

Mendon City Council Meeting
Nov 12th, 2015
Mendon Station – 95 North Main
Meeting began at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Mayor: Ed Buist

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

Clerk: Teena Young

Recorder: Paul Cressall

Treasurer: Daphne Carlson

Public Works Director: Kirk Taylor

City Engineer: Eric Dursteler

Library Board: Katie Child

Excused: Shawn Osborne

In Attendance: Karole Sorensen, Deputy Casey Sutherland, Katie Peikes, Jordan Floyd, Brinlie Bilings, Sharlotte Billings, Becki Taylor, Kacie Taylor, Kaitlyn Taylor, Shonee Oswald, Steve Baker, Ethan Baker, Rusty Myers, Lexie Myers, Kaden Myers.

Mayor Buist opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a Boy Scout with the prayer being given by Greg Taylor.

Mayor Buist excused councilmember Shawn Osborne. The Council reviewed the October 2015 Minutes and approved with a correction on page 2. The wording of “We also can’t pump the booster station anymore.” will be changed to “We can not increase the amount of water being pumped from the booster station.”

The October Bills were reviewed. Bob Jepsen motioned to approve the bills. Kelly Barrett seconded the motion, and the bills were approved unanimously.

The newly elected Youth Council Officers were sworn in by Mayor Ed Buist. Shonee Oswald was sworn in as Mendon Youth Council Mayor. Kaden Myers was sworn in as Pro Tem Mayor. Lexie Myers was sworn in as secretary. Brinley Billings was sworn in as Historian. Councilman Kelly Barrett presented the officers with a Certificate of Election.

Shonee Oswald reported that the youth council currently has 21 members and 3 advisors. In October they organized a zombie wars activity with at least 50 kids participating. On Nov 2nd, the youth council planted a tree in memory of Emily Wright. Emily’s parents participated also. The youth council will decorate the Mendon Station for Christmas. On Dec 7 there will be a Community Christmas Sing-a-long and they are working to get a live nativity for that activity. On Dec 5 they will do a service project in cooperation with the Heart of Mendon. They are also designing new t-shirts for the council. Kelly Barrett and Mayor Buist agreed that it is great to see the youth involved in the community.

Deputy Sutherland

Deputy Sutherland introduced himself to the citizens and had a few issues to discuss. The winter parking restrictions began on Nov 1st and will extend to Apr 1st. The policy restricts on-street parking from midnight to 7am with a 3 minute drop off allowance. Deputy Sutherland mentioned that law enforcement will try to give warnings for the first few weeks.

Animal Control will be hiring another full time animal control officer. So they should be able to better cover the animal control needs. The sheriff’s office will provide a more detailed report.

Deputy Sutherland introduced the *Code Red* program which is a reverse 911 system. Deputy Sutherland suggested that everyone is signed up for the program. It can be used for a variety of emergency reasons, such as gas leaks, missing children, etc. A recorded message will be sent out to all land lines registered. If the registered

number is a cell phone, a text message will be delivered. Mayor Buist stated that he appreciates all the work the deputies do for Mendon.

Jenn Felton – Annexation/ Subdivision questions

Jenn Felton was scheduled to attend but was not present. She owns property north of the city and has interest in annexing and subdividing the property. She had spoken with P&Z but because of the subdivision restrictions, she is seeking input from the city council. She will be rescheduled to the Jan 2016 mtg.

Culinary Water Discussion

Mayor Buist stated that the council wanted the citizens to know that we do have water. We are not out of water, but we want to prevent restrictions for those who are already on the system. Timely storms have helped us out in the past and Mayor Buist doesn't foresee needing to impose any restrictions. Mayor Buist added that we are at the threshold of where we need to stop building, in order to reassess and find more water. A recent study which was thought to be covered by grant money will not be, so the city is working with the state to see if we could roll over the amount of the study and the cost of some future studies into the remaining amount available from the loan. The city continues to be proactive in conservation, encouraging that people use secondary water outside wherever it is available. Steve Baker asked if the culinary water usage is being tracked. The council stated that usage has been decreasing, especially with the LDS Stake Center being brought off the culinary system about 5 years ago and more recently the LDS church on Mendon Square using secondary water for outside needs. These things have made a big difference.

Kirk Taylor – Public Works

Kirk reported that they are getting the storm drain put in on 100 S Main and should be through the road and patched by the end of the week. They will leave the grass until spring. They will do a few other patches with any extra asphalt. Kirk has ordered a new heater to replace one that broke down at the chlorine house.. They are trying to get the truck ready for the winter season and continue to remove fallen leaves from the parks. Mayor Buist stated the parks have looked good all spring and summer.

