

Town of Cheyenne Wells
Regular Meeting
March 8, 2022
6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Syl Mireles called the regular meeting to order at 6 pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Council Present: Marian Henderson, Kendall Pelton, Kara Uhland, George Unruh and
Erica Kern

Council Absent: None.

Staff Present: Town Clerk Debbie Knudsen and Town Superintendent Josh Richards.

Visitors Present: Sheriff Michael Buchannan, Corporal Joseph Conner, Deputy Angel Barrer, Sherry Jones, Carmen Halde, Jeff & Penny Engelbrecht, Ashton Mitchek, Tori Beek, Autumn Pelton, John Adamson, Gaila Mitchek, Monte Baker, Phillip Helm, Sarah Hyle, Rhonda Brown, Barbara Engelbrecht, CW School Superintendent Randy Holman, Matt Roberts, Ellette Eiring, Kelsey Roberts, Danetta Schreiber, Elizabeth Hampton, Amy Mitchek, Jim Lengel, Shane & Deni Eiring, Diane Harms, Kathy Dwyer Keefe, Gerald Keefe, John Gladman, Phil & Pat Daugherty, and Brenda Miller.

APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the correction to remove Wilson & Company, they were unable to attend, upon motion by Councilman Pelton and seconded by Councilman Henderson. All ayes, motion carried.

VISITOR'S

No visitor comments were made at this time.

SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Sheriff Michael Buchannan introduced his staff Deputy Angel Barrera and his wife have a family of four and live in Cheyenne Wells, Corporal Joseph Conner and his wife live in Kit Carson with their two children.

Sheriff Buchannan reported that they now have their dispatch transferred to the Kit Carson County Sheriff's Office and are currently working with them on updating their system to coordinate with Cheyenne County. Working with the Commissioners with hire two more officers. The Sheriff's Department was awarded \$86,500 in 2019 grants to assist with the placing of two of their solar powered speed limit signs within the city limits as well as a speed signage for the school area here in Cheyenne Wells. Also, as per statutes all staff will be wearing body cameras before July of 2023.

ELLETTE & SHANE EIRING MEDICINE ARROW PARK

Ellette, Shane, & Deni Eiring were in attendance. Ellette addressed the Council with the following letter:

"Thank you to the board for the approval of the new sign at Medicine Arrow Park. My family wishes to donate it to MAP in honor and memory of Terry. The East and West end wooden signs will be removed. The new sign will be placed in a central area of the park.

I had a brief discussion at City Hall with Mayor Syl Mireles and Town Superintendent. Joshua Richards. I confronted Mr. Richards about his turning off the drip watering system repeatedly this past summer. Mr. Richards thought the fire truck the city has could be used to haul unpotable water to the trees as opposed to using the existing drip system. Mayor Mireles thought perhaps incorporating unpotable water through the drip system somehow is an idea. They will meter the park. The firetruck would not adequately deep water the trees with run off being an issue, as well as access and time efficiency. The unpotable water would not be safe to use through the existing drip system.



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There are three hydrants that house the drip system two of which release valves. From these we have noted that children get drinks, people also water pets, and travelers get containers of water. The trees only receive water every 2-3 weeks. They are left for three days unless taken off prematurely. They are on low volume bubble misters. There are just drips on the evergreens. The park has no overhead water and so it is different than the settings at city hall or in lawn settings that get watered every three days. When the new trees are planted, they must have water once a week until established, but of course a lesser amount. I will watch that and cut those sprinklers off sooner than the large trees.

The water issues must be addresses through a vote before we proceed with the new trees. The Cheyenne Wells Improvement Committee (CWIC) requests the drip system be left and used as is. We are all in agreement that the existing drip system is the only feasible way to water the trees. If so the CWIC has generously agreed to purchase the new replacement trees. Since the Parks inception all the trees have been gifted to the city. The maintenance of the existing drip system had been done by Terry and me over the years and now I continue to do so. The garden is not on a drip system and gets watered once a week for one hour. My family and volunteers will help us remove the existing trees and plant the new trees.

I did contact Derek Kern with DAK Tree Service about the cost of removing the two Elm Tree trunks and stumps on the east end of the park. His cost would be \$15-\$20 for the single cut to take them down the rest of the way. The stump grinding would be \$4 an inch if the chips are raked and left. Those were pre-existing before MAP and the CWIC did not plant those. We would ask the board to vote on the removal and pay for the cost. Also, the stump grinding for the two ornamental pear trees that we will remove as the city had pledged to remove them.

The mayor also stated that the city would help with hauling the trees off, if it worked with their schedule. We would need to tell them ahead of time for the planned dates. The tree in memory of Raymond Helm here at City Hall was removed and will be replaced by CWIC. Rayetta Addy was contacted.

