Minutes

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2019

The minutes of the Froid Town Council at the Froid Community Center on April 15, 2019. Those present were Council Members Gregg Labatte, Dan Kjelshus, and Gale Strandlund. Also present was Town Clerk, LeAnn Johnson.

Mayor Crain called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Visitors were recognized and signed the attendance sheet. Minutes from the March 11, 2019 meeting were read. A correction was noted, as letters were mailed to those within 150 feet (not 100 feet) of the requested variance application properties. Gale Strandlund made a motion to accept the March 11, 2019 minutes as corrected. Gregg Labatte seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Report: Odean was not present to give a report. Mayor Crain reported that the Town tractor is needing clutch repair. Grant Labatte has offered to help haul the tractor to Sidney for repairs. Once fixed, Odean will continue working on street maintenance and repairs. Odean has also been working on locating and mapping the curb stop at each property.

Sheriff’s Report: There was no one present to report on behalf of the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Department. Mayor Crain reported on an incident at the baseball field that a resident called in to the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Department. The issue was quickly resolved once it was realized the gentleman was not a threat, as he was trying to help with the gopher problem on the field.

Old Business:

Zoning Commission Update/Recommendation: A public hearing for the Zoning Commission to hear comment on two variance applications was held prior to tonight’s regular Council meeting. The Zoning Commission is recommending to Town Council that both applications be approved, with special conditions. Council discussed the recommendations. Gregg Labatte noted that he will have to excuse himself from voting on the application from Tanner Holtan, as Gregg is the lot-owner. Without Gregg, a quorum is not available to vote on Tanner’s application. It will be tabled until Council’s May meeting. After discussion on Penny Ryder’s application, Gregg Labatte made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Zoning Commission, with a special condition stating that the property owner will have until the end of the 2019 calendar year to make the improvements outlined on the application. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community Center Heating and Cooling Funding Update: Mayor Crain reported that there is still a balance of $12,500 on the Sheridan Heating and Cooling invoice for the heating/cooling system repairs. Mayor Crain stated that fundraising efforts will continue and noted that the fire department has not been asked to contribute anything to the repairs. The Town may look at checking with the Fire Department to see if they are able to provide any funds.

Community Center Roof Repairs: Mayor Crain asked for Council’s input on obtaining additional quotes for the repairs for the roof at the Community Center. Council was in agreement that it would be a good idea to ask for a quote for one or two more roofing companies. Mayor Crain will look into contacting other contractors.

Review of Accounts Receivables: Delinquencies were reviewed. Letters will be sent out and phone calls made to those on the list.

New Business:

Seasonal Mowing Position: Council looked over three applications that were received for the seasonal mowing position that was advertised. After discussion, Gregg Labatte made a motion to hire Shelby O’Dea. Gale Strandlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Compensation for Part-Time Employees: Discussion was held on the wages to be paid for the seasonal or part-time employees. For an individual that is not employed by the Town but contributes many hours to projects-it was suggested that their monthly utility bill could be credited. The wages paid to the seasonal mowing position in the past will be used as a guide for this year’s compensation-as Shelby has been previously employed as the Town mower.

Resolution #2019-1: Mayor Crain read aloud to Council Resolution #2019-1: A Resolution Requesting Distribution of Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program Funds. This will be the second year for distribution of these funds. Gregg Labatte made a motion to approve Resolution #2019-1 as written. Dan Kjelshus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Change in Garbage Service Pickup Day: Allen Bowker called the Town to inform us he may need to change the garbage pickup day. Mayor Crain is unsure of when this change may take place.

Water, Sewer, Garbage Base Rate Charges: Mayor Crain reported that the rate change in the water fund is complete. There will need to be another increase in the sewer rate once the bid for construction of the lagoon project is approved. The Garbage Fund continues to run in the “red” every month. Mayor Crain suggested that Council look at a slight increase in the garbage rates at the same time the sewer rates are increased.

Building Permits/Variance Applications: There are no new building permits.

Review of Claims for Approval of Payment: Claims for both the months of March and April were looked over by Council. Dan Kjelshus made a motion for the clerk to remit payment on both the March and April claims. Gregg Labatte seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Wastewater System Update: Mayor Crain read an update from engineer, Greg Lukasik, on the upcoming lagoon project. Great West is anticipating construction on the project to begin by late June or early July. The update also included some information on an infrastructure bill (HB 652) that has a provision allocating funds to infrastructure projects in counties that have been on the short end of oil and gas revenues. This may be an opportunity for the Town to get some additional projects done. Greg stated that he will keep a close watch on the progress of the bill.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 13, 2019.

Mayor: Clerk: