

MINUTES OF THE HUNTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, September 2nd, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Huntsville Town Hall

Present: Mayor James A. Truett
Council Member Steve Johnson
Council Member Max Ferre'
Council Member Alan Clapperton
Clerk/Recorder, Gail Ahlstrom
Legal Council Jerald Engstrom

Excused: Council Member Richard Sorensen

Citizens: Sgt. Ryon Hadley Doug Allen John Posnien

Mayor Truett called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. There is a quorum present tonight.

Doug Allen led the Pledge.

The Opening Ceremony was led by CM Ferre'.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Department Reports:

***Mayor Truett:**

Discussion and/or action on proposed Inter-local agreement with W.C. for Animal Control Services: Mayor Truett wanted to discuss this proposed agreement. The Mayor asked Doug Allen to come tell about an experience he had recently that might shed more light on the subject. Doug Allen approached the council and shared a couple stories. Jason Nass lived in Huntsville and when he was 5 years old he was killed on Sept. 27, 1977, by a couple of dogs in his back yard. Hal Van Meeteren, who is a Captain at the Ogden Fire Department and is a very athletic man who rides his bike to and from work, this May he was riding his bike home from the fire station when he got chased by a dog and knocked off his bike and ended up with a broken neck and paralyzed for two months. Doug and his wife walk a couple times a week in the evenings and he is tired of being menaced by dogs. Last Friday as everyone was preparing for the town yard sale, Doug was riding his bike, and by Ron Gault's home a big German shepherd almost knocked him off his bike. What if that had been a little kid? Doug called Animal Control who took his info and suggested he call the dispatcher who sends out the animal control person. They asked Doug if anyone had been injured, the reply was no, but someone should talk to the people about their dog. That was last Friday, today is Thursday almost a week later, and Doug hasn't heard from anyone at Animal Control. If he had been injured maybe they would have responded quicker.

Doug guessed that there are over 100 dogs in Huntsville. Doug looked through the town's ordinances and if you own more than two dogs you should have a kennel license. Gail replied that she hasn't issued any kennel licenses. Dogs are licensed at Weber County Animal Shelter. The Town pays an annual fee of \$3,000 for animal control services; if a dog is picked up there are additional fees. This can be very costly for the town. Doug feels that the town is not getting a good service, and wondered if the town should do this locally. Doug presented the idea of taking a picture of the dogs and sending it to the owner in their water bill with a \$100 fee. Another issue that goes along with this is that there are occasional beavers that create some problems in town. People are hired to catch them, which costs the town money. Plain city is having problems with raccoons; there was an article in the Standard Examiner about the diseases that are caused by raccoons.

CM Johnson remarked that two weeks ago there was a pit bull in his yard early in the morning; he tried to chase it off. After about six hours, he called animal control and waited two and a half days and no one ever came to look for the dog. He spoke to a person and gave them a report and didn't hear anything back. CM Johnson mentioned that a friend of his is pasturing 10 shire horses behind the old church farm. One of the shire horses has come up missing, 7 men have been searching the whole mountain looking for it. They called animal control but they haven't done anything. CM Johnson thinks the horse has been stolen. CM Johnson asked why should living inside Huntsville Town cost more for animal control than living outside of town. Why should the town pay a \$3,000 retainer plus the extra fees for picking up stray animals? Mayor Truett said he has seen the animal control truck up here a lot, but has never seen a dog in the back of his truck. Doug replied that the problem is the dogcatcher is driving around during the day; the dogs mostly roam just before dark and early in the morning.

Mr. Engstrom gave the council some background. Years ago Pat Hunsacker was the dogcatcher for Huntsville and he was doing a good job. Then the town got threatened by the animal rights activists saying that he wasn't complying with sanitary kenneling. At that time the town council decided that it wasn't worth a lawsuit against the animal rights group. That is why the town switched to the county for animal control. Mr. Engstrom stated that if the town is going to have a leash law then it needs to be enforced. John Posnien commented that there are more unleashed dogs in the park than he has ever seen. Mr. Engstrom said if you can identify who is violating the leash law, then the town could have a substantial leash penalty. The town needs to give everyone due notice before enforcement begins. If a dog is a menace then a sheriff deputy can come pick the dog up. Mayor Truett remarked that he didn't feel that the council is prepared to come to a conclusion tonight. The town pays animal control \$750.00 per quarter for a total of \$3,000 per year, plus additional charges of \$55 to pick up a stray cat or dog and if the animal bit someone then the fee is \$100 for quarantine services.

