

WORK SESSION—APRIL 28th, 2010

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, held at the Huntsville Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. April 28th, 2010.

Present: Mayor James A. Truett
Council Member Max Ferre’
Council Member Richard Sorensen
Council Member Alan Clapperton
Clerk/Recorder Gail Ahlstrom
Treasurer, Ramona Clapperton
Legal Counsel, Jerry Engstrom

Excused: Council Member Steve Johnson

Citizens: Tim Hansen

Discussion on proposed Toll Road Ordinance:(See Attachment #1)

Mayor Truett called the Work Session to order. He started the meeting off by discussing the proposed ordinance on the Toll Road. Mayor Truett mentioned that he spoke with David Church, from the Utah League about this issue. The town needs to make sure it is not biased, by allowing some people to go through the toll without paying while charging others. A toll will be collected from everyone going through it, even town residents. The Forest Service wants a copy of the adopted ordinance as soon as possible, they will then take the ordinance to AL&L, and the hope is that this will allow them to redefine how they collect fees. Mr. Engstrom also had a conversation with David Church. The paragraph that lists the excluded groups from the toll needs to be deleted. The town can issue passes to AL&L, Forest Service, Sheriff’s Office, Club Rec., and town employees or anyone headed to the cemetery, need to be given a day pass or a 6 month pass to put on their dash board authorizing them to pass the toll without having to pay it. The justification for this would be that they don’t create the volume that the boaters do. Mr. Engstrom stated that if a town resident is using the boat ramp they will have to pay the extra toll. Town residents cannot be exempt. CM Sorensen asked about an annual pass for town residents. Mr. Engstrom replied that if the town offers an annual pass it would have to be offered to everyone. If the ordinance passes the Mayor will hand deliver a copy of the ordinance to the Forest Service, with the idea of the town creating a pass for all seasonal employees that would go through the toll road.

Mayor Truett reported that the toll booth will be done by next week. The plan is to place the toll booth on the road a week prior to Memorial Day. Cory Thompson is building up the shoulder of the road for a turn around. Ramona mentioned that the town should get insurance on the booth.

The Mayor, Mr. Engstrom, and Brad Slater met with Jan Zogmeister a week ago. She seemed interested in this controversial issue and suggested getting this item on the WACOG agenda so that Mayor Truett can explain the situation to all of the Mayor’s so they understand why Huntsville Town is doing this.

Annexation discussion: (See Attachment #2)

The Mayor reported that he met with the American Legion last week to talk to them about the idea of annexation. They had a lot of questions. The Legion put a huge advertisement in the Ogden Valley News: "To annex or not to annex". They invited all possible property owners along with the Town Council to come to a dutch oven dinner to discuss the possibilities of annexing into Huntsville Town. The Mayor commented that over the years the town has not had a good relationship with the American Legion, it's time to mend fences and establish a relationship with them. Gail expressed her concern about this dinner, she would like to see the council decide exactly what the town is willing to offer and make sure that all of the PC and the TC have the same information to share with the Legion. CM Sorensen stated that the town can't offer them secondary water, which is separate from the town. They would have to go to the Board of Trustees, of the Huntsville Waterworks Corp. Mr. Engstrom said there is a State regulation saying that if you have never had secondary water the town cannot provide. CM Clapperton asked what if they had secondary water through another company. There is a way for them to get it though, they would have to go through Weber Basin and purchase water rights or have water rights deeded to them. The American Legion expressed their desire to create a small camping area for RV's. The W.C. Commissioners told them no. This will probably be brought up at this dinner on May 15th. Individuals can't promise anything, it's the PC making recommendations and the TC making decisions as a group.

Review of Budget :(See Attachment #3 & #4)

Mayor Truett mentioned that Ramona quickly updated him on the preliminary budget and it looks like the town is under budget right now. Ramona passed out a copy of the proposed preliminary budget which still needs to include the rest of April, May, and June figures. Ramona and the Mayor agreed that she will follow what has already been budgeted for the coming year. Ramona wants to know if the council has any major plans for their departments. The amended budget will be presented in June. The revenue and expenses on the budget need to match. Ramona reported that the town has done really well this last year. CM Sorensen asked about the sales tax and if it has gone down. Ramona replied that it appears to be about the same.

