Town of Froid

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 Minutes

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 13, 2016

The minutes of the Froid Town Council at the Froid Community Center on June 13, 2016. Those present were Council Members Dan Kjelshus, Gale Strandlund, Gregg Labatte, and Dan Mogen. Also present was Public Works Director, Odean Kilsdonk and Town Clerk, LeAnn Johnson.

Mayor Sheri Crain called the meeting to order at 6:32. Visitors were recognized. The minutes from the May 9th meeting were read. Dan Mogen made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Crain requested the agenda order be adjusted to accommodate visitors.

New Business: Steve Seaman was in attendance on behalf of the Mint Bar to request the Town Ordinance on the regulation of alcoholic beverages be temporarily lifted for the street dance they have planned for July 1st. Steve reported that it would be similar to the street dance they had last year and they would not be selling any glass beverages. Mayor Crain stated there didn’t’ seem to be any problems reported last year and asked Council if they had any reservations for lifting the ordinance again. Dan Mogen made a motion to lift the open-container ordinance for July 1st. Gregg Labatte seconded the motion. Motion carried. Steve also commented that they are planning to let off fireworks that evening and questioned if they could do it down close to the bar or if it needed to be done at the ballpark. A concerned resident said he had concerns with fireworks at their location downtown and asked that they be done at the ballpark. Sheri feels the ballpark is a good location as there is water readily available. Steve’s last concern is with vehicles driving down Main Street at excessive speeds. He questioned Council as to what could be done to resolve this issue. Mayor Crain responded that her advice would be to call the Sheriff’s Department when he witnesses this again.

Public Works Report: Odean was present to give a Public Works report. He reported that he is hopeful the Town will pass the water disinfectant bi-products test in August which would result in reduced monitoring. He also reported that he will be asking residents to conduct the lead and copper tests as soon as he finds a few more residents willing to do the sampling. Odean reported the Town recently ordered three additional meter pits. Sheri informed Council that two of these will be put in at the ballpark, as there is concern someone may be “stealing” water there and the Town needs to be able to meter how much water is used there. Odean reported that there were recent complaints of a significant drop in water pressure. After looking into it, it was determined that a valve was adjusted incorrectly in the Town’s Dry Prairie pit. The issue has since been resolved.

Sheriff’s Report: There was no one present to report for the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Department.

Old Business:

Town Tractor- Mayor Crain reported that Border Plains recently picked up the Town tractor, which leaves the Town without one. Odean reported that a resident informed him about a loader the Town may be interested in looking at. Tom Bracken also still has a tractor the Town could look into. Sheri asked Odean how many hours the tractor is typically used in a year. He believes the Town would typically use it about 100 hours/year. Sheri also reported that LeAnn will be looking into an Intercap loan to help cover the cost of the tractor. After discussion, it was decided that the Councilmen will get together to take a look at what Tom Bracken has available. Gregg Labatte commented that since the Town currently does not have a tractor he will use his tractor to move the pile of woodchips next to the playground prior to the Town events planned for July 9th at the Community Center.

Zoning Committee- Councilman Gregg Labatte reported that he recently visited with Culbertson Mayor, Gordon Oelkers, as well as their City Clerk regarding their building permit process. Culbertson charges $100/permit but passes the permit on to their City Engineer, who reviews it and then passes its recommendation on to the City. Councilman Labatte reported that he plans to get in contact with our Town’s current Engineer to set up a date for the Zoning Commission to meet and go over their roles in the permitting process and whatever questions the Commission members may have.

Nuisance Properties: Mayor Crain reported that after the first Notice of Violation letter went out to the owners of the nuisance properties, a second notice was sent to those owners that hadn’t either improved their property or notified the Town of their plans of improvement. She reported that after one more month, an additional certified letter will need to be sent and then the County Sanitarian will get involved. Penny Ryder requested that Mayor Crain and the Council sign the letters she received for her properties. Council and Mayor signed those letters as requested. Mayor Crain explained the Town is following the procedures as prescribed by the County Sanitarian. Councilman Strandlund commented that he feels as though good progress has been made on several of the properties.

Great West Engineering Update- Greg Lukasik recently passed along new cost figures calculated to repair the water tower and included new radio read-outs for the water meters. His goal is to receive 50% loan forgiveness through the State Revolving Fund. His current figures would require the Town to raise the base water rate charged to utility customers by about $7.00. LeAnn also reported the Town recently received the $10,000 from DNRC for the PER grant, which will get passed on to Great West.

Garbage Update- Mayor Crain reported that Pacific Steel has delivered a third steel recycling dumpster for Froid residents. Allen Bowker also picked up the second roll-off he had delivered for Froid residents to use. Both roll-offs filled up very quickly. Mr. Bowker is working on building metal racks for all the dumpsters placed around town to help with holding them in place.

Town Website-LeAnn reported that the construction of the new Town website is nearing completion and the PayGov credit card service is now available to the utility customers.

Delinquencies were reviewed. Letters will be mailed and phone calls made to those on the list.

New Business:

Zoning Committee- A resident recently requested 4th Ave South be widened to allow 2-way traffic. She also requested that two trailers currently sitting in a lot adjacent to the street be moved to comply with Town ordinances. Discussion revealed that other residents with property adjacent to the street would also need to move property to comply. After discussion, Mayor Crain stated that once a tractor is available the street could be bladed a bit wider.

Lawn Mower Improvements/Options- Rod Luft has been doing the majority of the mowing for the Town. He reported the Town has approximately 18.3 acres to mow, and he feels the mower either needs to be replaced or the Town should look into spending around $1,000 for improvements. Rod recently looked into purchasing a new mower and received information on a new one that would cost the town $12,500 without trading in the old mower. After discussion, it was decided that the Town try to budget in the $12,500 for fiscal year 2016-2017. Decisions on purchasing a new mower has been tabled until next month.

2016-2017 Budget Items- LeAnn reported that she will be working on the 2016-2017 budget and would like input on any items the Council deems necessary to include. Rod Luft reported that areas in Town will need to be sprayed for Canadian thistle and will cost the Town around $300-$400. Gregg Labatte questioned what could be done to improve the situation with the inaccuracy in water usage from the read-out at his meter pit at his shop. Mayor Crain agreed that something must be done to improve the situation.

Building Permits: There were no new building permit requests.

After reviewing the claims, Dan Mogen made a motion to authorize the Clerk to remit payment. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:06. The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be July 11th at 6:30pm.

Clerk: Mayor:

Mayor Sheri Crain Clerk LeAnn Johnson

Town Council Dan Kjelshus Dan Mogen Gale Strandlund Gregg Labatte