Mayor Truett said people think they are in the country and they can just let their dogs run loose. Mayor Truett would like to set up a work session with Chad Ferrin from Animal Control Services. Mr. Engstrom mentioned the town couldn't afford to build its own shelter. There are too many restrictions and the possibility of lawsuits. Dpt. Hadley stated that dog problems are not unique to Huntsville, it is happening all over the valley. **Mayor Truett made a motion to not sign the proposed inter-local agreement at this time and to set up a work session with Chad Ferrin to resolve various issues.** CM Ferre' seconded. All votes aye. Motion passed.

Roll:	Mayor Truett	<u>Yea</u>	CM Ferre'	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Clapperton	<u>Yea</u>	CM Johnson	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Sorensen	<u>Excused</u>		

Discussion and/or action on proposed Inter-Local agreement with W.C., Roy, Ogden City, and Huntsville Town for Improvements to and operation of the W.C. Animal Shelter: **Mayor Truett made a motion to table this until the council can meet with Chad Ferrin from W.C. Animal Control.** CM Clapperton seconded. All votes aye. Motion passed.

Roll:	Mayor Truett	<u>Yea</u>	CM Ferre'	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Clapperton	<u>Yea</u>	CM Johnson	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Sorensen	<u>Excused</u>		

Update on school property:

Mayor Truett reported that the W.C. School Board met on August 31st in a closed door meeting to discuss the old valley school property. Mayor Truett read from an email he received from the school board. It is the boards desire to work out an agreement with the town, whereby the town could acquire the district's Huntsville property. The Huntsville property is the only raw ground owned by the school district in the Ogden Valley. The board wants a different site that would allow them to build a second elementary school in the valley in the future. The board is asking the town to work with the Drew Wilson, the district's of operations, to identify a piece of property to acquire for trade. They look forward to finalizing an agreement that will be beneficial for both parties.

Mayor Truett explained that what the school board is requiring is a 10 acres parcel in south end of valley. The Mayor spoke with Jeff Holt and CM Sorensen and they want to have the old school property appraised. The council understands that they ground up cement and brick to fill in the hole, and that was legal, but it makes the property unbuildable. The council feels that the old school property isn't worth as much as buying another piece of property. The plan is to invite Drew Wilson to come up to the school property and have Curtis Christiansen from the county come do a soil analysis. The Mayor feels that the school district is trying to pull a fast one on the town. If you can't build on 35% of the property what value does it have? Right now the town doesn't want to do a land trade with the school district. If the town were to do so the town would have to pay for perk tests and provide water rights and what does the town get in return?

Mr. Engstrom suggested speaking with the Weber Morgan Health Department and explain how the basement was filled with cement and bricks and see if they have any concerns about allowing buildings or septic systems on it. The town would be responsible to restore. This would not be a fair trade for the town. The school board doesn't know what the land looks like. CM Johnson suggested inviting the school board to come up, dig a hole and let them see firsthand what it property looks like. CM Johnson mentioned that the oil tanks are gone but the leach fields were left.

Discussion and/or action on expenditure for repairs on pressure washer:

Mayor Truett explained for CM Sorensen that the town purchased a brand new pressure washer back in 2007. The washer didn't get drained right and it froze up.

The cost of the repairs to the washer was \$1,500. The original cost for the washer was \$3,500. The washer is used to wash salt out of the trucks. **CM Ferre' made a motion to approve the \$1500 expenditure to repair the pressure washer.** Mayor Truett seconded. All votes aye. Motion passed.