The Mayor stated that he, Mr. Engstrom and Brad Slater met with Jan Zogmeister about the rental of the town's cell tower. The W.C. Commissioners have put this item on their agenda for next Tuesday. Brad Slater agreed to reduce the amount the Sheriff's Department bills Huntsville Town down to \$30,000 a reduction of \$16,000.00 to the town. The reasons for this reduction is: no school means less patrolling, no school resource officer, and the town no longer has a court so no bailiff is necessary. The Mayor made the decision to not pursue the idea of Huntsville Town having a satellite Roy Court. The agreement to have the town's bill lowered will exceed any income brought in by court fines. Verizon was paying \$720.00 per month. The discussion was that for the first year there would be no charge to use the cell tower, but once they get their equipment in the building and have gotten used to using the cell tower then the agreement would be renegotiated. If approved by the W.C. Commissioners, the reduction will go into effect as of July 1st, this year. CM Ferre' suggested imposing a small fee of some kind so that the idea of paying the town is already established. CM Sorensen recommended having a contract established for one year as free, but it continues for an additional 5 years with a fee.

Ramona suggested lowering the revenue on the building permits, she isn't aware of any new homes that are being built. Mayor Truett remarked that the council is good about taking care of their departments, and are doing a good job. The council reviewed the income section of the budget. The general property taxes revenue is \$38,000 per year, general sales and use tax is \$85,000 per year: 50% base of sale and 50% is based on population, the municipal telecomm. Tax is \$9,000 per year: Qwest, AT&T and cell phones. Penalties & interest delinquent tax \$1,200, when people pay their taxes late the town gets a portion. Business licenses, \$1,800. Building permits \$3,000. Cemetery & burial permits, \$6,000. Other is excavation fees from Quest and Qwestar when they dig through the roads. The B&C road fund budgeted \$38,000 per year; the town gets road payments quarterly. If money comes in from the toll booth it will go directly into a fund to maintain First Street.

Tim passed out a copy of culinary water repairs, recommendations, etc. Tim stated that the town has been paying \$50 for a direct read meter and there is a transmitter application at a cost of \$150 that can be added to the meters the town is using right now. Or you can buy the radio meters at \$200 which would basically be the same cost as retro fitting the direct read meters. The radio meters can feed back information like if a meter is running continually. Tim reported that there is some serious water leaking at 1:00 a.m. This leakage has been going on since February. One way to solve this problem is to replace meters, or go through town to make sure the meters are working or replace them and begin reading them two months in a row to try to find heavy usage. Up to a 1/3 of what the water plant is putting out of the plant is unaccounted for. CM Ferre' mentioned that there has been a problem with the particle counters; they are not working correctly with the computer. CM Clapperton asked where all that water is going in the middle of the night? We need to locate the problem. Tim suggested that the town invest some money in upgrading the meters. CM Ferre' mentioned that Lewis Johnson recommended turning the water off at different sections in town during the night to try to isolate an area where the leakage might be occurring. Tim will work with Lewis on conducting the night time shut offs.

The State requires culinary water plants to have a cross connection program, and information needs to be included in the newsletter. Tim stated that Ken Orton has moved but is willing to help with bigger water issues. Tim will access the Hawkins Spring water line and take a water sample for testing. If the water looks good then more testing will be required. If the water doesn't need chlorine it could be intermixed with the current water system, or there if the water only needs chlorine, then a chlorine injector could be used. If the water is contaminated it could be used as secondary water. Mayor Truett stressed getting this area fenced this spring. The Mayor commented that Cory Thompson told him that Snow Basin has hooked into Hawkins Creek and is using that water to run their sprinklers with. Tim will talk to Cory about this. CM Sorensen has also heard rumors relative to this. CM Ferre' suggested that Tim prioritizes his list in order of importance.

The discussion turned back to the budget. The 4th of July budget will be raised from \$22,000 to \$25,000 this year. No trees were purchased this year. Tim mentioned that he trades water from the town hydrants to Rocky Mountain Power to spray trees on Monte Cristo, in exchange for tree credits; he has about \$200 worth of tree trade. Interest rates are almost non-existent and this budget item will need to be lowered. The town is getting hit pretty hard on Animal services, every time they pick up a cat the town gets charged to

board them. If they pick up a dog and the owner picks up the dog the town doesn't get charged. CM Sorensen would like to look into this further; the town should be getting 50% of the fines that come in. The court category will be eliminated from the budget. ½ of the matching funds \$10,500 for the paving of First Street has been moved into the Capital Project funds. The Mayor would like to see the new area of the cemetery opened up. It will cost \$2,500 to have Great Basin put the survey markers in. Mayor Truett suggested the town hire Lonny Bailey to survey, level, seed, and put in the sprinkling system. There also needs to be a pump for the sprinkling system and the electrical work done. Ramona will budget \$20,000 for the new cemetery area.

CM Sorensen made a motion to adjourn. CM Clapperton seconded. All votes aye. Motion passed.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

James A. Truett, Mayor