

TOWN OF MALDEN
JANUARY 25, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:00pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Scott Shauf, Ben Hale, Bob Law and Lori Dickinson. Councilmember Janell Turner attended by phone. Maintenance staff, Ernie Brown and Clerk/Treasurer Micki Harnois were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ben H. moved to approve the amended agenda, Bob L. seconded, motion carried.

Ben H. moved to approve the January 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Janell T., motion carried.

Announcements: Mayor announced that the town has a new audio system so the town council can be heard when speaking.

On February 3rd, 2022, starting at 7pm there will be a virtual ZOOM meeting between the LTRO and the town council.

LTRO Committee update WAM homes-Three of the homes have had electrical inspections and sheetrock will be installed by the end of the week.

Old Business-

Municipal Buildings- Temporary Fire Station- Mayor Dan reported that the HVAC has been installed. The electrical work will be started next week, then the insulation can be put up. The overhead doors should arrive the first week in February. Once the electricity is in the building then the fire trucks can be stored in it.

The United States Postal Service Office still has to sign the lease.

Community Building. Bob Law, Vanessa Place and Christine Oakley (United Way) are reworking the design

FEMA update- FEMA will be paying for the paving of the roads. The information from Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) was accepted. It was assessed that the wildfire of 2020 took twenty to thirty years off of the life of the paved roads in town.

Wildfire Resiliency Plan (EWU)- Mayor Dan said that the plan is in draft form and is out for review. He encouraged the council to take a look at it. It contains how to go forward as a “firewise” community and measures on how to mitigate wildfire damage. The students will be giving a presentation to the town residents in a virtual meeting in the near future. One of the things that will be addressed, e.g. is the protection of houses with defensible space regarding planting of trees and shrubs near the houses.

Resolution 2022-1 Levy Certification approval-Ben H. moved to approve the resolution, Scott S. seconded, motion carried.

Fiber optics-Jessica Epley w/ Zply said the design of fiber system is complete and construction should begin in March.

Water Project-Steve Marsh with T D & H Engineers talked about the \$3.7 million water system expansion. Applications are in to Dept of Ecology (DOE) showing six locations for wells. There is also an application for water rights to bring existing water rights up to higher function. With the Dept of Health and DOE it will take three to six months for the project to get lined up with

the locations of water lines. On the side south the hydrants will be spaced every nine hundred feet and the hydrants north of the line off of Ash Street to Grouse Street will go to the trailhead. The water system project will be out for bids soon and it will be a two year project.

New Business

Ordinance 2022-1 2021 International Property Maintenance Code-Ben H. moved to approve the ordinance, Bob L. seconded, motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer- Ben H. said that the person hired for this position should be someone with no connection to the town. Scott S. agreed. Bob L. asked if it could possibly be a sheriff reserve officer? Ben H. will talk with the Whitman County Sheriff to see if an officer would be available. Lori D. agreed with this action. It is suggested that the person be paid on a case by case basis.

Safe Citizen Involvement-Mayor Dan said that a few people want to do what they want and not obey rules. Several citizens have stood up to trespassers and told them to leave. The residents want a safe town.

Warrant Register- Check# 8161-8175 -Claims=\$4,748.85, Payroll-\$1,793.80

TOTAL=\$6,542.65

Department Reports

Clerk: No report

Water: Mayor Dan reported that 18,000 gallons of water are pumped every three days. Reminded that late fees are now being placed on delinquent water bills. Community Action Center in Pullman is offering assistance to those who need financial assistance on water bills.

Streets: Ernie reporting that with the weather of freezing, thawing, and freezing rain it has really affected the roads along with the construction of the new homes due to heavy equipment being driven on them. Funds are being set aside for additional gravel. He is fixing potholes on Rose Avenue. He is using a 40 HP tractor which is doing the work.

Park: No report

Fire Department: Mayor Dan said that the fire trucks are still operating. When asked by a resident why the trucks have to be plugged in and he said that it is need for the air brakes and the battery.

Public Comment-No public comment.

Council Report- Ben H. stated that the goal of the council is to make the town better and bigger with growth opportunity. He asked that residents get more involved.

Scott S. stated that the council need to have the public voice their opinion.

Lori D. stated that we can't fix anything when we don't know what is broken. The council is working hard and doing a good job. People should not bad mouth them.

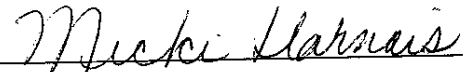
Bob L. stated that he thinks that there should be more open meetings.

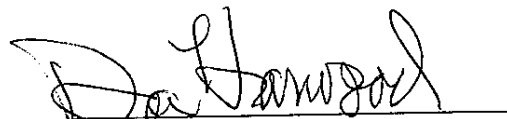
Mayor Comments-Mayor Dan said that the town and LTRO are compiling a list of phone numbers and emails for the town council and LTRO members. He asked that the residents let the mayor and council know what they are doing right and what they could be doing better. He would like to have a community potluck and little get togethers after the COVID restrictions are lifted. An example is to host a visit by bicycle clubs.

Bob L. moved to adjourn, Ben H. seconded, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

ATTESTED BY:


Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor

