

Mendon City Council Meeting
May 12th, 2016
Mendon Station – 95 North Main
Meeting began at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Mayor: Ed Buist

Council Members: Greg Taylor, Karole Sorensen, Jon Hardman, Bob Jepsen

Clerk: Teena Young

Recorder: Paul Cressall

Treasurer: Daphne Carlson

Public Works Director: Kirk Taylor

City Engineer: Eric Dursteler

Excused: Kelly Barrett

In Attendance: Darrell Rasmussen, Michelle Rasmussen, Landon Rasmussen, George Humbert, Jaden Hodges and father, Matt Regen.

Mayor Buist called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, excusing Councilmember Kelly Barrett. Boy Scout, Landon Rasmussen, lead the Pledge of Allegiance with Teena Young saying the prayer.

Council reviewed the April 2016 minutes. There were a few corrections: “gal feet” to “acre feet” in reference to shares of the Bear River water shares and “2 hp” to “25 hp” in reference to the new mower. The council approved the April 2016 minutes with these changes.

Council reviewed the April 2016 bills. Jon asked about the Mendon Central bill. Ed stated that it should be under the water conservancy line of the Quality of Life budget. Paul Cressall will make the change. Greg Taylor motioned to approve April 2016 Bills. Karole seconded the motion, and the bills were approved unanimously.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 2016-03 – Granting Electric Utility Franchise and General Utility Easement to Rocky Mountain Power.

Mayor Buist opened the Public Hearing at 7:07pm

George Humbert, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) Rep, was present to the meeting. Mayor Buist stated that the past agreement was from 1966 and expires this month, so this is a renewal of that agreement. George Humbert stated that the ordinance allows RMP to use the city’s road right of ways. The agreement protects the city with its need to grow and is a non-exclusive easement, so the city can still use the easements as needed. The city is not responsible for any poles coming down. The ordinance doesn’t supersede any other ordinances. George stated that if the city expands a road, there are too options for the movement of the poles. If the city is improving a road for public safety, RMP will move the poles at no cost. If a development comes in and the city requires the developer to widen the road, the developer would be responsible to pay for the moving of the poles. RMP will make sure to contact the city when they are putting anything in. Currently, there aren’t any plans to make any changes in Mendon area. George added that the State of Utah requires that these agreements are made between local entities and RMP.

Karole asked about preventative maintenance. George stated that they typically watch and inspect the lines and poles throughout the year. They are classified to either be replaced immediately, watched for future replacement, or fine at the time of inspection. George added that there have been major improvements through recent years; hopefully, reliability has improved. Bob asked if RMP has looked at replacing the above-ground lines with underground lines. George said that RMP doesn’t do underground lines unless there is an engineering need. The cost is 5-10x as much for underground, and if there is an outage special equipment is needed to locate the problem. RMP prefers the overhead lines, to keep rates as low as possible and provide for faster, easier repair.

George also presented maps with information on where Mendon power comes from. The maps need to be secured and not distributed publicly. There is a Nibley substation is in Millville. A loop feed comes to Mendon; this gives flexibility with a two-way feed. If there is an outage they can feed the electricity from a different direction. Eric Dursteler inquired about a 3 phase map, and George will forward that information.

Jon asked about the term of the new agreement. Other communities have chosen anywhere from 5-15 yrs. Kirk asked

about what the agreement is with street lights. George stated that the lights are RMP property, and the city is billed for electricity used and maintenance. Some communities are going with an LED light, which would decrease the price for electricity. George will forward more information about options. Adding a street light or repairing a light is covered with the maintenance fee.

Mayor Buist closed the Public Hearing at 7:29PM and opened council meeting.

The Council decided on a 10-year term agreement. Bob Jepsen motioned to approve Ordinance 2016-03 as has been discussed. Greg Taylor seconded, and the ordinance was passed unanimously.

Audit Report – FY 2014/2015 – Matt Regen, City Auditor

Matt stated that he is glad to address the council. He will email a copy of the audit to the council. The annual audit is a requirement by the state, and the state closely monitors the audits. The Mayor will sign off on the audit before it is sent to the state. The state has a new website where quarterly information is to be reported.

