

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 4, 2016 7:00 p.m.**  
**TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA**  
**Rehearsal Hall**

**Council Present:** Scott Petersen, Scott Kelley, Justin Gatewood, Erin Leonard, Dave Bacon

**Staff present:** Nancy Stewart Clerk/Treasurer, Roger Williams PWO, Jeff MacDonald, HPO, Victor Bunitsky, Attorney

**Public Present:** Toni James, Elijah Allen, Caitlin Avey, Robert Erdall, Angela Mueller, Billy Doyle

**1) Call to Order:** Meeting in the Rehearsal Hall of Virginia City was called to order at 7:00 p.m.  
By Scott Petersen

**2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comment:**

a) Councilman Gatewood stated that Mark Weber needs to be sent a second notice regarding the flags outside of the Creamery. Mr. Gatewood commented that Rank's Mercantile and the Creamery still have their flags up. Mayor Petersen stated that the town needs to have a standardized flag for the off season. Mr. Petersen thought that as long as we were discussing the flag issue he wasn't going to fight the businesses regarding their flags. Councilman Kelley felt that the flags were a violation of the Town Codes. Victor Bunitsky, Town Attorney, was advised to send Mark Weber a second letter. Toni James was asked to take her flag down.

**3) Comments from the Public:**

a) Elijah Allen, MHC, stated that he was going to get a thank you dinner set up for the previous Mayor Erdall.

b) Mr. Allen talked about 2 bills sent to senate for \$1.6 million.

c) MHC will be doing a boundary adjustment with Mr. Bowling, around the kid's pond area. The Heritage Commission owns about 5/6 of the property and will negotiate with Mr. Bowling for the other 1/6.

d) Mr. Allen has applied to the DOT for National Historic Landmark signs. The signs will be brought up at the next HPAC meeting.

**4) HPO Report:**

a) HPO MacDonald put in for a grant from the Montana History Foundation for \$5,000. The grant request will seek to continue efforts to survey and record locations of historic human remains in cemetery and town property locations, with specific request for forensic canine services and professional support in GIS and enhanced imaging.

b) Mr. MacDonald stated that the discussion with Leathers and Associates regarding playground equipment continues. The playground construction company is assisting the Town of Virginia

City on establishing a timeline and recommended process from design to construction, with a target goal of fall 2016 for the community build project.

A general meeting will be held on February 17, 2016 in the Town office. The establishment of a town steering committee is recommended to advance design and development goals, along with formally acquiring the services of Leathers & Associates.

c) The Tendoy Park site will be among the primary research areas within a greater WSU Public History field school scheduled for May 22-29, 2016. Program director Orlan Svingen has requested the assistance of the Town of Virginia City and Historic Preservation Office in preparation for the field school.

d) The Virginia City CLG grant application deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The annual grant request includes the required 2016 HPO-HPAC Preservation Plan, in addition to updated information on HPAC members, and contributions of volunteer hours within the greater program budget. The annual CLG program grant for 2016 is \$5500.

#### **5) Public Works Report:**

a) Public Works and the Planning Board held a meeting regarding the northeast end of town. Issues that were addressed were the low water pressure to 6 or 7 houses in the area and replatting area to fit the topography. The cheapest fix to the problem would cost \$1.5 million.

b) Source Water Protection held their monthly meeting. The Bureau of Mines will do some water studies to determine where the town's water comes from.

c) Justin Gatewood talked to Hart Baitus regarding his plans. Mr. Baitus is still working on a conservation easement around the Town springs.

d) Talk about the bathrooms at the park and whether they should be open for the Winter Festival. It was decided to keep the portable bathrooms at this time.

#### **6) HPAC Report:**

**No permits this month.**

#### **7) New Business:**

##### **a) Resolution 2016-04 Hourly Research Rate:**

**MOTION: To have an hourly research rate as amended.** Motion made by Erin Leonard; seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** **Motion passed by voice vote; Scott Petersen, Scott Kelley, Justin Gatewood, Erin Leonard and Dave Bacon in favor. None opposed.**

##### **b) Sign Issue:**

Elijah Allen, MHC, will take drawings to HPAC to start process of getting a standardized open sign for off season businesses.

**8) Minutes and Consent Agenda for January, 2016:**

**a) Minutes for Council Meeting, January 7, 2016**

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the January 7, 2016 council meeting. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Dave Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion was passed by voice vote; Scott Kelley, Scott Petersen, Erin Leonard, Justin Gatewood and Dave Bacon in favor. None opposed.

**b) Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION:** To approve accounts payable for January, 2016. Motion made by: Dave Bacon; Seconded by: Erin Leonard. **The question was called.** The motion was passed by voice vote; Scott Petersen, Scott Kelley, Erin Leonard, Justin Gatewood and Dave Bacon in favor. None opposed.

**9) Public Comment:**

a) Robert Erdall talked about the City Court. Mayor Petersen talked to the Mayor of Sheridan regarding this. Mayor Petersen will talk to Robert Erdall more about the Court.

**10) Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** To Adjourn. Motion made by: Erin Leonard; Seconded by: Dave Bacon. **The question was called:** Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm

**Respectfully submitted and attested,**

**Scott Petersen**  
Mayor

**Nancy Stewart**  
Clerk Treasurer