

February 7, 2008

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Bill Muse, Mayor; Randy Ripplinger, Dennis Bertucci, Gladys LeFevre, Wendell Roundy, Councilmembers; Judi Davis, Clerk; Marvin Bagley, Attorney; Julie Ketchum, Kay and Larry Ripplinger, Peg Smith and Sergio Femenias, Eva Moore, Ashley Coombs, Cookie Schaus, Daniel Reeder, Steve Lowder, Brian Dick, Keith Gailey, Elaine Roundy, Mark Nelson, Keith Watts, Ray Gardner, Don Montoya.

Pledge of allegiance

Randy Ripplinger was sworn in as a new member of the Council.

The Mayor made assignments. Dennis was asked to be the liaison between the Council and the Fire Department, and everyone else was asked to keep their current assignments. Judi Davis was appointed Town Clerk.

Gladys made a motion we approve the December 6 minutes. Randy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Randy made a motion we adopt the minutes of the January 3 meeting with a change made to page 4: change the words, “. . . was ushered out” to “. . . left the meeting.” Dennis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. (Loch Wade came.)

At Eva’s suggestion for the need, Dennis volunteered to make a gavel.

Bill appointed Sue Inman to fill the vacancy on the Board of Adjustment. Council support was unanimous.

Dennis represented Tim Clarke, who submitted the draft of a letter he would like the Town Council to send, with or without changes. The letter was regarding the proposed Sigurd Power Plant. There were comments pro and con. (Linda Crawford came.) Dennis feels we want a clean plant, not necessarily no plant. Kay suggested that private citizens write their own letters rather than it being the Town’s place to do it. Mark Nelson replied that the Town Council represents the people and it is within their purview to send such a letter. It was agreed that, as a Council, we don’t know enough about the issue or the public feeling to write a letter. Dennis will post the sample letter on the bulletin board as a pattern for others to use to write their own letters if they so desire.

We will have our Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 4. Peg will chair a

committee to get it organized.

Farlan will not be able to maintain the landfill but will help train a new person who would do it. There is also concern about the remaining life of our landfill at the rate the construction pits are filling up. We will look at having construction projects bring in their own commercial dumpsters. Farlan said he would try to dig one more construction pit, and Wendell will look into the availability of commercial dumpsters.

Bill has received requests that guns not be allowed in town buildings or on town property. The concealed weapons permit law allows the bearer to carry a concealed weapon anywhere except in a church, private home (except his own) and an airport. Issuance of a concealed weapons permit requires an intensive background check, and certain infractions preclude the issuance of the permit. A gun ordinance will not stop a criminal who intends harm. Peg prefers that there not be guns in the building. Randy feels safer with a concealed weapon. Loch doesn't want his constitutional rights infringed upon. We could ask for a deputy to be at our meetings. Ray is willing to come when his schedule permits.

Marvin brought samples of ordinances regulating dogs, especially the noise aspects. He also brought one which would license dogs: three would require a minor charge; over three, charges went up; over five it becomes a business and the fees are very high. Enforcement of noise ordinances is nearly impossible for us. The costs are high, also. Ray has found a public nuisance ordinance which may work in encouraging dog owners to quiet their dogs. He talked with the dog owner and gave him 10 days' notice to come into compliance, after which action will be taken. There is a state nuisance law that can be called on if we want to use it. Loch stated that this is a rural area and we need to see if we can work things out without another law.

Mark Nelson gave an update on the SITLA issue. SITLA will not now consider the trade option. They now say the appraisal won't be available to us, at least not at this time. There are new local players in the game. In the next 30 days they will issue a call for Requests for Proposals. The proposers will be made public. The town, private citizens, and conservancy groups can submit proposals. Some time ago SITLA contacted the BLM about a trade but have since withdrawn the request. In the meantime, Chris and Brock entered the picture. SITLA is now willing to split the parcel. Mark and Scott are willing to continue the effort. We need to start documenting this process. Mark asked if Marvin would write and find out the amount of the appraisal. Keith Watts suggested a form for the letter. We will have Marvin help with letters. We need to get all the facts. Mark asked for volunteers. Scott Brodie, Keith Watts, and Eva Moore volunteered. We also need to solicit new letters of support from the community.

Department reports were given. Randy reported on a great joint meeting today with the Planning Commission, Town Council and Planner Bruce Parker. The Planning Commission is working on the General Plan. Eight Fire Department personnel attended the Winter Fire School. They will need extrication equipment for which they may seek grants.

Randy made a motion the Council adjourn to executive session to discuss litigation. Dennis seconded the motion. Voting aye were: Wendell, Gladys, Dennis, Randy, and Bill. The Council adjourned to executive session at 8:55.

At 10:20, Gladys made a motion open meeting resume. Dennis seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Bill, Wendell, Randy, Gladys and Dennis.

Wendell made a motion the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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Minutes prepared by Judith Davis, Clerk

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Approved by Bill Muse, Mayor