

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
August 6, 2015 7:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Rehearsal Hall

Council Present: Robert Erdall, Justin Gatewood, Scott Petersen, Scott Kelley

Council Absent: Erin Leonard

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

Public Present: Gerald Schildroth, Bill Bennett, Dan McCauley, Elijah Allen, Randy Strobel, Julie Strobel, Riley Auge, Nancy Ann Bevins, Bonnie Bennett, Diana Bunitsky

1) Call to Order: Meeting in the Rehearsal Hall of Virginia City was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
By Robert Erdall

2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comment:

a) Councilman Gatewood said the Source Water Protection meeting was well attended.

b) Justin Gatewood thanked Public Works for the work on the Ball Park.

c) Council talked about Public Comments running too long. Public comments need to have time limits.

3) Comments from the Public:

a) Diana Bunitsky stated that the Friends of the Library will have a dinner at the Elks on September 17th at 7:00 pm.

4) HPO Report:

a) HPO MacDonald has been working on letters to send for violations of Town Codes.

b) The Montana History Foundation has invited the Virginia City Historic Office to contribute to developing a funding and support initiative for historic cemeteries and gravesites throughout Montana. Following the recent and successful MHF – Preserve Montana grant award, the current effort to survey Virginia City cemetery and gravesite locations continues to generate interest as a model program, with potential to lend to the development of a greater research and documentation system for historic burials.

An initial meeting is currently being planned for early August at the MHF offices in Helena.

c) Interpretive signage for the Hebrew cemetery and Boot Hill sites was installed in two locations at each of the two sites in July. The signage is primarily intended to notify the public

of ongoing efforts to survey the historic sites and to request proper care and respect to human remains.

d) The dedication of Tendoy Park was held on July 19th, which celebrated the renaming of Virginia City's North Park to honor the US-Shoshoni treaty. Similar to adjacent properties, the Tendoy Park site possesses a high likelihood for cultural material and historic artifacts, and may be eligible for the added US federal distinction of a Traditional Cultural Property. This distinction would significantly add to the dimension of the current National Historic Landmark, and provide further heritage considerations for the town and region. A cultural resource survey and assessment is recommended as part of future planning for the site, which should include the invitation for consultation and participation from tribal officials.

e) HPO MacDonald met with Bozeman HPO Courtney Kramer in Virginia City on July 17th to discuss common goals and challenges within the respective CLG programs and areas for potential collaboration.

5) Public Works Report:

a) Weed season is upon us. All land owners need to take care of the weeds on their property before they go to seed.
Pete Traxler, maintenance, has been spraying around the lagoons, right of ways, etc.

b) PWO Williams has spent a lot of time researching deeds.

6) HPAC Report:

HPO MacDonald would like the Council's permission for HPAC to go through the Town Codes and update permit violations in zoning, design reviews, etc.

a) Long Fence Permit:

MOTION: To approve Long's Fence Permit. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Scott Kelley. **The question was called.** The motion was passed by voice vote; Bob Erdall, Scott Kelley and Scott Petersen in favor. Justin Gatewood opposed.

b) Kelley Development Permit:

MOTION: To approve Kelley Development Permit with a site plan pending. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Bob Erdall, and Scott Petersen in favor. None opposed. Scott Kelley abstained.

c) Strobel entryway Permit:

MOTION: To approve Strobel entryway Permit. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Scott Kelley, Bob Erdall, and Scott Petersen in favor. None opposed.

7) New Business:

a) Great West:

Dan McCauley presented a task order – engineer agreement for the Council. This would take in water pressure, water/sewer, roads, etc. on the northeast corner of town.

MOTION: To approve the task order/engineer agreement. Motion made by: Justin Gatewood; Seconded by: Bob Erdall. **The question was called.** **The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Scott Kelley, Bob Erdall, and Scott Petersen in favor. None opposed.**

b) Montana Heritage Commission Update:

Elijah Allen talked about the MHC fiscal year end, marketing campaign and highlights for the year. MHC was up by 28% in earned revenue from last year.

c) Delinquent Accounts:

The Council looked over a list of delinquent utility accounts. It was decided to turn all of the accounts over to the Department of Revenue for collection.

d) Water/Sewer Rates:

Reports show that the water and sewer rates are sound. Council decided not to change the rates for the coming year.

MOTION: To keep water/sewer rates as they are for the new fiscal year. Motion made by: Scott Kelley; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** **The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Scott Kelley, Bob Erdall, and Scott Petersen in favor. None opposed.**

e) Budget Information for FY15-16:

Council was given budget reports to go over. Any comments should be directed to Nancy Stewart, Clerk/Treasurer.

8) Minutes and Consent Agenda for July 2015:

a) Minutes for Council Meeting, July 2, 2015

MOTION: To approve minutes of the July 2, 2015 council meeting as amended. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** **The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Scott Petersen, and Robert Erdall in favor. None opposed. Scott Kelley abstained.**

b) Consent Agenda:

MOTION: To approve accounts payable for July, 2015. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** **The motion was passed by voice vote; Justin Gatewood, Scott Kelley, Scott Petersen and Robert Erdall in favor. None opposed.**

9) Public Comment:

a) Elijah Allen asked how the resort tax was doing for this year. It is up from last year.

b) Mr. Bennett and Jerry Schildroth approached the Council regarding alley ways and easements. Victor Bunitsky, Attorney, advised against commenting in the Public Comments. This should be an agenda item for next month.

c) Diana Bunitsky asked if the town had found their missing chairs. The answer was no.

10) Adjournment:

MOTION: To Adjourn. Motion made by: Scott Petersen; Seconded by: Justin Gatewood. **The question was called:** Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Robert Erdall
Mayor

Nancy Stewart
Clerk Treasurer