

Town Council Meeting
December 2, 2021

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Members present: Mayor Steve Cox, Elizabeth Julian, Judy Drain, Gladys Lefever and Conrad Jepsen.

Public present or via Zoom: Ashley Coombs, Jimmy Catmull, Robert Wilson Nancy Tosta, Ward Coombs, Tessa Barkan, Kipp Greene, Jeanne Zeigler, Michelle Lebaron, Korla Eaquinta, Elena Hughes, Donna Owen, Peg Smith, April O Neal.

The December 2021 Boulder Town Council meeting began with a discussion of the budget. More revenue has come in than what was planned for, and, therefore, the town is in great shape financially for the rest of the fiscal year; however, they have been advised by their auditor that they need to move \$40,000 from the general fund to the capital projects fund. A public hearing was opened to discuss changes to the budget. One member of the public stated that the Planning Commission has been working on proposing a water study and asked if excess money could go towards that. Another member of the public asked if the town currently has anything on the capital improvement list, and that knowing that information would be helpful for providing public comments. It was responded that this will be discussed later in the meeting. The public hearing was closed. A motion was made and passed to move \$40,000 from the general fund to the capital projects fund, which currently has \$30,000 in it and will, therefore, have \$70,000 total. Mayor Steve Cox then brought up a request for an increase in the Zoning Administrator (ZA) pay. The new ZA is April O'Neal. And because of her experience the pay increase would be from \$15 to \$18 per hour. One council member stated that the average wage in town is \$11-\$15, and they don't think the town should be paying higher wages than what the taxpayers are making. Another council member stated that it is important to keep people, and that this is a tough job that is important and worth \$18 an hour. Another stated that town jobs shouldn't take opportunities from other businesses in town by providing a higher wage. Cox stated that the ZA responsibilities are outlined clearly in the ordinances and that it takes a special skill set to do the job, which O'Neal has. A council member asked if the 12 hours per week are guaranteed or if the hours are as needed, and it was answered that the hours are as needed with 12 as an average. A motion was made and passed to increase the wage. Four were in favor and one was opposed.

Following this, they discussed what should be on the Capital Improvements list. Prior to COVID the town had a single-year list and a five-year list. On the longer term list had been extending the parking lot next to the Town Hall and making improvements to the playground. Possibly funding the hydrologic study could be an option. Steve Cox asked the new mayor Judy Drain for input. She stated that she would like to see the work on the north parking lot occur. Gladys stated she would like to see the area around the dumpsters improved. Another suggestion was for the EMT equipment and communication pagers upgraded. It was stated that we should make the emergency services our number one priority. It was discussed that getting a few smaller projects done would be a good use of the money. More discussion will occur on the Capital Improvements list early next year.

Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Internal Accessory Dwelling Units were discussed. State law mandates towns must allow IADU's within the footprint of the house. The amendments will allow IADU's to be consistent with state law and clarify rules concerning External Accessory Dwelling

Units (EADUs) as well.

A public hearing was held and a member of the Planning Commission spoke as a member of the public stating that while this is a state requirement, these changes will hopefully be beneficial in terms of providing housing.

The public hearing was closed and a motion was made to adopt these amendments. Motion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Gladys reported that there was a fencing issue and that the flags were put up on Veterans Day.

Judy reported that a rep from Cascade Water Resources presented and answered questions on the hydrologic study and that the sign for the cemetery will be put up.

Elizabeth reported the work has been done on the fire truck, ten firefighters will be taking part in Winter Fire School. They are applying for a \$5000 grant and would like the town to cover the remaining cost.

One of the EMT's that took the course paid for by the town did not complete the national EMT test in November as planned. Recruiting strategies and agreements should be discussed. A possible commitment for 2 years might be the answer. The library is open Saturdays from 11-1. It will be closed on Christmas. The Arts Council is planning there 2022 events. Schools continue to have positive cases of COVID-19. No positive cases since at Boulder Elementary since September.

Mayor: This is Mayor Cox's last meeting. Steve thanked the council and stated his pride in what they have accomplished, and thanked other current and post staff.

Public comments followed.

American Legal has posted on the town website a training video to navigate the codified ordinances.

Steve was thanked for his service to the community,

Meeting was adjourned.