

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

10/15/2024

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

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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Calvin Wight; and J.B. Ray, representing Blackfoot Communications.

GUEST COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Law Enforcement Report was provided to Drummond Town Council, for the October Town Council Meeting.

MINUTES:

September 17, 2024 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Hearing and September 17, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Hearing and the September Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Hearing and the September Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

September 24, 2024 Public Hearing 1 – Needs Assessment; Public Hearing 2 – Project Selection and Special Meeting – CBDG Grant Funding.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the Public Hearing 1 – Needs Assessment; Public Hearing 2 – Project Selection and Special Meeting – CBDG Grant Funding meeting minutes. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve the Public Hearing 1 – Needs Assessment; Public Hearing 2 – Project Selection and Special Meeting – CBDG Grant Funding meeting minutes. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

CLAIMS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Clute 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.

Sewer Certificate of Deposit set to mature; will be closed and re-opened to achieve higher interest rate.

Fiscal Year 2023 AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) accepted by Local Government Services.

ACTION ITEMS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- **MT League Cities and Towns October 2-4, 2024 Conference** – Mayor Leeper reported on the MT League annual conference held in West Yellowstone.

Montana currently has a Two Billion Dollar surplus in Property Taxes.

In the 50 days of Montana Legislation, there were 7,000 bills introduced.

Grant funding opportunities were discussed during the conference; such as AARP grant funds for non-profits, and NLC National League of Cities and Towns infrastructure grant funding opportunity notifications.

Still Looking into grants for Radar Signs for the Town of Drummond.

Mayor Leeper spoke of the history learned by Cam Shawley, West Yellowstone Super Intendant; West Yellowstone Park information, construction of roads; and flood recovery.

During 2024, there was 70% recorded new visitors; of the 5 million people who visited West Yellowstone this year. West Yellowstone averages 280 persons a day visiting the park.

- **LEPC Report – Training** – Peter Killman spoke during the training.

Dispatch is in Texas; which presents a twenty-minute delay.

Sheriff Dunkerson presented the concern of lack of communication, between the Sheriff's Office and BNSF Railroad.

Discussion between Mayor Leeper and Town Council, specified the need of having Dennis Hays, Road Master's, number available and on file at Drummond Town Hall.

- **Philipsburg Lagoon; Site Walk** – Mayor Leeper, Council Person Clute and Public Works Director Harrington attended the Philipsburg Lagoon Site Walk.

Discussion of Philipsburg site walk and comparison to Drummond's Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade were discussed amongst Mayor Leeper and Town Council; as to the cost and estimates, as well as comparisons of the maintenance and operating requirements of the systems.

Discussion led to additional funding opportunity for the Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility through Army Corps of Engineers; in which the Council approved Engineer Koon moving forward to look at that funding to complete the UV portion of Drummond's project.

- **Cyber Security** – Discussion was had regarding staying aware and alert in regards to cyber security.

ATTORNEY: None

PARKS:

- Park is currently being winterized; blowing out lines in preparation for winter. Once complete, water at park will be turned off until spring.

ROADS:

- **J.B. Ray, Representing Blackfoot Communications** – J.B. Ray was invited by the Drummond Town Council to discuss the Blackfoot Fiber Optic Project schedule and the current concerns of the Council as to the work being completed within the Town.

J.B. updated the Council as to the status of the project in the surrounding areas; the reasoning behind temporarily pulling out of Drummond to focus on needed work in other areas.

Expanding, the weather has been an issue; as well as, labor issues, the number of employees working on the project has decreased from 28 down to 11.

J.B. acknowledged Blackfoot is behind schedule, stating they will be working through the winter until it freezes, then will resume in the spring.

He asked the Council to keep a checklist in regards to the areas of concern; identifying areas that need to be repaired by Blackfoot, or the Contractors working on the project.

J.B. expanded that there is good communication, in regards to Mayor Leeper letting him know when the Town has concerns; stating, Blackfoot isn't going anywhere, that the Town will have one-year from completion of the project to acknowledge any problems and inform Blackfoot for them to repair those areas of concern.

Discussion to the number of duplicate locate tickets and cost associated of those tickets was discussed with J.B.; adding, that was an expense the Town was not anticipating. J.B will look into that, discussing with Blackfoot ways to alleviate some of that burden, by ensuring locate tickets not be ordered if work is going to be delayed.

FLOODPLAINS:

Floodplain Ordinance – Once the Town receives notice from DNRC, the Town will start working on updating the Floodplain Ordinance. The formal 90-day comment and appeal period has now ended.

Brad Hager has presented questions regarding insurance and the floodplain mapping; he will be directed to speak with Tracy Sears and/or Nadene Wadsworth of DNRC to have his questions properly answered and addressed.

SEWER:

- **Lagoon –**

- **Fence** - River is currently at very low levels; cows got through fencing and were in lagoon. Mayor Leeper notified Casey Weaver. Cows have now been pushed up higher and relocated for winter.

Discussion was had amongst mayor and council regarding current and future ways to secure lagoon to keep cows from breaching fence; resulting in the need of constructing a new fence, with increased height.

- **Hunting** – It was brought to the Councils attention of request to hunt around sewer lagoon. Mayor Leeper declined the request, stating the reasoning behind her decision.

Discussion led to the need of Private Property, No Trespassing and No Hunting signage being places at the sewer lagoon.

• **Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade –**

- **Soil Samples** – Soil samples are not back yet for the sludge placement location; landowner estimated grade at 6% and water table of 5 Ft.
- **Railroad Flaggers** – Mayor Leeper and Town Council discussed the need of contacting the Railroad Master of BNSF; placing request for Railroad Flaggers on site every day during movement of sludge over railroad tracks.

The cost associated for flaggers; will need to be worked into the project cost budget.

- **Xylem** – Council Member Clute will make contact with Dalton, Xylem Representative, to schedule annual pump maintenance.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

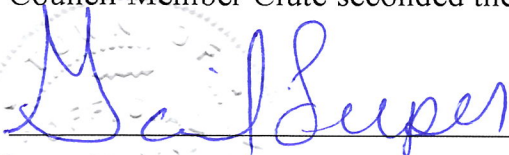
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Fireworks** – Anticipating December 2024 for Drummond Firework Town Hall Discussion.
Drummond resident Jo Radtke notified Mayor Leeper; she would be willing to be on the firework committee.
- **Joint Session** – It would be beneficial to hold Joint Session prior to the Firework Town Hall Discussion.
- **Delinquent Taxes** – Town of Drummond is currently owed \$24,706.04 in Delinquent Taxes and Sewer Fees.
 - General Fund: \$7,191.84
 - Street Light District: \$1,283.52
 - Sewer Fees: \$16,230.68\$24,706.04
- **Public Works** – Public Works Director Harrington added, he has begun preparing equipment for snow plowing.

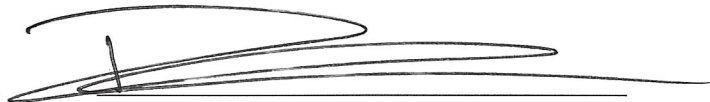
No Parking signage will be placed for snow plowing; October through May, as it was done last year.

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Stuart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal