

**TOWN OF MANHATTAN
Thursday, December 21, 2023
Regular Meeting
MINUTES**

Mayor Traig Howells called the meeting to order in the Town Meeting Room at 207 S. 6th St. at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Ryan Engbretson, Betsy Mancuso, Josh Powell, and Morgan Taylor. Also present were Public Works Supervisor Jeff McAllister and Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey. Eight members of the public were present. No members of the public were present by Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

WRRF PROJECT UPDATE:

Mayor Howells gave the update. He stated that schedule 1 and 2 bids were open this morning and are in review. More information will come on January's agenda.

NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROJECT COUNTY GRANT:

Motion- Powell; Second- Mancuso; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to not approve the Nutrient Reduction Project and give the money back to the County and not pursue the project.

Mayor Howells gave a background of the project. The grant is a pass through from the County. The Town needs to let the County know by the end of the month if we plan to use the grant. The Council had approved the application of the project in October for a project on the Kaiser Ranch. The Kaiser Ranch is rethinking their project, so the Town would have to design a wetlands project in the North Lagoon to use the grant. The grant is for 90% of the analysis and design for the wetlands project. It is hard to quantify the result. It is seasonal depending on the weather. There are birds in the wetland, so the birds would be pooping in the wetlands. This type of project is used more in the east for individual septic systems.

Council discussed the reason that the Kaiser Ranch is rethinking the project on their property. Discussion involved the necessity of the RIB in the current project. DEQ is more in favor of the RIB design than using the Dita Ditch.

Glen Clement, 709 Madison Ave: He pointed out that the RIB is designed to go into the south lagoon and the mixing zone and easement are in the proposed area for this project. He did not think that the north lagoon would work.

ENGINEER SELECTION FOR WATER PER:

Motion- Mancuso; Second- Taylor; Vote- 3 for – 1 against (Powell): Motion passed to award TD&H the PER for the Water Distribution Project.

Mayor Howells outlined the selection criteria and the scores.

Scott Hazelton, Hyalite Engineering: He offered to answer questions on their proposal.

Council discussed the proposals. The committee recommendation was to use TD&H for the Water Distribution PER. The Council discussed the criteria used and past dealings with the various firms.

PLANNERS REPORT:

Scott Hazelton, Town Planner: He stated that the Planning Board is working on setting up a regional planning council with Three Forks, Amsterdam/Churchill, Logan, and Clarkston. The main goal is information sharing, reviewing projects, development pressure, etc. The Regional Planning Committee focuses mainly on Bozeman and Belgrade. The Planning Board was in favor of setting a regional council up. He invited the Council to the February Planning Board meeting for the discussion on setting it up. He will present a more formal proposal after the first of the year. The Growth Policy update has a current land use map based on Cadastral data. He is coordinating with the County on the boundaries of the land use map.

HB355 DISCUSSION:

The Council discussed the items on the list that was compiled with input from Kyle Scarr, Jeff McAllister and Todd Eyman.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Planning Board – 1 Mayoral appointment, 1 Council appointment

Motion- Engbretson; Second- Mancuso; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Mayoral appointment of Lindsay Schack to the Planning Board for a 4-year term.

Motion- Mancuso; Second- Powell; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to appoint Steffan Simpkins to the Planning Board for a 4-year term.

Board of Adjustment – Mayoral appointment

Motion- Engbretson; Second- Taylor; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Mayoral appointment of Nicholas Moholt to the Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Mayor Traig Howells was sworn in by Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey.

Council members Betsy Mancuso and Ryan Miller were sworn in by Mayor Howells.

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Councilman Engbretson: The skating rink boards are up. They are waiting for colder weather to fill. The new playground equipment is up and ready to use. He thanked the Town Crew for their work. The old merry-go-round will be installed by the tires by the ballparks.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The Town received a Dominos Plowing for Pizza grant of \$25,000 for snow removal equipment. The Town has purchased a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck for plowing and are planning to purchase a side by side with a plow for the park and sidewalks. The company in the commercial will be donating a plow to the Town also.

- City shop rehab is finishing up. Mold and mildew has been removed, repairs made and new sheeting was installed.
- He appreciates the Town Employees and commends everyone on staff.
- He thanked the Council for their service to the Town and welcomed Ryan Miller.
- He thanked Morgan Taylor for serving on the Council.
- Merry Christmas!

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion- Engbretson; Second- Powell; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda.

Town Licenses: Big Sky Waterproofing, LLC, Alliance Concrete Pumping, LLC, Whistle Stop Bungalow, Central Electric Inc, and Bushido Mountain LLC


Kennel License: Bob Uhrich, 710 Jefferson

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting minutes from November 9, 2023.

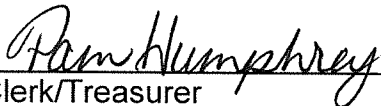
Claims: Dated 11/09/23 – 12/21/23 totaling \$ 451,733.12.

ADJOURN:

Motion- Taylor; Second- Engbretson; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer