

TOWN OF MALDEN
MARCH 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2022-2 Development Regulations at 7:05pm. There were no public comments or councilmember comments. Hearing closed at 7:11pm.

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:11pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Bob Law, Lori Dickinson, Scott Shauf and Ben Hale. Councilmember Janelle 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 February 22, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Scott S. seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements: None

Committe Reports:

LTRO Committee update. Boardmember John Lentz stated all six WAM homes will be moved into tomorrow. They now all have received the Certificates of Occupancy. LTRO officers are: Christine Oakely, President, Rachel Blakely, VicePresident, John Lentz, Treasurer and Chandelle Frick is the Assistant Executive Director. There is no active search for Executive Director at this time.

Old Business-

Municipal Buildings- Temporary Fire Station- Mayor Dan reported that there is a delay in receiving the overhead doors. The plans for the municipal building will be received soon.

Community Building. Bob Law, Vanessa Place and Mayor Dan met with the contract architect and are waiting for new floor plan revisions.

FEMA update- The application for paving of the gravel roads has been submitted.

Wildfire Resiliency Plan (EWU)-No report.

Code Enforcement/Committee- Councilmember Ben H. did talk to the former code enforcement officer from St. John and he was not interested. A short discussion occurred regarding establishing a code enforcement committee which would consist of two councilmembers and a couple of community members.

Public Comments- A comment was received regarding forming a committee for code enforcement. It makes it look like it is a posse for the council. That possibility may be eliminated if residents are also on the committee.

New Business

Cell Tower: Mayor Dan discussed a possible lease between Verizon and the town and the town would pay for the electricity. Janelle T. mentioned that the LTRO possibly could pay for some of the expenses. Scott S. asked if this is a benefit for all or just Verizon customers. Mayor Dan will find this out. The council agreed that this is great project.

Temporary Use Permit for RVs expiration- This permit expires at the end of April, 2022. Each permit will be evaluated on a case by case basis to look at their progress before approving another extension. The RV letter that was sent out from Whitman County was in regard to RVs being a residence on a permanent basis. They are concerned of people living in these unsafe conditions.

Authorization of Mayor and Clerk to sign the lease agreement with the Post Office. Ben H. moved to approve the authorization of Mayor Dan Harwood and Clerk/Treasurer Micki Harnois to sign the lease with the United States Postal Service for office space rental. Bob L. seconded. Motion carried.

Liason for the Council at LTRO meetngs -Lori D. volunteered to be the liason. The council has a consensus for her representing them.

Warrant Register-Checks# 8180 through 8192- Claims-\$17,630.64 and Payroll -\$1,908.55 for a total of \$19,539.19. Bob L. moved to approve the warrants, Janell T. seconded. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Clerk: Micki H. said a public notice will be published in this week and next week edition of the Whitman Gazette. It is a request for qualifications and/or proposals for the the Town of Malden Outdoor Recreation Plan. Micki also discussed the legal ad that the Department of Ecology is requesting in the Gazette for the notice of the town requesting six (6) more points of withdrawal under their two Ground Water Certificates. She also mentioned that several residents are having problems getting packages delivered to their homes. She said to go to Google Maps and put in your address. If the location is wrong, Whitman County Planning suggests that the resident go to the Cheney, WA post office and talk to the supervisor and see if he can help fix the situaion.

Water: Lynn Stuart with Evergreen Rural Water was in Malden today to gather information for the energy audit. As soon as he receives the 2021 Avista bills to review he will submit his report to John Goyke.

Streets: Ernie will be looking for a trailer or old dump truck to haul rock. Bob L. asked if the town has ever looked into purchasing a used truck through Whitman County. Bob L. will check into this.

Park: LTRO is paying for the connex trailers in the park. It is suggested that they be removed.

Fire: Mayor Dan said that he will be taking the brush truck to town tomorrow and will also be buying a battery for it. Burning is allowed with recreational fire 4'x4'x4' in size maximum. Only burning natural vegetation is allowed and fires must be extinguished one-half hour before dark. Area slash fires are currently being burned

Public Comment- Are the existing burnt trees going to be taken down? Team Rubicon is expected to be in the area next spring. Who is going to be taking down trees if they are in the public right-of-way? Possibly LTRO will pay for the electricity on the cell tower? New street signs for the Town?

Council Report- Scott Shauf asked that more updated information be on the town website and Facebook page. Scott will be the administrator of the facebook page.

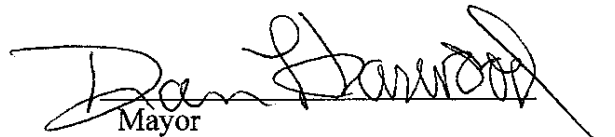
Mayor Comments- Slash piles will be burned on the north side of the creek. They will be burned in a safe manner according to Department of Ecology regulations. Rep. Joe Schmick says that it looks good for the funding for the USDA water loan payoff to be approved. Remember that building permit applications start in the town hall. The clerk issues a letter and it goes with the application to the Whitman County Planning Department.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

ATTESTED BY:


Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor