

Mendon City Council Meeting
June 6th, 2019
Mendon City Hall & Library
15 N Main
Meeting began at 6:00 PM

In Attendance:

Mayor: Ed Buist

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

Clerk: Teena Young

Recorder: Paul Cressall

Public Works: Kirk Taylor

Engineer: Eric Dursteler

Excused: none

Public Attendance: none

Mayor Buist called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Teena Young led the Pledge of Allegiance with Jon Hardman giving the prayer.

Council reviewed and approved the May 2019 minutes. Council reviewed the May 2019 bills. Greg motioned to approve the bills with Karole seconding. Council approved of the bills unanimously.

Deputy Travis Clark

Deputy Clark stated that the Sheriff's Department dropped off Child Abduction Kits. We will distribute those to the citizens and publicize. The library will keep those to distribute to adults for their children ages 4-17. Maren stated that the library will help distribute those kits. The Sheriff's department will be here for the Pioneer Day celebration.

Bob stated there was a four-wheeler issue with a rider recently. If there are incidents, we can report those to the non-emergency line. Mayor Buist asked if there was any further information about the break-in. There was an arrest that was related. Deputy Clark stated that some churches have been broken into and vandalized. It would be a good thing for citizens to keep an eye out for the community buildings. Mayor Buist thanked Deputy Clark, and Karole stated that we appreciate them and what they do. Greg stated that there has been a lot of activity going up to the cemetery late at night. Mayor Buist stated that we may want to post that the cemetery is closed dusk to dawn. The construction is going on for 100 E; asphalt is scheduled for next week.

Youth Council – not present

Preliminary Budget Discussion FY 2019-2020

Mayor Buist stated that the official budget will be approved in August. Two changes have been made. The P&Z budget has been increased due to the thought that any time a border or zoning is an issue, the attorneys will review. The cost will be passed onto the individuals that are petitioning. Also, the attorney budget has been increased to \$5,000 so that the city can use the attorney's for advisory meetings.

Mayor Buist stated that he has reviewed the pay schedule. The mayor's pay was decreased years ago. He would like that back to be \$1500. Council members are using their phones, vehicles, and time. He would like to see the council compensation to be increased to \$900 yearly. Mayor Buist stated that it may be felt as more of a community volunteer position, but others are going to follow, and there needs to be some compensation. Kelly stated that none of us are in it for the pay. Mayor Buist stated that it does compensate some costs. Kelly does feel that the Mayor's pay should be where it is recommended to be.

Kelly agrees that there are sacrifices, he is fine where it is at, but he is fine with going higher. Bob echoes that the Mayor's duties are heavy, and that compensation is definitely deserved. He has similar feelings that serving in the council is a way to pay back what he has gotten from the community. It is about who he serves with. Bob would support an increase, or he is fine with where it is at. Karole agrees no one does it for the money, but it's about who comes in next. Greg is fine either way, he does not serve for the money. Jon agreed with what's been said but does feel like council should be the last to have an increase, everyone else first and then if there is room, then do it. In the past, when compensation has been low, it has been difficult to get people to run. Kelly agreed, there are people that can sacrifice a little but there may be others that need to be reimbursed. Mayor Buist stated that there are sacrifices made by those who choose to serve on council.

Mayor Buist stated that he is proposing a 4% raise for Kirk as Public Works Dir. With that he would propose the same rate of increase for the Recorder, Treasurer, City Clerk and P&Z secretary. Others stay the same. Mayor Buist would like to talk to Karole about the librarian's compensation. They have been doing a great job for 3 years. He would suggest that Karole talk to the Library Board about possibly an increase provided by the library fund. Paul stated that the library is supposed to reimburse the city for any overage paid each year past the city's agreed amount. Council agreed that the librarians deserve a raise, but it needs to come from the library fund. Custodial work will be increased to \$9.50 per hour.

Mayor Buist asked about the election judges. Paul stated that he does provide a meal for those judges also, the compensation will stay the same.

The declaration period for candidacy for city council ends tomorrow. We will inform citizens about the deadline through email.

Jon suggested that the budget include money for training. Mayor Buist stated that it will come from the Administration budget.

Ordinance 2019-01 Amendment to MCC 7.06.30 Water Department and System

The amendments were discussed last month. Jon motioned to approve Ordinance 2019-01. Kelly seconded and all voted in favor. Paul suggested that a note for information concerning the \$25 fee for a delinquent account go out in July, so the policy will be enforced beginning August 1st.

Resolution 2019-02 Extension of the General Plan.

Jon's would hope we could start some workshops in Sept, Oct, Nov at 6pm hold the public workshops prior to P&Z. We'd pick a topic like growth and get public input. Some items to be discussed...Do we keep to the block structure? Higher density? Just presenting some thoughts and then letting the public offer comments. Another topic is business/commercial development. What are the things as a community we can look at for revenue? Permits for Airbnb businesses? Jon stated that these businesses ought to have a business license, and we should be capturing some revenue. Daphne stated that these rentals fall under the hotel tax. Jon stated that the city may need to encourage some types of businesses to help generate revenue for the city. Jon state that part of the discussion is that if ever the opportunity came for a convenience store, where do we want that. We want to hear what the citizens say. Mayor Buist asked that Jon look at a calendar, get a date, assign someone to lead the discussion. Jon would like to see a draft General Plan in place early in 2020. Give the public a chance to comment on the draft, then in pass the new General Plan by August 2020.

Bob stated that P&Z commissioners have a good vision. Daphne stated that when P&Z members are coming in, they should get some training. There is a fast turnover of the commissioners. Mayor Buist read Resolution 2019-02 Extension of the General Plan. Jon motioned to adopt the resolution as read. Karole seconded and the council approved the resolution unanimously.

Cemetery Fees

Mayor Buist stated that we don't want to increase to an exorbitant amount, but the current fees are outdated. Bob stated that we do need to look at these other fees, such as weekend/holiday internment. Bob has put together a comparison with other community's cemetery fees. Jon stated that we need to balance what the city needs and what's fair to the people. Current fees are not covering our costs. Mayor Buist asked about the cost from labor. Kirk stated that labor alone is about \$150, other costs like the backhoe payment or the fuel costs. Weekend/holiday costs are increased for overtime and inconvenience, but we don't want to discourage weekend burial. Greg would like to increase on the weekend/holiday by \$100. Open and close is on top of the lot price. The time from opening/closing is also asking public works to stick around and be available to come in to close. Kelly stated we should look at our costs but get above where the costs are so that we don't have to increase every year.

Public Hearing (7:15 PM) Amendment of the current year's budget FY 2018-2019, with adjustment to the general fund departments and the Capital Projects Fund.

Mayor Buist closed at 7:15pm opening the public hearing

Mayor Buist asked about what is projected to be spent for the remainder of the year. There is payroll left for mid-June. Kirk stated that there are costs for the parks, he is holding off on tires until next fiscal year. Kirk stated that the only outstanding bill may be the seeding, but we could pay it with next years budget.

Council discussed the following suggestions from Paul concerning the adjustments to be made.

Taking \$14,000 out of the capital projects fund and putting it into the reserve fund.

Redistributing \$12,000 from building permits and \$7000 from streets totaling \$19,000.

From the \$19,000 available, redistribute to the following budgets.

Celebrations increase \$3,500

P&Z \$3,000,

Engineer \$4500,

Buildings \$2000

Cemetery \$6000

Mayor Buist stated closed the public hearing at 7:30pm.

Jon motioned to open the 2018-2019 budget and make the adjustments as discussed. Bob seconded. No further discussion and council approved unanimously.

Cemetery fees (continued)

Karole asked about compensation for Eric Bowen as the Cemetery Sexton. He does a lot and spends a lot of time. Mayor Buist has had a suggestion that the city gift plots for Eric and his wife for his work.

Council is supportive, Kelly thinks it should be more than that. Bob and Kelly propose that he is added to the pay schedule. This is an overlooked service. Council would like him added to the pay schedule at \$900 yearly. Council will table the cemetery fees for further discussion next month. Proposed fees would be \$400 for a resident plot with a weekend/holiday fee of an additional \$100. Non-resident fees also need to be looked at.

Mendon Station Rental Fees

The station is currently \$40 for 4-hour block for residents, \$80 for non-residents. Wedding rate: \$250 resident/ \$500 non-resident for the day. An issue is that some non-residents claim residence or have residents sign the rental agreement for them for the decreased price. In the past the resident rate has been given to immediate family of Mendon residents. Council stated that the resident pricing will just be for the bride/groom or parents of the bride/groom. Others pay the non-resident price. Grandparents or siblings are no longer able to rent the station for the resident pricing.

