

Mendon City Council Meeting
January 12, 2017
Mendon City Hall & Library
15 N Main
Meeting began at 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

Mayor: Ed Buist

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

Clerk: Teena Young

Recorder: Paul Cressall

Treasurer: Daphne Carlson

Public Works Director: Kirk Taylor

City Engineer: Eric Dursteler

Public Attendance: Lisa Helms, Steve Archibald, Lana Archibald, Becki Taylor, Cambree Hyatt

Mayor Ed Buist called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Daphne Carlson led the Pledge of Allegiance with Mayor Buist giving the prayer.

Council reviewed the Nov 2016 Minutes. One correction on page 4 with 'acre-feet' changed to 'gal/min'. Minutes approved with the noted correction. The Minutes from the Jan 5 2017 Special Meeting were also approved.

Council reviewed the November and Dec bills. Jon motioned to approve the bills. Kelly seconded and the bills were approved unanimously.

Youth Council

Cambree Hyatt was sworn in as secretary of the Youth Council. Cambree reported that the youth council decorated the station for December and hosted the town sign-a-long. Next year they would like to add a variety of songs and add an activity for the kids to do as they wait for Santa. On Jan 20 they will host a family movie night as a fundraiser for the Emily Wright Service award. They will have a youth council party in February. Becky asked if we could move the sound equipment from the basement of the station. There is worry about the water coming into the station basement and damaging the equipment. Mayor Buist is thinking that we move them upstairs of the city hall. Another option would be the other room in the station basement. Kelly will think about what is best and let Becki know. Mayor Buist thanked the youth council for their work.

Eagle Scout Project – Lisa Helms, representing Justin Helms

Justin Helms was at work, so his mother, Lisa, represented him. He will be organizing the moving of library books from Katie Child's home to the upstairs area at the city building. Librarians will work on processing them once they are in the building. Mayor Buist stated that everything to the right from the belfry door is for the library's use. Lisa asked if some books could be put to the other side temporarily. Lisa stated that they can haul down books until the beginning of March. Mayor Buist stated that he is ok with having some on the city side, if they are processed first. If the youth council brings the sound system it needs to be on the city side, also. Karole asked about his ultimate goal for the project. Lisa said to get the books here and see how many can be processed prior to the mid-March timeline. They have talked to the librarians about the process. Karole asked about when he plans to start. Lisa stated that they

have to get council approval and a date organized to haul books over. Karole would like an update on the process next month. Council approved of the project. Jon asked whether all these books are books that we want. Lisa said that there is some sorting left to do. Jon assumed that once we have filled the library than anything else will have to be donated somewhere else. Lisa stated that they will try to keep the books on the Library side of the storage room.

Channing Howard, DWR Urban Wildlife Biologist.

Mayor Buist stated that Mendon has had issues with city deer. A year ago, we sent a survey to residents and the survey came back, surprising to Mayor Buist, to leave the deer alone. However, we do have some farmers complaining and some businesses that these deer are causing havoc to. We were told by Darren DeBloois that DWR could help these people, but they haven't been able to receive any help. Channing stated that if they fall under depredation they would have different options, but if it is an urban issue, so it is Channing's specialty. She can advise in these problems.

Mayor Buist stated that our hands are tied with what is allowed by DWR and what can be done for property owners. Channing stated that there are two options. There is the west Cache extended archery, but it doesn't extend this far. Any talk about extending would have to go through Darren DeBloois' future replacement. The other option would be a depredation hunt outside of city limits. If it is inside the city, it would have to be within greenbelt area.

Channing stated that everybody that doesn't fall into either of those categories would fall into the urban rule. The urban rule allows cities to take control of their own deer. Every city is different. Some cities trap and euthanize, some cities do an archery hunt. We do have to go through a few steps first, such as having a public meeting and obtain from DWR a COR (Certificate of Registration). Once the COR is obtained, the city may choose to have an archery hunt. The city wouldn't have to change any rules and could designate certain properties where the hunt is allowed, although the 600 ft from any structure rule still applies. The season dates are Aug to Dec. It would give the city control of who they would issue the permits to. DWR would specify how many animals could be harvested. We would send a report to DWR at the end of the season to report how many deer were harvested. The 600 ft rule might be hard to accomplish in town. Jon stated that these deer do hang on the edge of town and come in at times. There would be an option to set the area at the outskirts of town.