Eric Dursteler – City Engineer

Eric and Bob spoke with residents with home located on 380 E to address the altered swale issue. For the most part, the reaction was positive; the citizens are willing to get the swales up to the standard. Over time the swales along 380 E have been filled. Eric stated that the road has a slight grade slopping south, so water will flow to the south if the swales are restored. The State Division of Drinking Water will meet tomorrow concerning the use of the remaining load money, and Eric will let the city know what is decided. If the state agrees to allow the city to continue to use the loan funds for studies and exploration, additional studies will be done right away.

Council Reports:

Jon Hardman

Jon asked Daphne about a request for some paperwork from the state regarding minors, minorities, or women working for contractors used by the city. Daphne has forwarded the request to the contractors, but they haven't sent it to the state. Daphne will contact them again.

Bob Jepsen

At P&Z two more homes were approved: Chris and Nancy Tolman, and Clint and Rachel Robinson. Out of the 8 on the waiting, list only 6 were approved as two were not ready to proceed with building. Jeremy Martin will research how other cities handle short term rentals and P&Z will discuss any action or revision of the ordinances. Mayor Buist agreed and asked that P&Z to bring a policy to city council. Jon asked about any discussion on the canal water for the Kotter boundary adjustment and wondered how water would be delivered to that location. Bob stated that he didn't think that P&Z came to a decision on the Kotter Boundary adjustment.

Greg Taylor

Greg thanked Kirk for his work on the buildings and cemetery and Teena for the scheduling of the station. Mosquito abatement is finished. The biggest complaints concerning mosquitos came from Wellsville. Greg stated that he felt like they sprayed a normal amount but they have been more cautious because more people own bees. Mayor Buist added that some repair will be needed on the interior SE corner of Mendon Station and mentioned

that the Christmas decorations at the station will be need to be left alone, not tampered with or moved by renters.

Kelly Barrett

Kelly stated that they will fill some pot holes with any remaining asphalt from the 100 E drain repair. The Fire Department received an ISO rating of a 4 which is the same as the Logan City FD. It is rare to have a volunteer fire department rated so high. The rating helps reduce the home insurance costs. Mayor Buist wanted to compliment the FD for staying up on all of their training. Jon mentioned that FEMA is stopping the subsidy for flood plain insurance, so home owners will bear the full cost of flood insurance.

Kelly added that the state is working on a new Wildland Fire Policy bill. It will cost the smaller cities and towns more, so there is concern there. The state wants cities to enter into an agreement where the state would fight the wild land fires and the local fire departments would work to reduce the amount of fire potentials. Ray stated that the fire department spends hours to make sure their training is up to date and this time may be reduced in order to clear fire potentials much of the time they usually spend training will be spent instead for clearing up debris or removing fire potentials as required by the state. Calls are lower than typical. They have a 33 yr old truck that will need to be replaced soon and are looking for a replacement.

Mayor Ed Buist

Katie Child reported on the library board; Katie is the president of the library board. She would like to have a representative from the library board report to the council every month. Mayor Buist asked Daphne about the RAPZ grant for the library. Daphne stated that she does have a copy of it. There was confusion because the grant wasn't tagged to Mendon City.

Mayor Buis stated that he and Paul Willie met with the attorney last week in order to put together a contract for the construction of the city building. Plans are being finalized by early next week, and advertising for bids will be posted soon after.

There will be no city meeting in December. The next meeting will be Jan 14, 2016.

Mayor Buist read a letter from UDOT in response to a petition from citizens concerning the speed limit increase on HWY 23. The letter is from Kris Peterson, Region One Director. The letter addressed the concerns on the petition and detailed the procedure for setting speed limits. The letter stated that setting the speed limit at the 85% percentile generally reflects a safe speed for the area. Reducing the speed may not affect speeds or safety. The speed study found that most drive faster than the 30mph on HWY 23 through Mendon. Out of 10 accidents in the last 5 years, 1 was a result of speed. They will continue to monitor the speed and safety of Hwy 23.

Kelly added that most concern was that because the speed limit was increased then people will increase their speed further; up to 40. Kelly stated that they will do a follow-up study to see if people do increase their speed. So we will see if it is a valid concern.

Council members will be sworn in on Monday, January 4, 7pm at the Mendon Station. The Council members will be sworn in. Mayor Buist will be have one on one discussion with council and staff before the end of the year.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kelly Barrett and seconded by Jon Hardman. The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.