

TOWN OF MALDEN
JUNE 22, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the first of two public hearings at 7:00pm. The first was regarding the Comprehensive Plan. Rachel Ganrath, planner representing SCJ Alliance, gave a brief report explaining the vision framework for the town. This includes the suggested zoning in different areas designating residential, commercial and open spaces. Having this plan in place helps in applying for future funding grants. The second public hearing was regarding the draft critical areas ordinance which was presented by Micki Harnois, MightySmall Planning Services. She discussed the changes that are required by the state and adopting this ordinance will keep the town in compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Mayor Harwood opened the regular meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Councilmember Ben Hale, Councilmember Bob Law, Councilmember Scott Hokonson and Janell Turner (remote). Councilmember Hale moved to excuse Councilmember Lori Dickinson and Councilmember Law seconded. Motion approved. Staff present were Micki Harnois, clerk/treasurer and Ernie Brown, public works.

Ben H. made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Janell T seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ben H. approve the June 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes, Bob L seconded, Scott H. abstained, motion carried.

Clerk Harnois announced that a vaccine clinic will be in town hall on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 from 11am to 2pm. She also announced that there will be a candidate forum on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10am.

LTR: The MALDEN Act was discussed. This is sponsored by Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers. It basically says that in the future when a fire occurs in a town, if 30 days go by and the President does not declare an emergency, the town is automatically approved for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance and Disaster Case Managers (DCMs) will be assigned. It was mentioned that once Canada opens up for international travel, a Mennonite group will start working on seven more houses. The Montana Amish will start to build five more homes in January, 2022. There is fundraising occurring with various charities to extend the terms of the DCMs. They have been an asset in determining the immediate needs of their clients. LTR is helping other towns with disasters.

Labor Day Fire Anniversary- Committee Chair Alycia Hale said so far the plan is to have a lunch and gather and tell experiences and stories.

Block corner Land Survey Grant- They are surveying behind the Mayor's house. The paperwork and maps are very close to being completed.

CBDG Grant for the municipal buildings- Plateau Archeological is doing the cultural resource survey and the inadvertent discovery plan.

Zipty Fiber: Zipty Fiber and the Port of Whitman are partnering on the fiber project. Another company will do locates between house and the road.

FEMA: FEMA is willing to fund a temporary fire station on the property close to where it previously was located. The idea is to get the two fire trucks under cover and closer to homes. After the new fire station is built, the temporary station can be reused or purchased. If it is on town property and the town doesn't buy it, FEMA will tear it down.

Debris Cleanup: All owners of eligible properties (but two) have been notified of the free cleaning and testing.

USDA water loan: There has been no word on when the state will be releasing the funds for payoff.

Public Works Trust grant: It is in the planning phase. The ground penetrating radar surveying will tell where lines are to go.

Ordinance 2021-3 Comprehensive Plan: Bob L. moved to approve, Scott H. seconded. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-4 Critical Areas: Ben H. moved to approve, Scott seconded. Motion carried.

Water report: Chlorine level in the well is good. Fire hydrants can now be fixed as we have parts.

Streets: State Emergency Management is looking at the gravel roads. FEMA will improve the roads after the fiber is laid.

Park: Mayor Dan said that the tires were sent to the Whitman County landfill through the Department of Ecology. Scott H. said that Doug Arlt who organizes volunteers has a group who will pick up the rest of the tires.

Public Comment: Concern about kids under 16 years of age operating ATVs. Public was encouraged to take pictures and call the sheriff.

Council Comments: Janell T. suggested that if anyone sees speeders to write down color and make of vehicle and license plate number and call the sheriff. Scott H. said that LTR has located

grants for the park as well as for traffic calming devices such as speed bumps and dips. Janell T. mentioned looking into the town having a park district.

Mayor Comment: Mayor Dan announced that the town is under a burn ban which includes any open burning or flame. No fireworks are allowed. Please keep lawns mowed and watered. Please call town hall if you need help with your lawn.

Bob L moved to adjourn the meeting, Ben H. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.