Government accounting focuses on accountability rather than profitability, to do that there are separate funds. The General Fund is for services provided without fees; such as, parks, fire department, ect, but there are a few exceptions. The largest revenue for the general fund are taxes. The state limits how much money is in the general fund so money is transferred into other funds such as the capital projects to meet state regulations.

Matt stated that revenues are hard to estimate each year, but we can control the expenses through the budget. During the FY 2014/2015, Mendon spent less than what was budgeted. Matt added that the city did a great job with the budget.

The Capital Projects Funds includes the city building project and a canal water project. The Enterprise Fund would be something people pay for such as water fund which is kept separate.

Recommendations from the auditor: The state likes to see different people involved in order to provide checks and balances. Matt also mentioned the importance of continued training for city employees; he is happy to work with Daphne and Paul and the Mayor and thanked the city council. Paul Cressall added that Matt has been great, because the budget has gotten more difficult, and Matt has helped a lot. Mayor Buist agreed and thanked Matt Regen.

Jaden Hodges – Proposal for a candy stand

Jaden would like to sell candy and soda at the square during softball games. He would be ok not selling soda and just sell candy, because he thought the city may be concerned with him taking business away from the food stand. Mayor Buist stated that one concern is making sure the items are pre-packaged. The other concern is that the city had trouble getting the food stand and that selling candy is a portion of their income. There is a shaved ice, but they don't sell the same thing. Perhaps there is a product such as cotton candy or popcorn that he could sell. Mayor Buist suggested that Jaden talk with the Schroeder's, who run the food stand. If the Schroeder's are ok with it, then Jaden should call the Mayor and also obtain a business license. Jaden will talk to the Schroeder's and also talk to Laura Hampton to get a booth for the Pioneer Day Celebrations.

Landon Rasmussen – Eagle Scout Project

Landon Rasmussen is proposing an Eagle Scout project where he would install lighting for the entry signs coming into Mendon. He presented the council with a picture of a lighted sign and a list of expenses. There are three methods to pay for the project: He can ask citizens for donations or businesses, He has a supplier that is willing to donate if necessary; Mendon City could also contribute. The total cost would be under \$2000. The lights would be powered by solar powered batteries which would last for 7 yrs. Bob asked if they would be a target for vandalism. Darrell, Landon's father, stated that the sign could be a target as-is, but a light could be a deterrent for vandalism. Bob stated that he likes the idea and suggested the lighting be above the sign with a pole coming behind the sign. Karole stated that some weed control at the sign areas would be appreciated. Landon stated that his troop could help weed, while they are working on the lighting. Mayor Buist asked what amount he is looking for from Mendon City to contribute. Landon stated that \$500 from the city would make it doable with fundraising and donations. The council approved of the project.

Preliminary Budget FY 2016-2017

Mayor Buist presented the preliminary budget. The Cemetery budget has increased in order to replace the shed and start extending the cemetery. With Logan as a ¾ time employee, the parks budget has increased. The Library budget has increased in order to match an anonymous donation of \$10,000 each year for 10 years. May Day has stayed under budget. Bob stated that there is some need there and will talk to Mayor Buist about that. Kirk mentioned that the temporary electrical box at the square needs to be fixed. Kirk will talk to Chris Neimann to get a cost estimate. P&Z budget has decreased as the mayor doesn't see a lot of development in the next year. Bob would like to see P&Z have access to tablets for use during meetings, at least for the Chair and Co-Chair. Mayor Buist stated that we should talk to Shawn they have some money left in the current budget. Capital projects includes the cost of the new lawn mower, but we had to purchase it this year. Adjustments will be made before the end of the Fiscal Year. The budget for the city building is \$625,000; the agreement is for \$598,000 but the extra will account for any change orders. Any draws prior to the next fiscal year will be adjusted on the total budget also.

Kirk Taylor, Public Works Dir

There were a few interments at the cemetery. He was able to get the new mower, which has available attachments such as an aerator, snow blower, sprayer, broom, ect. Kirk will get some costs on some attachments. He will get with Kelly next week to repair some potholes. Kirk stated that the trail should probably fall under the streets budget, because it is in the right of way. They need to trim some trees to raise the sightline along the trail at 250 S. The Rasmussen's stated that the YM/YW will be doing a service project at the property at 250 S 100 E and will trim the trees. Kirk stated that he can bring the truck for the branches. Kirk stated that he has had many groups help with several project. A few weeks ago, a scout troop helped to level some head stones. He appreciates the service from community members.

Kirk has advertised for the general labor position; the posting will close on Monday. Logan's 401K withholding hasn't begun, yet, though he signed up online. Daphne will call the State to find out what is needed. The council stated that the town looks great and thanked Kirk and Logan or their work.

Concerning the property at the spring purchased from the Edlund's, Kirk stated that he and Jon met with Rob Edlund to discuss a fence. Kirk was going to have Riley Robbins install the fence, but he hasn't gotten back to him. Kirk said Riley was going to charge \$2 per foot. Mason could do the fencing instead and Kirk and Logan could help after hours. Jon stated that we have to get it done, because there will be cows in there soon. Kirk stated that they don't have time to do it during work hours; it would need to be after hours. Mayor Buist asked Kirk to get with Daphne and Paul to figure out how to work out the payment.

Eric Dursteler, City Engineer

Eric brought the Bear River HD septic system approval to file with the city building documents. Eric uploads everything pertaining to the city projects on the cloud. Eric stated that the ground water investigation is completed and we should see some data soon. There was a good site found near the Cobblestone well, but we don't know if the water comes from the valley or from the mountains. It is premature, but we will know more after evaluating the data. Within 4-6 weeks we should have some good numbers, and Eric is hoping to present in June or July.

City Hall is moving forward. Kirk and Eric measured the Maple Bench Spring at 63 gal/min. Jon stated that Eric will need to meet with council and the state floodplain manager, Kathy Holder. He would like to look at 100 S specifically because of flooding issues. Mayor Buist thanked Eric for his efforts.

Council Reports:

Kelly Barrett:

Kelly wasn't present. Mayor Buist stated that the needs of the fire department discussed last month are a big issue. He will work with Kelly on these issues and discuss it in a public hearing. Bob stated that Ray should put together a priority list.

Jon Hardman

The State of Utah is working with local conservation districts to fund some projects. Black Smith Fork Conservation District has suggested an overflow bypassing the canal in the south. The state likes to see partners in these projects and doesn't like to be the sole funder. Cache County and cities and the canal company may look into supporting this project;

Jon is hoping that Mendon would be supportive. The problem with the overflow is that it isn't really anybody's problem, so if this money comes through from the state, he'd hope the city could contribute a little bit.

Bob asked how communities are getting funds to pipe canals. Jon stated that there are many sources of funding, but there are also a lot of projects seeking money. There isn't an easy funding source, but there are efforts. Jon will find out next week when the water comes into the canal. Mayor Buist stated that May 24 there will be a public hearing with the County Council to hear public input on the Water Conservancy District. A quorum is needed to be present.

Bob Jepsen

May Day was great, and Bob wanted to thank those involved. Bob stated that P&Z discussed a petition for annexation from Gene Olsen. Gene's daughter isn't getting approval from the county to subdivide, so she was inquiring about annexation. Bob asked Jon what he remembered when this was discussed previously. Jon stated that Gene had looked into annexing several years ago, Jon had told him what the ramifications would be if he annexed.

Greg Taylor

Greg reported on the Mosquito Abatement; as of 2 weeks ago, they haven't begun spraying yet. They are looking for land to build a shop and an office building. He will look at the budget for improvements to the Mendon Station. They are looking into sheet-rocking the wall in the basement. That way people can get the tables, without access to the rest of the basement. Kirk also mentioned the need for new tables.

Karole Sorensen

The Heart of Mendon has opened the Emily Wright Service Award for applicants. In the water bill there was a CERT fundraiser flier seeking donations for the CERT Trailer. Karole asked what the priority is with the trails, the council stated that Bruce Anderson was looking into another bench along the trail. Daphne will find out who made the benches. As for the Library board, Katie Child applied for the RAPZ grant. Daphne is working with that because the distribution method is different.

Ed Buist

Administration assignments will stay the same for the next year. Craig Sorensen is the superintendent over the city building and they are on schedule to complete the building on Sept 22.

Jon motioned to adjourn. Karole seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:19PM.