Channing stated that the program is to get the deer that are here in the summer, that is why the season starts in Aug. They have seen in other areas that it has really made a difference. Channing stated that this seems to be the best route. Jon asked if the season could be Aug to Nov instead of going into Dec. Channing stated that is an option that the city could decide on. Jon is not taking damage but he doesn't have a problem with trying this. Jon stated that if we do something like this we try to hit the fringes of town. If we were set up in key areas, he would like to start small, and stated that the waterways would be a good area. Mayor Buist stated that in going this route, it is helping with those citizens that are having problems. Jon is not in favor of trapping and relocating. It is too expensive. Jon and Greg will lead the efforts and work with Channing.

Channing stated that she talked with Randy Wood about turkeys in this area. They are planning on doing some work here with turkey drop nets. This may be a quicker way to move more at a time. The turkeys are going out to the Uinta Basin. Mayor Buist stated that we would like to see DWR come to Mendon to get some turkeys.

Municipal Code Online (MCO) Contract

The cost of the initial codification would be \$2000. Then the software would be \$1100 per year for a 5-year term. Bob stated that he would like to get it now. Mayor Buist stated that we are pretty stretched this year, he would like to budget it in for the next fiscal year. Jon stated that waiting for a few months would make a big difference. Greg stated that if we can wait, let's wait. Karole asked if we would have more money at that point. Mayor Buist stated that we would have a new budget, there are unforeseen things that have come up this year. We are currently at 75% of the budget. Mayor Buist wouldn't mind revisiting the issue in April to see where the budget is at that time. Jon stated that the flooding in 2011 cost the city an extra \$30,000, so he is in favor of waiting out the winter to make sure we don't have unforeseen problems. Kelly stated that streets will be lucky to make it to the end of the year. Bob stated that his concern with waiting is sometimes we see things that will benefit the city and he doesn't want it to be pushed to the side. He states that this would be a high priority and hopes council would support him. We need to reprioritize our efforts and P&Z is in the top three as he sees it. Mayor Buist agrees that it is a top priority. Bob stated that we want the volunteers on P&Z to have the tools to do their job. Mayor Buist asked that Bob come with some numbers for the budget for other items that P&Z needs. Council agreed that in April the issue will be revisited.

Bob stated that council may need to look into raising the tax because of unforeseen issues and needs. Mayor Buist stated that it has been several years since we have had a tax increase. Bob stated that we are pretty much tapped out.

Jon stated that we need to come together prior to the budgeting process with everyone bringing their priorities so that we can look at longer range issues.

Eric Dursteler, City Engineer

The test well was drilled about 430 ft. It was perforated in two areas. There was an initial test of iron manganese. There are no sulfides which means it is good water. The iron came in really high on the initial test. It was retested later and showed lower iron levels. The test came back that the upper aquifer was 2.08. The lower aquifer was at .84. Between 2-3 is still treatable. Eric would like to wait until the snow melts and do the 24-hour pump test. The estimated flow is 200 gal/min. Jon asked if Eric if he feels like this is worth pursuing further, as Jon is concerned about having to pump and mix the water to treat the iron levels. Jon stated that the more pumps we get on the system the more chance of problems. Jon asked if Eric was confident to pursue this or should we try another location. Eric recommended that we do the 24-hour pump and decide based on those numbers.

Kirk Taylor, Public Works Director

Kirk stated that there was a little bit of water in the station basement. It was on the landing on the stairs so it was probably in the storage room. The new city building had a little bit of water, those issues have been addressed. The ice dams have been an issue on the roof. Kirk stated that we need to do the heat tape next fiscal year.

