Monney. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department (7:04 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that there are some changes with other departments and if the Altamont Department needs to adjust boundaries or make a few changes to coordinate efforts that would be fine. He also asked Chief Phillips to let department members know of the Town's appreciation.

Chief Phillips reported that the department is on call to back up Myton. The plan is to keep as many trucks as we can in Altamont and take as little as we can to that area. Myton is having a hard time keeping a department running. Their Chief got a promotion in the City so he can no longer serve as chief. They have lost a lot of firefighters as well. Greg has been working with them to try and keep the department running. Altamont is on standby to cover if needed. The County is making a plan in case they have to cover Myton's department fully.

Chief Phillips further reported that it has been a slow year for our department. While it is good that there have not been a lot of fires, it cuts into the revenue for the department. With regards to training, the department is still sitting with 17 firefighters. There are a couple of new firefighters as well as 3 junior firefighters in training. There are a couple more spots for junior firefighters if there is any interest. Chief Phillips has not been able to get a quote on 152 yet.

The Department's Christmas dinner is tomorrow at 7:00.

Upper Community Recreation District (7:20 p.m.)

Vicky Jessen reported that she has contacted Danny Peatross from Duchesne about doing a survey. He works through Civco and his bid was \$5,440. Mr. Peatross had done some research prior to preparing the bid.

Mrs. Jessen stated that it was apparent from the last meeting that the main priority for the Recreation District is the rodeo grounds. The District will have a \$100,000 budget. Vicky said that our park right now looks really nice, and she would hate to see it go downhill. There are improvements needed. The budget that the District has set aside for the park may not cover improvements needed. The budget for the park is \$15,000. Vicky wondered if it would be best to just lease the park to the Recreational District for a few years to see how the budget will work.

Glen stated one of his concerns is that the park will be used as collateral for any debt that they may incur for the rodeo ground improvements. Mayor Watkins stated that there are grants that would be available to the Recreational District that would not be available to the Town.

Shilo Monney stated that he can see Vicky's concerns. Melba stated there may be someone at UBAG that could help the Recreational District apply for grants. Glen stated that some of the grants would need to be for the Altamont Park or Bluebell Park, not just for the rodeo grounds.

Sommer agrees that it may be a good idea to think about leasing the ground first. Shilo suggested that the Recreation District obtain some bids so we know exactly what we're looking at for budgets. The council agrees that it may be a good idea to lease the ground or at least wait for some time prior to turning over the park to the Recreation District. The council would like to see some concrete numbers and bids. December 2 is their next meeting.

The council agreed that the cost of surveys should be a District expense. Mayor Watkins stated that the Town may be able to help or pay it and be reimbursed.

Melba will contact legal counsel to get some advice on this.

Secondary Water (8:01 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that this item was included just in case Ole had something that needed to be discussed. Ole was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Watkins asked Craig Kettle if he had any concerns with secondary water. Craig stated that there are springs coming up in the bottom of the pond. Mayor Watkins asked if the pond needed to be re-lined, but Craig has not noticed that the pond is losing any water. The system has been drained for the year.

Mayor Watkins asked if Craig would prefer to keep using Shawn for any bluestakes or if it would benefit the Town to purchase our own machine. Craig stated that most of the time he can do it, but he calls Shawn when needed. He does not feel a need for the Town to purchase a machine right now.

Home on Lot AL-56 (8:07 p.m.)

Sommer stated that she has not heard anything on this item. Melba has also not heard anything.

Altamont Cemetery (8:09 p.m.)

The Town may look into expanding the cemetery. Craig stated that he may start this project this spring. There are trees and brush to clear. Glen will put the word out because there are a couple of lots that may have dirt to clear. A plan needs to be made for trees. Any council member could help create a plan.

Craig is still working on the pond there but if having trouble getting the glue to stick to the plastic for the pond liner. He will check with Rodger for suggestions.

Altonah Cemetery oil rights (8:21 p.m.)

Melba stated that for the Altonah Cemetery, we haven't had a lease on the mineral rights for quite a while. The town recently received an offer from Jason Johnston of EP Energy interested in leasing mineral rights in the Altonah Cemetery. The rights would be to 10.79 mineral acres. The offer is a bonus of \$2,698 and \$250.00 per acre on a 7-year lease. The royalty would be 1/6 in the event of production. Melba has confirmed that Mr. Johnston works for EP Energy. Glen stated that he would be in favor of signing the lease. All council members are in favor of signing the lease. Mayor Watkins signed necessary documentation.

Glen stated that he has gotten some of these letters as well and they will do the legwork to make sure that we own the oil rights before the lease goes through.

Melba stated that the oil rights at the Altamont Cemetery are still being leased by EP Energy.

Miscellaneous:

Melba reported that Craig will need a new phone as the first of the year. Shilo suggested giving Craig a phone stipend rather than having him use a business phone. Craig will think about this option.

If needed, the council will schedule a meeting in December. The next council meeting will be held on January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to end the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 13 day of January, 2022, 2021.

e-mailed to

altamonttown@gmail.com

December 8, 2021