Shirley Rother was contacted about her memorial at the park in memory of Harold Rother and about the needed repairs or perhaps changes. The stucco is crumbling off on the back side and bubbling in other places. The pump burnt out. The plug in shorted and it has no cover and should for safety reasons. The two benches at the patio site need bottom slats replaced. I know Debbie helped Shirley with that and perhaps she could order replacement slats. If the fountain is repaired and used again it will need to be anchored securely and it will need its own water source which could possibly come from the hydrant by the little building on the west end. We had found that it was attached to our drip system, but when the drip was off there was no water going to the fountain feature. Shirley stated that she does not want to do anything with it at this point. She is fine with whatever the board decides. She feels it is the City's responsibility and if in the future the city decides to take it down, she wants the plaque back.

The plumbing still leaks from the men's bathroom. There is a collection bucket in use to hold the leaking water in the shed side of the building. Jeannie and I dump it as needed. The men's restroom door is not in very good shape and the casings on all the doors including the garage door have wood rot. I asked that the board take time to inspect all of these issues and go from there with their input. Perhaps a plumber and carpenter could be hired. Mr. Richards also thought the wooden wall façade at the playground area was a danger. It seems stable and does offer a windbreak as well as a partial screen from the street traffic. The city did place a requested trash receptacles at a couple of picnic areas and cut the lower branches from on evergreen tree making it easier to rake and I wish to thank them.

The Entryway "Welcome to Cheyenne Wells" signage areas need addressed in the near future. They were placed in 1991 and the panels have rusted through and cannot be fixed. There was confusion on who is responsible for those by Mr. Richards. The city owns them. They were a joint effort of the City and CWIC. I hall water to the trees, pick up trash, mow and trim the three areas.

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The park is well used by our county residents as well as travelers that stop along the way. I do believe it is one of our community's greatest assets. It is a reflection of a city that it is welcoming and offers diverse variety of physical activities for all ages. Many stop and pause in silence as they read the beautiful tribute at the Veteran's Memorial. Without the generosity of so many who have gifted so much this park would not be in existence today.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge Mayo Pro-tem Kara Uhland, Trustees; Erica Kern, George Unruh, and Kendall Pelton for their dedication while serving their terms on Town Council."

Discussion followed and support by many in attendance what Ellette said is true and are wanted to be informed about the needs and concerns of their public park and many there were willing to help keep the Town's wonderful asset alive.

The Mitchek Family discussed their fort that was built in their dad, Wes Mitchek's memory. Any needed improvements to the fort to please approach them first and they would gladly help in any way possible.

CHEYENNE WELLS RECREATION ASSOCIATION (CWRA)-SARAH HYLE & GAILA MITCHEK

CWRA representatives Sarah Hyle and Gaila Mitchek came before Council to request their and \$4000 to water the ball fields for the summer along with a three-year renewal contract. Discussion followed. The annual donation of \$4000 to CWRA for water the ballfields with a three-year renewal contract was approved upon motion from Councilwoman Uhland and seconded by Councilwoman Erica Kern. All voting for, motion carried.

EASTERN CHEYENNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ECHS) SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE

Jim Lengel representing ECHS, as President Rosemary Lengel was unable to attend the meeting tonight, came before Council to request a special events liquor license for the annual Cajun Boil on April 23, 2022. Discussion followed. The special event's liquor license for ECHS and waiving of the liquor license fee of \$25 was approved upon motion from Councilwoman Kern and seconded by Councilman Pelton. All voting for, motion carried.

MMOF CDOT FUNDING/WORSHOP UPDATE/SUPPORT LETTERS

Mayor Mireles yielded the floor to Councilman Unruh to report on the workshop. CDOT stated that there was no penalty for returning the total grant amount of \$371,541 as all six CDOT committee members agreed that this total project cost would extend well above the amount granted for the sidewalk improvement at the school and would be the Town's financial responsibility to fund their \$85,000 plus any overage in cost of the grant for this project. It was made aware to all in attendance tonight at the meeting that 60% of this sidewalk improvement grant was outside the city limits of Cheyenne Wells and with neither the school nor Cheyenne County helping with any financial support. This grant was from 2015 and was not well drafted. At the Town of Cheyenne Wells regular meeting on February 8th the Council approved unanimously to return the grant. The mayor after that meeting was still encouraging others to continue with the project. This is a great project however the City cannot be the only financial entity in a Town, County, School owned project. Discussion followed. The Council requested that Clerk Knudsen write a letter immediately to CDOT stating the Town of Cheyenne Wells is denying the MMOF grant funds upon motion from Councilman Unruh and seconded by Councilwoman Uhland. Voting For: Pelton, Uhland, Unruh, & Kern. Abstained: Henderson. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The minutes for February 8, 2022, were reviewed and approved as corrected upon motion from Councilman Henderson and seconded by Councilman Pelton. All ayes, motion carried.