Roll:	Mayor Truett	<u>Yea</u>	CM Ferre'	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Clapperton	<u>Yea</u>	CM Johnson	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Sorensen	<u>Excused</u>		

Discussion and/or action on Proclamation against Domestic Violence: (See Attachment # 1)
Mayor Truett read from the proposed proclamation against domestic violence. **CM Ferre' made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented.** CM Clapperton seconded. All votes aye. Motion passed.

Roll:	Mayor Truett	<u>Yea</u>	CM Ferre'	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Clapperton	<u>Yea</u>	CM Johnson	<u>Yea</u>
	CM Sorensen	<u>Excused</u>		

Department reports:

Mayor Truett reported that W.C. Commissioner Craig Deardon's son passed away in a plane crash, leaving behind four children.

Mr. Engstrom mentioned that former Mayor and Planning Commission Chairman Jack Cox's wife is critically ill with cancer and isn't doing well.

***Council Member Ferre':**

Department reports:

CM Ferre reported that he took some of the scrap metal down to the recycling center, and he presented the mayor with a check for \$251. There is still more heavy metal items by the town sheds that needs to be hauled off.

CM Ferre' reported that there was a secondary water leak on 6800 E. and 300 N. there will need to be a road cut.

***Council Member Clapperton:**

Department reports:

CM Clapperton reported that he got a call from Fireworks West in Logan, a different firework provider than he usually uses; they want to give CM Clapperton an estimate, he will meet with them next week. They are saying that the town can get more product from them for the same money.

***Council Member Johnson:**

Department reports:

CM Johnson said he has been thinking about the fundraising for the Veterans Monument. CM Johnson showed the council a picture he painted and thought he could sell prints of the picture to help with the fundraising efforts. He also has a very fitting poem that goes with the painting that

he can put in the newspaper or mailers. CM Ferre' suggested putting something in the library too. Mayor Truett asked how much has been raised so far. CM Johnson replied that he thinks about \$460.00 plus some additional funds set aside for this project from the town. CM Johnson has formed a committee to help with this project. The charcoal painting is the image from the flag rising at this year's 4th of July.

***Council Member Sorensen: (Excused)**

New Business:

There was none.

Citizens Comments:

Doug commented on the water repair on 6800 E. Doug and Tim were working on the leak, they could smell chlorine so they were certain it was a culinary water leak. The secondary lines in that area were added as an addition to the original system. Doug stated that one of the problems with maintaining the secondary water is that they not tracking repairs and the repairs are not being done correctly. They aren't putting the right soil back in, and the soil isn't being compacted. This same line was repaired last year. The secondary water company would like some help to purchase some equipment and then donate it to the town, or share it with the town. They need a compactor and a cut-off saw so repairs can be done properly. The secondary water board will be holding a meeting soon and the plan is to buy the saw and compactor and work out a deal with the town.

John Posnien asked if there is anything the council could do to help with cemetery availability access to get in and out of cemetery. He would like signage posted that lets people know the hours and days when the gate to the cemetery will be open. CM Johnson will look into this item.

Sgt. Hadley thanked the council for the appreciation BBQ the town held for the two fire stations and the deputies who patrol the Ogden Valley. He has heard a lot of positive feedback about this.

CM Ferre' met with the schools ground keepers who showed him and the Buttar's where to turn the secondary water on at the school property. The Buttar's have offered to keep the existing grass watered; it's a bigger job than originally thought. Mayor Truett asked CM Clapperton to take some pictures of the school property and how it is not being maintained.

Approval of Town Council Minutes for meeting held August 19th, 2010:

CM Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held August 19th, as prepared. CM Clapperton seconded. All votes aye. Minutes are approved.

Approval of joint Work Session minutes for meeting held August 19th, 2010:

CM Ferre' made a motion to approve the joint work session minutes for meeting held August 19th, 2010, as prepared. CM Johnson seconded. All votes aye. Minutes are approved.

Mayor Truett mentioned that all item on the agenda have been addressed. CM Johnson made a motion to adjourn. CM Ferre' seconded. All votes aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

James A. Truett, Mayor