

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND
JULY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

07/18/2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gail Leeper called the July Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, Powell, and Stuart; Town Attorney McGill; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Public Meeting.

AMEND JULY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA –

- **Action Item** – Discussion and Decision for Triple Tree Engineering Management Plan.

Mayor Leeper asked, to amend the July Town Council Meeting agenda by motion. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve amending the July Town Council Meeting agenda. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Engineer Bradley Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering; Nadene Wadsworth and Hannah Shultz, representing DNRC Helena; Thuy Patton and Christine Gaynes, representing FEMA Region 8.

GUEST COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: The Town Council was provided a report from the Sheriff.

MINUTES: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the June Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the June Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

CLAIMS: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Powell made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

INVESTMENTS: Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

- **Continuing to work on the Budget** - Value of Mills expected August 11th.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Solid Waste Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – Presented by, Attorney McGill.

Attorney McGill expressed; the MOU is not ready for a decision tonight. The legal description on the deed, from the Town to the County; is incorrect. That will need to be changed. County Attorney Bradshaw emailed Attorney McGill and Mayor Leeper; an explanation of the items he would like to see changed. Mayor Leeper read this email to the Council, *“I reviewed the MOU, thanks for sending it. The draft language states there will be “free dumping for all of time”. This would commit the County to operate the*

Solid waste permanently. This would likely need to say so long as a solid waste site is operated by Granite County. I would also encourage the following language, "customary free dumping consistent with historical use". These are issues for negotiation at least."

Attorney McGill expressed, the benefits will always go the person operating the land fill, whether by the County or private entity.

Attorney McGill took the language strictly from the minutes. The Town gave land in trade for this service; therefore, the verbiage should be "for all time" or insert "successors and interest" meaning, this agreement would carry over to future owners; should the solid waste site change hands in the future.

The language of the MOU needs to be cleaned up and further negotiation is needed on the initial intent of the terms.

This action item will be tabled for this month. After Mayor Leeper and Attorney McGill attend the Commissioner's Meeting; and the details are worked out this item, it will be brought back before the Town Council for discussion.

- **Triple Tree Resolution Approving the PER (Preliminary Engineers Report) and Certificate of EPA Costs and Effectiveness –**

Mayor Leeper Read, Resolution 2023-3 aloud for the Council.

Mayor Leeper expressed this needs to be done by motion. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-3. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper Read, the Certificate of EPA Costs and Effectiveness aloud for the Council.

Mayor Leeper expressed this needs to be done by motion. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the Certificate of EPA Costs and Effectiveness. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Engineer Koon expressed, why the need to have these documents approved now verses when the PER was created; was due to funding from SRF.

Attorney McGill stated, her phone number needs to be corrected on the Management plan. This information was corrected.

Mayor Leeper expressed this needs to be done by motion to amend Attorney McGill's phone number on the Management Plan. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve correction of Attorney McGill's phone number. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- **DOR Town Hall regarding Property Assessments –** This was an informational meeting on how property assessments are done; there were Assessors on hand for questions. Julie Goebel is the representative for our area.

Three key points Mayor Leeper took away from Meeting.

1. DOR (Department of Revenue) does not have enough people. There are 11 people for our region; to do 64,000 assessments.
2. DOR does not make those decisions, we as municipalities and counties do not make those decisions. The Legislative makes those decisions.
3. People need to partake in how the County and the Town spend their money. They need to spend more time at the local levels and understand how that works.

- **Rodeo** – Rodeo was successful. There wasn't too much law enforcement had to do, other than a few fights that happened.
- **Commissioners Invite for Drummond and Philipsburg Mayors and Council to attend Commissioner's Meeting** – To discuss the ambulance situation. Eagle ambulance pulled out of Granite County.

Drummond has an active volunteer ambulance, with 5-6 EMT's; Drummond is okay, Philipsburg is not, they do not have an active volunteer ambulance crew right now.

Drummond ambulance will try to answer some of Philipsburg's calls. There is talk of a QRU; problem with that, is they can't transport.

Sheriff's office will try to answer as many calls as they can. Sheriff's office put on Facebook the ambulance situation.

Powell County will answer freeway calls to the East, Clinton will answer freeway calls to the West both will help out where they can; which leaves Drummond Ambulance to do the whole County.

Mayor Leeper spoke with Frank Prince, President of Drummond Ambulance; he stated they have enough money, it's just boots on the ground.

Frank Prince Spoke with Fire Chief, Sean O'Connor; they discussed training Fire Department Crew refresher courses on driving. Drummond Ambulance and Valley Fire Department have always had a good working relationship.

TOWN ATTORNEY: None

PARKS: Farmer's Market August 11th.

- **Northwestern Energy and Lighting at Park** – Phone calls have been made regarding lighting at the City Park.

Initial phone call was made, service ticket was issued. They were supposed to come out and fix them.

Second phone call was placed, regarding service ticket; Northwestern Energy stated, they were supposed to be out this week. Mayor Leeper asked, if the street lights at the park belonged to Northwestern Energy or the Town. Northwestern Energy employee

replied, they were Northwestern Energy's lights. Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington were both present during phone call.

Last week, Mayor Leeper emailed Paul Babb, with Northwestern Energy; asking his help with this. She also included, lighting on the off ramp coming into Drummond when that would get fixed. If Mayor Leeper doesn't hear back, she will give him a call instead of emailing him.

