

TOWN OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 7:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rocky Pulley, Jackie Sutton, Travis Wilson, Randy Bernard, David Olsen

STAFF PRESENT: Dina Young, Jim McGraw

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Wanamaker, Brennan Hammer, Branden Thornton, Becky McGraw, Erin Montgomery, Kent Craven, Tom and Arlene Greenslade, Mary and Jerry Allen, Tim Dehl, Wanda Jensen, and late arrival Sharon Novitski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Olsen read a thank-you card received from the Bible Study Foundation group, thanking the town for allowing the use of the town hall, and reported a cash donation to the town was received by Gladys Merrell.

LIMA AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION REPORT: Thornton reported the Welcome to Lima sign is back up after its "facelift." The permission for the kiosk is currently with the state in Helena. The foundation has been having good meetings, progress is being made, and the \$2,000 grant check has been received. Montgomery reported that Cecil is working on the Gateway Community application, the foundation has received its EIN, they will be getting a bank account, and they will be filing their 1023-EZ, and will be able to provide charitable contribution recognition for donations to the foundation.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Melissa Wanamaker and Brennan Hammer of Headwaters RC&D gave a presentation about the highlights of the services, assistance, training, and funding available through the organization.

NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION TAKEN:

1. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Pulley, to approve the consent agenda. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Sutton, to approve Ordinance 31: Building Compliance with Construction Checklist, Second Reading. Public comment given by Wanda Jensen, Kent Craven, Arlene Greenslade, Erin Montgomery, Branden Thornton, and Tim Dehl. After a

significant amount of public questions and public comment and lengthy discussion, the council agreed that there should be a pause in order to answer the questions. Roll call vote on the original motion: Bernard nay, Pulley nay, Sutton nay, Wilson nay. Motion failed unanimously. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Pulley, to ask for written questions to be sent to the town hall through 5 p.m. Friday, 6/14 to allow for review and possible amendment of the Ordinance. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.

3. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Pulley, to table agenda item “discuss and determine fees for permit required by ordinance 31” to the July meeting. Public comment given by Wanda Jensen and Erin Montgomery. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
4. The budget hearing was listed on the agenda as postponed to the July meeting in order to obtain June expenses, so no discussion was necessary.
5. Discussion regarding annual wage setting, COLA adjustments, and FY2025 wage determination. Mayor Olsen advised Lima is far behind on wages compared with other towns for these positions. Public comment given by Arlene Greenslade, Becky McGraw, and Mary Allen. A motion by Sutton, seconded by Bernard, to raise the two appointed employees \$4.50/hour plus 4.1% COLA. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk will bring wage-setting resolution to next meeting.
6. Discussion regarding potential town interest in purchasing the property for sale along Harrison. Sutton advised this property is in the floodplain, the asking price seems high and a lot of clean-up would be necessary, but it could be turned into green space or built upon with appropriate floodplain permits. Septic would also be an issue. No action.
7. Discussion regarding potential town interest in receiving ownership of the old VFW building. Mayor Olsen advised a representative from the Affiliated Service Veterans of the Red Rock approached him regarding this. Montgomery advised she has been researching the number of veterans here and the possibility of reinstating a VFW in Lima. (The post was closed by the VFW in the past due to lack of membership.) Pulley advised it would require 35 people for membership and VFW leadership can be addressed to reinstate the post if that is what the town wants to do with the building. Wilson believes the town should pursue this. A motion by Wilson to table this to the July meeting. Motion amended by Pulley, seconded by Sutton, to also gather more information. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Discussion regarding town funding for kiosk. Dehl advised the approximate amount needed after donation of labor and some materials is \$3,500. Pulley inquired if fundraising options have been pursued. Thornton advised that they have, however, they are seeking some town support. Dehl advised as soon as approval from the state is given, construction will begin, and that he will even pay out of his own pocket. A motion by Sutton to support the project with an amount up to \$5,000. Bernard believes that amount should be lower, and Pulley believes \$2,000 should be the amount. A motion by Pulley, seconded by Bernard, to support up to \$2,000 then hold further discussion at that point. Montgomery advised they will be fundraising as well as seeking grant funds. B. McGraw offered to speak to the 4H kids about fundraising. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton abstain, Wilson aye. Motion carried.
9. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Pulley to approve the annual 4th of July festivities. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
10. No discussion regarding FY2025 budget ideas. Discussion will take place at budget meetings.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION TAKEN:

11. Discussion regarding annexation of properties outside of town limits that are receiving water and other services and new information from attorney. The letters drafted by attorney were not sent to the affected property owners due to new information received by attorney after one of the property owners researched old minutes. Pulley had questions about Montana Code Annotated, the documents, and a referenced letter without a signature. J. Allen explained what the meeting referenced in the old minutes was about, and M. Allen explained she believed the contract was completed when they began paying their water bill, and old minutes show they were advised by W. Congdon against annexing. Bernard believes a legal decision needs to be made and it cannot be made at this meeting. It would need to be made with legal counsel, and be clear and specific. Sutton agreed. This topic will be added to the July meeting agenda.
12. Montgomery spoke about the upcoming activities for Be the Change 406. 6/28: softball game with kids vs. adults and 7/12 outdoor drive-in movie. The group would like to have an activity once per month on a Friday.
13. Discussion regarding plan of action for old grader. J. McGraw reported that J. Lessley looked at the pony motor and it had broken pistons and was a mess. He offered to search for a new motor. A motion by Bernard, seconded by Pulley, to sell the grader in a sealed bid format with a \$1,000 minimum bid amount. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Council voted on the May Yard-of-the-Month program winner. The winner: Bob and Candy Estill. Mayor Olsen will bring over the award sign. Pulley advised he would like to see a group of community members nominate and determine monthly winners. Clerk will post flyer seeking community members to do this.
15. Discussed plan of action for old town truck. A motion by Wilson, seconded by Bernard and Sutton simultaneously, to keep the truck in service and utilize it during the summer when appropriate. Bernard aye, Pulley aye, Sutton aye, Wilson aye. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Wilson gave update on the plan to install awnings at the fire hall. He has arranged a contractor to come out and look at the job and give a cost estimate.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: None

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: Bernard reported they had a great work day at the Bailey building and a lot of work was done. They will be doing more work on the roof tomorrow morning (6/11). They can always use more help.

A motion by Wilson, seconded by Pulley, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm. Next regular council meeting to be held on Monday, July 8th, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor

Clerk