

TOWN OF SUGAR CITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
01/25/2023

**CALL TO ORDER** 6:55 pm by Mayor John Del Rio

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led by Mayor John Del Rio

**ROLL CALL** Hijar, Roberts, Del Rio, Willis, Larsen, Massey and Town Attorney Nathan Shultz

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **Motion** to approve minutes dated 01/04/2023 made by Larsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hijar, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

**REPORTS**

Water; Not present

Clerk: Jeff at Flow Right got me the model number, now he is not returning any calls about pump they currently have. Discussion over pump. Decision made for attorney to send letter.

County Clerk is needing to have Mayor authorized for titles. Discussion over who is listed. **Motion** to add Mayor John Del Rio to county clerk authorization and keep other three listed as well made by Larsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Willis, motion carried.

Terry is requesting February 2 and 3 off. Discussion over vacation days. Decision made to allow Terry vacation days.

CRW: Annual Conference and Exhibition, does the town want anyone to go? Discussion over sending someone to the conference. **Motion** to send Trustee Larsen on one of the days made by Willis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massey, motion carried.

Otero County Commissioners: would like water. Discussion over water and what they are asking. Decision made not to give.

CPA to do the audit, can't find anyone who is taking new customers at this time. Discussion over CPA's that could do an audit. Decision made to contact Jackson Hewitt and Trustee Willis will get another name. Commissioners' website, have any of you revised what you wanted to website to say. No discussion.

Mbar Farms is not sending our payment back, nor are they replying to emails. Have Mr. Shultz send letter to get refund? Discussion over refund. Decision made to have attorney send letter.

Greg Colter showed Terry and I how to work everything it appeared to work well. Had everything ready to go for readings, he stated the reader doesn't work. He is not going to use it. Got it working and Trustee Massey and Luis went and used reader, seemed everything imported wonderfully. Passed report of readings around to Trustees.

Sky spoke with Mr. Higby owner of house on Montana, he just moved out of state. He is waiting for the sheriff and fire departments to contact him, then he is planning on tearing down the house. We have pulled the meter, when someone else purchases the property, they will have to reinstall. No discussion.

CIRSA coverage for 2024 is changing. Everyone received copy. (Attached)

Water Tank repair: Pittsburg Tank: work needing to be completed on water tower. Discussion over what is mandatory. Decision made to begin with anchor bolts, tightened to specifications and seal the foundation. **In addition the cleanout and screen replacement for tank maintenance.**

Senior Center letter: (attached). Found letter in office from November of 2021, is this something the council is still wanting to do? Discussion over spacing for trucks in back. Decision made to invite Scott Bebee and Lucille Nichols to attend next meeting to discuss.

Office Space: We need to figure something out for the office. With the third person in there it is making it extremely tight. What can we do to remedy this? Discussion over moving treasurer into back room.

Decision made to contact Gobins' and see what they can do for office space.

JR's is no longer allowing charge accounts. Discussion over charge account. Decision made to add Crystal to Ben's.

Quick books: Upgraded software, saved about \$800 a year. Also stopped the \$85 monthly expense for payroll. No discussion.

Cindy come and train me some different things in Quick books. Discussion over her coming in. Decision made to pay her \$14 an hour for her time.

Term limits: attached. Discussion over term limits.

Chamber of commerce: received yearly membership dues. Discussion over reason for membership. Decision made to pay dues.

Southeastern Colorado Water: Ark Valley Conduit. Letter reminding why we had no payment last quarter. No discussion.

Chainsaw: contacted Fuller they don't have any at this time. Called 4Rivers they have a MS170 for 199.99, ms180 for 280.00, or a battery operated 14' for 350.00. Discussion over chainsaw use and need.

**Motion** to purchase the MS170 and an extra chain made by Hajar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Willis, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk:

Credits customers would like for disconnection fees. Discussion over disconnection fees. Decision made not to allow, rules are rules, all customers are equal.

Credits customers would like for late fees. Discussion over late fees. Decision made not to allow.

Credits customers would like for missed trash pickups. Discussion over missed trash. Decision made not to allow.

Late fee on customer accounts. Discussion over late fees. Decision made to tell customers to come to a meeting and speak with the council.

New pricing on commercial customers receptacles. Discussion over commercial accounts. Decision made to increase each at same rate of others, \$1.50 per tote and \$3.00 a yard.

Request to survey the lagoons and cemetery. Discussion over survey and reason for them. Decision made to look into getting surveys completed.

Terry asked if he could get the shelves he was approved for. Discussion over shelving units purchased previously. Decision made that he can order two (2) shelves.

Service Fees that were not visited when review rates. Discussion over rates not reviewed. Decision made to go over in workshop.

Update on coyotes in town. Read aloud (attached). No discussion.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** **Motion** to pay bills in the amount of \$69,587.80 made by Willis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Massey, motion carried.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Hajar: What is KS bank? That is for the 2019 Peterbilt garbage truck.

Roberts: No comment

Del Rio: Senior Center has a Bunn Coffee machine they are selling. Discussion over purchasing the coffee machine from Senior Center. **Motion** to offer \$100.00 for coffee maker made by Hajar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Willis, motion carried.

Willis: Receiving several calls from citizens about their yards. Discussion over yards. No decision made.

Larsen: Stay on top of the pipeline for Mr. Hajar. Discussion over engineer report. Decision made to contact GMS and get study.

Webinar on grants, attempted to login and could not. No discussion.

Stray dog on edge of town bothering cattle out of town. Discussion over dog. Decision made to have cattle owner notify town every time dog bothers cattle.

Audit: What are we doing about the audit? **David:** Have it scheduled to start working on that the first of February. **Larsen:** Ok thanks.

Massey: Took six (6) holidays from the employees. Discussion over holidays. Decision made to discuss at workshop.

Open council seat, want to interview people before placing someone. No discussion.

Austin Sanders:

**Mr. Shultz:** Project is undercutting businesses that do things like that. Not saying we should not do the work just that this should not be a habit.

**Mr. Sanders:** Remove two (2) tanks from under ground on my business grounds. They should have been removed in 2012 and 2015. Did not know that, got everything up and going for my business. The division from oil and gas came out and said they have red tags they should have been removed. Hired a geo-consultant come down and do a survey. Discussion over all the steps he has taken to get to this point. Geo-consultant will be on scene to make sure that the town is safe and in compliance. Once the tanks are removed and we will be able to see if and where the water is coming from. Have \$4,000 that is going towards removing the tanks. Mr. Carmen Hernandez is taking the tanks. Get done as soon as possible.

**Massey:** My concern is that we are not going to be capable of handling the work. We would need to have a waiver saying that we are removing the tanks and beyond that we are not liable.

**Motion** to approve us doing the work to remove tanks and concrete, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larsen, motion died.

Further discussion over what is in the tanks and what should have been in the tanks. Removal of sign and table to make have removal of tanks easier.

**Motion** to approve removing the tanks and concrete, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larsen, motion carried.

**Executive Session:** For a conference with the Town attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b)

**Motion** to go into executive session at 8:48 by Willis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hajar, motion carried.

**CALL TO ORDER** at 9:21 by Mayor John Del Rio

**ADJOURN Motion** to adjourn at 9:21pm by Larsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Willis, motion carried.

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Mayor