Greg suggested the same \$40 fee for residents per 4-hour block and increase the rate to \$120 per 4-hour block for non-residents. Daphne asked if there are increased fees for big events like Little Red. They just

rent the pavilion, so they are charged the park fee. Council set the new pricing for weddings at \$350/resident and \$700/non-resident with equal deposit amounts. Kirk stated that some weddings leave a mess outside with confetti or sparklers, so we will hold deposit checks until the outside of the station is also cleaned up. The effective date for the new fee schedule will be January 1st. Greg stated that some of the classes like dance and karate need to do a better job at cleanup. Greg will talk to those individuals about it. Bob motioned to accept the fees as discussed. Greg seconded. No further discussion, and the council agreed unanimously.

Eric Dursteler – City Engineer

The cold-water well has been equipped. The South 100 E road project commenced today. They will have pulverizing done this week. They plan on paving next week Tues-Thurs. The Impact Fee study is ongoing; they are taking the numbers from 2008 and analyzing what has been done and for what purpose since then. They will continue those calculations for the study. Eric stated that he thinks we need to work on the flood plain ordinances. The county has a buffer of 100' from a floodplain.

Kirk Taylor, Public Works

Kirk stated that he has full-time help now as of yesterday. One internment was done at the cemetery in May. The culverts have been replaced along 100 E in preparation for the road project. We will be splitting the spring this week. The spring flow is at 350gal/min.

Kirk is grateful for the raise and asked that council discuss whether Veterans Day could be added as a holiday for full-time employees. Right now, the city allows 10 holidays, not including Veterans Day. Kelly stated that we should match what the state does; the state does include Veteran's Day. Kirk added that holiday pay can also be an issue if he ends up working on the holiday. He worked Christmas this year and didn't get paid the time and a half because of how the hours added throughout the week. Mayor Buist agreed that he should get holiday pay plus the overtime pay for working a holiday. Kirk just wanted to get the language in the policy so that if he does work a holiday he is compensated as time and a half. Mayor Buist asked that wording to be added. Mayor Buist asked Kirk if he would prefer Veterans or Christmas Eve. Kirk stated that he will keep it at Veteran's Day. Jon motioned to give Veterans Day as a paid holiday to full-time city employees. Bob seconded the motion. No further discussion, and the council voted in favor unanimously.

Council Reports

Bob Jepsen

Bob stated that another storage container has been placed on a property. The code is needing to address this issue.

Greg Taylor

Mosquito abatement will be starting next week. Jon asked if the spray affects fireflies. Greg stated that it doesn't really affect them. Greg will ask if there is any documentation on those effects. Abatement has the land for their new building. We need to do some work on the station to upkeep the facility. He will see if the company can come out and do the flooring. The brick on the corner is building up deposits, it may be porous brick and need to be sealed. Greg asked about whether to build the shelving back up in the basement. There hasn't been flooding but there is still seepage. Greg wondered about steel shelving. Council believes it would be good to utilize the space.

Karole Sorensen

Karole stated that the library is having an event "Story Behind the Stones". They library is looking for good story tellers. Mayor Buist asked if Karole could contact the individuals who were serving on the trails committee to see if they would be interested in pursuing that. Mayor Buist stated that he would like to have a concrete sidewalk around this square in the future.

Kelly Barrett

The county firefighters stationed in Mendon started this week. Mayor Buist stated that another community turned it down, they wanted to use the money in their own way. Mendon City was the next choice, and we are glad to have them here. It is a benefit to Cache County and to us.

Jon Hardman

Jon stated that the canal water was supposed to come in soon. Cache Water District is updating their plan. There will be opportunity for public input. He feels strongly that the west side of the valley needs to get a strong voice for how that water is distributed. It needs to benefit everyone. It's going to take people on the west side voicing their opinion.

Mayor Ed Buist

We have a lot of activities coming up. As we talk with people, urge them to be careful and do activities at their own risk. Daphne stated that the city needs to do what we can to protect the city from associated liabilities. Mayor Buist stated that he enjoys serving with the city council. There are 3 positions up for election; he is hoping that people sign up to run for the office again. Paul stated that council has done a good job, otherwise people would want to get people out of office.

Mayor would like to have a summer cookout for city staff. Friday June 28th, 6:30 pm.

During the celebrations, we will have the longest running softball tournament in the state. We may have some media interest here on that day. Also, Mayor Buist would like to visit with the elementary principle going forward.

Jon motioned to adjourn. Bob seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.