They had one internment at the cemetery.

We applied for a grant from Rocky Mountain Power to go toward the food stand. Rocky Mountain sent the city \$500 to go toward the new frig or repairing of the old one. Rocky Mountain does this at the end of each year.

Eric and Kirk have driven around town to make a list of priority projects to address flooding issues. Jon stated that this would be important with FEMA looking at the flood zones.

Karole asked if there are people in town that we know have had flooding problems. Kirk stated that there are several with damage, but none from the city drainage system. Kirk stated that the culvert at the Robins on 100 E needs to be lowered. Another trouble stop is by the railroad track near the school. Steve Archibald stated that if there was a culvert at 300 N 100 E the water would drain down into the gulley instead of pooling. Kirk and Eric are considering what to do there.

Kirk stated that the backhoe lease is up in March. No one is doing leases anymore so they are wanting you to buy it and then the company will buy it back. Daphne stated that she suggested a 5-year loan. Bob suggested that we talk to other cities to see what they are doing. Kirk stated that the bigger towns are just buying them, but it puts a pinch on the smaller towns. Karole thanked Kirk for all his work.

Council Reports:

Kelly Barrett:

Kelly stated that he did hear a lot of comments on how well the snow removal was handled. Kirk drove 250 miles in two days. Kelly talked to Cache Valley Bank officers concerning options for obtaining a fire truck loan. Next month, we are looking at doing a public hearing to impose a \$3 fee on the utility bills to go toward Fire Department vehicle purchases. This would provide money to get a 6-year loan for a \$90K vehicle.

Bob asked about work on Hwy 23. Kelly stated that is has been talked about adding shoulders on Hwy 23, but he doesn't think there is funding there for that.

Jon stated that we were lucky because the canal got almost full, if it would have topped it would have cause a lot of problems. The bridge points were the trouble areas.

Mayor Buist stated that Greg Schroeder is upset at the city diverting water down his lane. Kirk stated that the city didn't divert water there, someone else must have placed those sand bags.

Jon Hardman

We are waiting for a letter for the new spring to move forward. Mayor Buist sent a letter in support to Wellsville Mendon Canal Company grant.

Bob Jepsen

The Dog Clinic will be this Saturday 10-Noon. The Youth Council is working on the Easter Egg Hunt planning.

Jill reported that there are two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Board. Joni will be the new chair. She will talk to Jeremy to be the co-chair. They would like to reach out to those approved by council to find two new members. The commission talked about increasing the business license fee to \$25 and impose a \$25 late fee. The time frame for the late fee hasn't been discussed. Council was in agreement to both. Top Job has a driller to work on the well this week. Bob's feeling is that we don't issue the building permit until there is proof of water. Jill stated that P&Z made that pretty clear. Bob asked how they prove the water is viable. Eric stated that Bear River Health needs to sign off on the well. Bob would like to know where the power is coming from and their planned improvements with deadlines.

Bob stated that we should have this in the minutes. There should also be a containment plan for hazardous material. The state needs to approve the plan.

Bob is meeting with Trina about May Day. Mayor Buist will be gone for his daughter's graduation that day, so Bob will be there in his stead.

Greg Taylor

Greg stated that abatement is looking at a new building or building lot.

Karole Sorensen

Karole asked about the food stand. Daphne said that she has spoken with the Schroeder's; the vouchers need to be addressed because so many are given out. They estimate that 20% of the profits would be \$200 paid to the city but they gave out \$600 in vouchers. They were told that they must accept the vouchers for a week after the 24th events. The Schroeder's were very positive about the experience for their children but don't want to do it again this year. Karole stated that we would like to start now to get someone to run the stand this year.

Mayor Buist

There is a possible change with the bills. It will be addressed in a future staff meeting and then with council. Deputy Sutherland is excused; Mayor Buist asked if there is anything to take to him. Bob stated that these officers are great and we appreciate what they do. Mayor Buist publicly thanked all of council and staff for what they do.

Bob motioned to adjourn, and Jon seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.