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APPROVE BILLS FOR ALL FUNDS

The bills for all funds were approved upon motion from Councilwoman Uhland and seconded by Councilwoman Kern. All voting for, motion carried.

Council reviewed the monthly KC Electric Association Franchise Tax.

APPROVE BULDING PERMITS

The Council approved the building permit submitted by Sherry Jones for the improvement to the porch and additional storage upon motion from Councilman Unruh and seconded by Councilwoman Uhland. All voting for, motion carried.

ELECTION APPOINTMENT UPDATE

The Council reviewed two Council interest letters from Mark Galli and Sherry Jones. Clerk Knudsen will continue to accept letters of interest for the remaining spots that will be open in April until March 22nd at 4 pm. On March 23, 2022, the Council will hold a Special meeting to consider the appointments. Clerk Knudsen received election information from Karen Goldman, CML Election Official and legal advice from Town Attorney Brooke Campbell on what the Town would need to have in place with the current council if seats were not filled by the April regular meeting to keep the Town government running.

CHEYENNE COUNTY SCHOOL SURVEY FOR TRACK GRANT

Surveys were given to all of the Council to fill out and return after the meeting so Councilwoman Uhland could return to the School for the Track grant they are working on. Superintendent Randy Holmen discussed the track planning stages. Clerk Knudsen will write a letter of support from the Town for the Cheyenne County School District track project.

DOG POUND CONSTRUCTION UPGRADE UPDATE

Superintendent Richards stated that they would be breaking ground next month. He said they would get in compliance with the state.

REVIEW JOB APPLICATION REVIEW

Council reviewed the job application received for administration interest. The Clerk will keep this on file at this time. Council asked Town Superintendent Richards what happened with the motion that they hired Jeff Miller at last month's meeting as some of them had been approached by Mr. Miller that he never heard back from Superintendent Richards. Discussion followed that Superintendent Richards and Mayor Mireles interviewed him. Superintendent Richards did not realize he was supposed to hire him. Mayor Mireles stated the Mr. Miller did not have his CDL until December. Discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not need an Executive Session at this time.

HOUSING REPORT-COUNCILMAN HENDERSON

Councilman Henderson stated they did not have a meeting.

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER OFFICE UPDATE

Deputy Karen Miller is home ill this week and will be out of office next week for approved prior requested personal time off.

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Clerk Knudsen reported on findings with the Town's Workman's Comp and Property & Casualty insurance group CIRSA. Apparently due to the Town not reporting back from last May's audit walk through with past Clerk Hoffman and Town Superintendent Richards the Town received a 35 score out of 100. This was disappointing. CIRSA representative will be here on April 14 to do this year's audit walk through and it is important that the Town staff has their shop, parks, well sites, and city hall in clean and safety order to help get our scores up in the 90 range where it should be to get credits toward our insurance costs.

Council reviewed the monthly memo Clerk Knudsen submitted.

Clerk Knudsen will be out of office the morning of March 28th for an appointment and March 29th and 30th personal days.

TOWN SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Town Superintendent Richards waiting on Sensus system parts to put in and working on equipment repairs. Hoping to begin chip sealing next week.

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Councilman Henderson reported that Duerst Machine Works had decided that Doty Well can put out 125 gallons a minute. They will resize that month and use the same tubing. Duerst has not billed anything yet on this project. They discussed a vertical tank placement for it for storage capacity. Discussion followed. They think the coin operation be to handle that when it gets done. It anticipated this will be complete in 3 to 4 weeks.

Councilwoman Uhland discussed with Council the need for a motion to support in a working agreement with Ellette. The Council appreciates Ellette Eiring's hard work at MAP and supports any watering needs deemed necessary to adequately maintain the park upon motion from Councilwoman Uhland and seconded by Councilwoman Kern. All voting for, motion carried.

FYI

The next regular meeting is April 12th at 6 pm. Idea sharing for the COG sponsored SaveYour.town will be here sometime during the week of April 4-8th. The Dog/Cat Clinic will be April 20th 3-5 pm at the Town Shop.

Town Superintendent Richards state he is set to take his water certification again on March 19.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned upon motion from Councilwoman Uhland and seconded by Councilman Unruh at 7:05 pm.

Kara Uhland

Mayor Pro-tem

Deborah G. Knudsen

Town Clerk/Treasurer