Discussion was made with the Council; why these park lights weren't changed when the Street light in Town were changed to LED, if they belonged to Northwestern Energy.

ROADS: Northwestern Energy needs to repair areas in Town, where they have dug, and not repaired their holes.

Mayor Leeper instructed, Council Member Powell and Public Works Director Harrington to write down all the locations that were not properly repaired; where Northwestern Energy's Crews did work. Then, she would include that information when conversing with Paul Babb of Northwestern Energy.

FLOODPLAINS:

- **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS); next steps** – presented by, Nadene Wadsworth.

DNRC distributed a handout regarding updated mapping for the Clark Fork River, they also discussed the next steps of meeting with the public.

The Floodplain Study shows: 9 property owners will remain unchanged to the Floodplain mapping, no new structures will be added to the floodplain or the 100-year floodplain, and there will be 7 properties removed; the seven properties removed, are the properties added in the Flint Creek flood study.

Nadene explained, to the Council how to read the Clark Fork Study mapping; why the change to the Flint Creek Study and how those calculations were determined.

The 100-yr study calculations were based off of the early 1980's flood in the Drummond area.

Community event is estimated for October 2023. Mayor Gail asked, to pencil in October 3rd at the Drummond Library around 5:30pm

Nadene expressed, the meeting normally lasts about an hour and a half; with a short presentation, then they like to breakout into smaller groups to answer the communities' specific questions and show them how the mapping program works on the computer program.

Drummond's Town Council Meeting and the Granite County Meeting earlier today, will trigger the 90-day appeal period, with Press releases and flyers handed to the public.

Town of Drummond will have to track any appeals within the Town.

If no appeals are submitted during the appeal period, then there will be another review with U.S. contractors to verify no changes are needed, which could take 6-9 months from now for that appeal period. If nothing changes, then a Town of Drummond Resolution will need to be done, then another appeal period will be completed, before it can be sent to mapping.

Nadene, Mayor Leeper and the Town Council discussed all these points; as well as, confirming which property owners will receive notification postcards regarding the floodplain; then Council asked, if the properties removed from the floodplain will also receive a postcard notifying them of this removal from the floodplain. Nadene explained, they do not have a way to properly make that notification within their program at this time.

Town of Drummond has 6 months, from the date the Mapping Letter regarding the new map is sent out, to update the Town's ordinance and adopt the new map. The updated ordinance will have specific language that will need to be included

Nadene went on to mention, if the steps of updating the ordinance and accepting the new maps are not completed within the time frame, then the Town of Drummond would be sanctioned.

SEWER: Engineer Koon, discussed update on the Waste Water Facility Upgrade. He stated the Pump Test results were good.

He discussed, the UV Section of the upgrade; planning this section without the UV part of the upgrade; but going ahead and plumb for it, for future use. This would need to be approved with all the funding agents prior.

Discussion was made, regarding needing an ordinance disallowing use of basement sump pump; when sewer lines were established, the age of the service lines, original lines were estimated to have been placed in 1957; and the generally the condition of the lines.

In the Town of Drummond, lines from the mains to the property, is the property owner's responsibility.

Triple Tree has completed the following items so far: the Army Core of Engineers Report; the environmental appeal process.

The sludge test results showed about 200 gallons per minute. These results will be used for the design.

Discussion was made regarding the lagoon's past performance; when the actual work will begin, completion date of the project, Engineer Koon stated, the upgrade has to be completed by end of 2025. The actual construction is anticipated to begin early spring of 2024.

Discussion was also made regarding, how the system will operate during the construction process and the Town's citizens ability to have a functioning sewer system.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **General Election** – There will be no general election, no one filed to run against the current sitting Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Delinquent Tax Letters** – Mayor Leeper discussed with the Council, need of the Delinquent Tax Letters and how often those letters should be mailed out.

Mayor Leeper expressed this for this to be done by motion. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Delinquent Tax Letters to be mailed out (semi-annual) twice per year. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper

concurrent.

- **South Main Maintenance** – Mayor Leeper and Attorney McGill went to the Commissioner’s and County Attorney to discuss South Main. Attorney McGill will reach out to see if they were going to affirm the discussion of many years ago regarding abandoned South Main.

Mayor Leeper reached out to Fitzpatrick regarding the MCEP funding and if it can be redirected to the County.

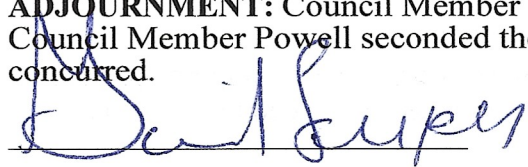
Sheriff Dunkerson joined the meeting.

Discussion was made regarding, repositioning the electronic speed detector. He also discussed; more traffic stops have been conducted.

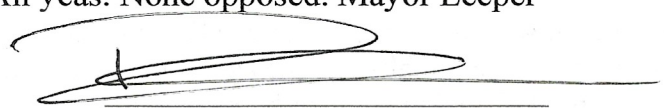
Mayor Leeper extended to Sheriff Dunkerson, and invitation for the new deputies to come and introduce themselves.

Next Town Council Meeting scheduled Tuesday, August 15th.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Stuart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Council Member Powell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



Gail Leeper, Mayor



Robin Wight, Town Clerk-Treasurer