

**TOWN OF MANHATTAN
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2023
MINUTES**

Mayor Glen Clements 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, Josh Powell, Betsy Mancuso, and Morgan Taylor. Also present were Town Attorney Jane Mersen, Chief of Police Dennis Hengel, Public Works Supervisor Jeff McAllister, and Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey. Three members of the public were present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Mancuso, 113 N 4th: He stated the he wanted to kudos to the Public Works department for the work they have done on the snow, ice, and flooding around Town.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-001 – PROHIBITING MARIJUANA BUSINESSES: Second Reading

Clerk read the public hearing notice.

Public Hearing

None

Discussion/Decision

Motion- Engbretson; Second- Mancuso; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve Ordinance No. 23-001, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Manhattan amending the Manhattan Municipal Code to permanently prohibit Marijuana businesses in the Town of Manhattan, this Ordinance will amend Title 10, Chapters 1 and 4.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Dennis Hengel, Chief of Police: He updated the Council on the Police Department. He described the false report of an active shooter at the school in December. He also thanked the Public Works team for their help with setting up a perimeter to prevent people from entering the scene. Officer Armstrong is at the Law Enforcement Academy. Officer Tomlins is at Field Training Officer school. Officer Harris is at military drills. Today, he spoke to the legislature in Helena regarding allowing Towns to join the 20-year police retirement program. The radio system in the County went to the digital system on January 10th. They only have 3-4 handheld radios and one in the patrol cars that can operate on the digital channels. He spoke to the communications director. Analog will be phased out totally in the fall of 2023. He gave an estimate of \$ 22,700 for replacing three mobile radios and \$7500 each for hand-held radios. He will address the need in the next fiscal year.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

Jeff McAllister, Public Works Supervisor: He updated the Council with what the Public Works department have been working on. They have been doing a lot of locates and water and sewer inspections. This has been the busiest year for those items. The park path continues to be overlayed a bit every year. There was a main break this summer

on the Springline. It is very important to keep the tank level high enough for fire flow. Ben Johnson went to the Snow Rodeo this year and got first place in snowplow and grader. He also got second in the loader competition. This is a very competitive thing. There were a lot of water samples done this year. Water quality is very good. He described the SCADA system that monitors the water system. Currently, wells are being drilled in Taylor Park to relieve the amount of treated water used in watering the park. This will help the water system a lot. He thanked Pioneer Crossing developers for paying for up to \$50,000 for the wells. Dominos Pizza did a commercial in Manhattan recently. They asked for help from the Public Works crew with storing vehicles and moving equipment. They paid the town for renting the space. The production company may also gift a plow and a grant for a dump truck. There is a tree grant available for removing and replacing trees in Town that he has been able to use. They have been maintaining hydrants, pressure testing hydrants, and cleaning out storm drains. Snow removal has been keeping them very busy. The crew had a previous discussion to plan to help with an incident like the one at the school in December, so they were prepared.

Councilwoman Mancuso: She asked if he could give some information about Tiger Lane. She had asked the developer at the last meeting why there were barricades on Tiger Lane. The developer answered that it was for safety reasons because of a one foot drop off. She referenced an email between McAllister, Kyle Scarr and the developer. In those emails, safety was not mentioned once. She also had a picture of the barricades and the road near them. She asked Jeff for his input as she doesn't feel that the Council was told the truth.

Jeff McAllister, Public Works Supervisor: He stated that he did not agree that there was a one foot drop off. He thought that it was a seamless transition to drive on. He stated that it could have been open the whole time. The construction crews were using it the whole time and then stopped and put the barricades up. He asked the foreman about opening it and he was told to ask the developer, that they may put concrete barriers out. He feels it put the Town in a compromising position. Inconvenience is one thing, but safety is the main issue.

WRF UPDATE:

Matt McGee, Project Engineer: He stated that plans and specs have submitted to the DEQ and have received comments and questions from the DEQ. They are working on replying to the comments. Funding calls have been happening approximately every six weeks. Environmental reports have been moving along. The most recent call mentioned the budget. So far, equipment has been coming in higher than budgeted. They plan to move forward with the bid and make budget decisions based on bid options. Any budget changes will be addressed after the bids come in. The timing of the bid will depend of the Discharge Permit approval timing. They have been helping to communicate with Amsterdam/Churchill regarding the cost share. They are working on the site title opinion with Jane.

Jane Mersen, Town Attorney: She stated that no agreement has been made with Manhattan Orchards on the mixing zone easement yet.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Planning Board

Motion- Mancuso; Second- Powell; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Mayoral appointment of Pete Oakander to the Planning Board for a two-year term.

Motion- Engbretson; Second- Taylor; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to reappoint Tom Wells to the Planning Board for a two-year term.

Park Board

Motion- Powell; Second- Engbretson; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to approve the Mayoral appointment of Samantha Donaghy to the Park Board for a four-year term.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- The wells in the park are currently being drilled. A lot of treated water is being saved this way.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Kennel License: Bob Uhrich, 710 Jefferson


Town Licenses: C7 Solutions, Engineering Operations, LLC, Broker Enterprises, York Productions, and Last Best Ranch, LLC.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting minutes from December 7, 2022.


Claims: Dated 12/08/22 – 01/12/23 totaling \$ 416,263.63.

ADJOURN:

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



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer