

TOWN OF MALDEN
MAY 10, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:10pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Bob Law, Lori Dickinson and Scott Shauf. Councilmember Janell Turner attended by phone. Councilmember Ben Hale was absent. Maintenance staff, Ernie Brown was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Lori D. moved to approve the amended agenda, Bob L. seconded, motion carried.

Bob L. moved to approve the April 26, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Scott S. seconded, motion carried.

Announcements: Mayor Dan announced that the Pathfinders will be coming to Malden on May 12th to do landscaping and cleanup at the six recently built Amish homes. Team Rubicon will be in Malden and Pine City on May 20th thru the 22nd. Be sure to complete a Right-of-Entry form if you want them to remove trees from your property. The town will be renting a chipper which will be used by their crew and will be used after they leave for town cleanup. The Town Council and volunteer fire fighters will be riding on the two fire trucks during Battle Days parade in Rosalia, WA. Citizens are welcome to participate but all vehicles must have a “thank you” sign on it to acknowledge the Rosalia Fire Dept and local organizations who were a major participants at the aftermath of the 2020 Labor Day fire. On May 15th legislators from the west side of the state will be on a tour of the area starting with Malden. They will be here at 2:45pm. All town residents are encouraged to attend.

Committee Reports:

LTRO Committee update. John Lenz reported that they are getting items for the May 12th event with the Pathfinders. They will be having an in-person meeting on May 18th at 6:00pm.

Building Committee. The Environmental Review has been completed on the new fire station. We are waiting for Palouse River Rock to issue the letter to the Whitman County Health District that will allow the ability to use the septic system at the temporary fire station.

Code Enforcement Committee-Whitman County Commissioners rescinded the Emergency Proclamation for Malden on May 2nd. They will soon be enforcing the state regulations regarding using an RV as a residence. The Temporary Use Permits that were issued last year expired on April 30, 2022.

Old Business:

Municipal Buildings- Temporary Fire Station- Whitman County issued the Certificate of Occupancy. We are still waiting for motors for the new roll-up doors.

Zipty Fiber project – The main fiber is in. They are going to each house that currently has their service to see if they want fiber installed.

SCJ Alliance- Amendment to the contract for Outdoor Recreation Plan-This eliminates having RV Parks in the near future. Scott S. moved to approve the amendment, Lori D. seconded the motion. Motion carried.-

FEMA Gravel Road Repair Project -Mayor Dan signed the contract today. We will be receiving \$650,000 for the project.

Public Comments-The question was asked when the new sewer system is in place will it be mandatory to hook up to it. Mayor Dan said that right after construction it will be free to hook up. If it is done later the property owner will have to pay for hookup.

New Business:

Vegetation Control-The maximum height for vegetation before it is a nuisance is 12 inches. Mayor Dan will be meeting with the owner of a goat business on May 17th to explore the cost of having goats in town to clean up town properties. The goats are enclosed in an electric/solar fence. They will be starting on the west end of town. Mayor Dan thanked everyone who has been mowing their lawns. He also thanked Ernie for the mowing throughout town.

Warrant Register-Checks# 7224 through 7228 – Claims-\$24,730.48 and \$-0-. Bob L. moved to approve the warrants, Janell T. seconded. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Clerk: No report. Now we can seek the approval of the water line extension. Ernie B. stated that the new homes are having water pressure issues. This is due to different size pipes outside the houses. Property owners are responsible for their water lines from the water meter to the house.

Streets: No report

Park: Ernie Brown is going to start watering. Two seniors from Rosalia High School are going to put the new basketball hoops up. They will be putting up poles. Bob Law asked if the Pathfinders, when they are here on May 12th, can pick up the rocks in the park that were part of the digging of the test holes. Mayor Dan is planning on taking the tires to the dump. John Lenz has offered to cut the bolts that are keeping the tires together and using a chain saw to cut the tires in pieces and taking them to a tire store for recycling.


Fire Department: The fire trucks are now stored in the new fire station. The brush truck is ready to go. They will be purchasing an air compressor.

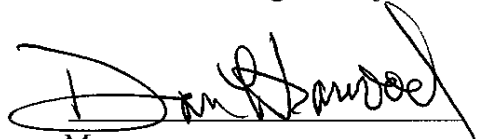
Public Comment-Someone asked if the town can charge if lawns are not mowed? When the lawns are over 12 inches in height it is up to the property owner to mow. If no remedy is made, this could lead to eventual fines incurred. Can students mow lawns? Possibly the town make a list of people who are need of having mowing done. Then make a list of volunteers or mowing services. Possibly mowing be a money maker for youth groups such as Scouts.

Council Report- Bob L. asked what the town will do when people who own homes and are not here to mow. They will be subject to the code violation procedure the Town has set.

Mayor Report-Mayor Dan stated that there are 23 new homes currently. He suggested that residents contact the Whitman County Emergency Management office to register for an alarm notification in case the town has to vacate due to an emergency.

Bob L. moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott S. seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.


Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor