

TOWN OF HUDSON
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
333 S Main Street
HUDSON, WY 82515
July 9, 2024

Mayor Oler called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was announced.

Governing Body Present: Mayor Sherry Oler, Councilmembers, Brady Hamilton, Zeke Bonella, Kevin Kummer, and Helen Gordon were present. A full quorum was declared.

City Staff Present: Town Attorney, Rick Sollars and Clerk-Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman were present.

Audience: Tony Scott, Maralyne Middour, Susan Bronson, and Amber Nation.

Mayor Oler made an announcement asking those present to silence all cell phones and if they are hard of hearing to please sit in the front row. She stated that only agenda items will be addressed and residents presenting agenda items will have five (5) minutes to address the council.

Public Comments: Tony Scott – Mr. Scott stated that he would like to address the council again regarding the need to slow people down on the local streets. He stated there are many people driving too fast and would like a speed bump on each street to slow drivers down. Councilman Bonella stated when there were speed bumps in the past, the kids discovered if they drove over them faster, it wasn't bad at all. Mayor Oler stated that she has contacted several contractor for quotes and is waiting for quotes on the cost of a speed bump. Mr. Scott thanked her and commended Kadance Kummer on what a fantastic job she is doing for the town.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: correction or approval of the minutes of the June 11, 2024, Council Meeting.

Financial Report: Correction or approval of the June 30, 2024, financial report.

Payment of Bills: Corrections or approval of the payment of bills for July 2024.

Mayor Oler asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the aforesaid council minutes, financial report, or payment of bills.

Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to approve the consent agenda, minutes, financial report, and payment of bills, seconded by Councilman Brady Hamilton. The motion unanimously passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Report - July 2024

Water Meter Replacement Project: All the bid documents are signed and I am waiting for the engineer to confirm when the contractor will start.

TOWN OF HUDSON
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July 9, 2024

Frank's Meats Annexation: Now the annexation agreement is signed and the statutory process of annexation will now begin. I have been working on the required annexation report and creating the maps for annexation, identifying adjacent landowners, and publication of public meeting.

Grant Applications: My schedule, Hudson Daze and the holiday placed grant writing on hold. I will move forward with the applications for sewer lines, lift station and lagoon engineering, and 2) WCDA grants for Svilar Park improvements and exploration and assistance to upgrade buildings for the purpose of poverty assistance (Gods Pantry).

Hudson Daze: This year brought record numbers of people into town, Svilar and Kai's reported their businesses were remarkably busy. The rivalry baseball game was well attended and a fun event.

FEMA Flood Training: I am working on upgrading our Building Permit (old set back permit) forms and adding the practice of using the FEMA application forms for people building within the town's flood areas. I also was tasked with submitting an inventory of all addresses within flood zones in our town to Homeland Security and FEMA. I will also be attending a US Army Corps of Engineers training on flood mitigation during the last week of July.

Town Hall Floor: Floor Replacement is scheduled to begin July 15.

Level 1 Water Master Plan: We meet monthly and things are on track. We have been asked to provide annual water usage and billing records for their use in evaluation of the town's systems.

Lander Spay & Neuter: The donation jar at Hudson Daze brought some donations towards the Hudson Pet Project and we are keeping the donation jar in town hall to continue donation collection.

Brownstone Project (SPURR Program): Ayers Engineering had a booth at Svilar Park and they received a good amount of insight on town improvements from residents. The idea boards and information cards are posted at town hall.

Vicious Dog Ordinance: The proposed changes to the ordinance has been posted on the bulletin board at the post office since June, I am waiting for any suggestions from council or the public before setting a public hearing.

TOWN OF HUDSON
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July 9, 2024

Employees/Summer Help: Kadance Kummer continues to impress all of us with her work ethic and abilities. I am scheduling interviews with several applicants for the maintenance position. Don, Harry, and I will be the interviewers.

Water Treatment Plant: Over the July 4th weekend, we were close to a catastrophic failure of the Water Treatment Plant. Electronic component failure was the problem. We have been trying to identify electronic issues with the new controller we received and have been running on one cell and the end result was a lot of hours and call out of an electrician and the cannibalization of parts to get at least one cell up and running. We requested the City of Lander to be on standby water delivery if the temporary fix failed. A replacement should be here Tuesday.

Cemetery: We received a quote to have the fence around the cemetery replaced to the standard of keeping cows out. It is \$32,529.69 and they can get started fairly soon. The pvc irrigation pipe in the cemetery is crumbling from age, etc., as well as we have a controller that is not working and the contractor has not been able to repair it. I asked Harry to get a bid on the repair and/or replacement. I emailed Bob Calfus, the Trustee of the Berce Trust Fund, regarding additional donations he and I discussed earlier. As soon as I get the cemetery irrigation bid, I will call him. I asked Taylor to audit the cemetery deeds/records and she continues to work on this task.

Town Ordinances: The town's ordinances are in desperate need of an upgrade. When Taylor finishes the cemetery audit, I asked her to start review of ordinances: looking for language needing upgraded, outdated language, and the things that do not make sense. This is a long term project and she will give us her mark-ups and comments to review when she is finished.

CLERK – TREASURER REPORT

June 2024

June was a whirlwind of activities and happenings in and around Town Hall.

As you know we are in the election season now and I am thankful to Helen, Kevin and Brady signing up to keep their council seats. Kevin and Brady have one challenger with Louise Barker throwing her hat in the ring. Helen is running unopposed.

The floor in Town Hall is scheduled to be removed, the floor floated and repaired and new flooring installed beginning on July 15th. Upright Construction will oversee the project.

Sweetwater Aire has also installed our central air conditioning. They had to leave some pipe exposed in the bathrooms due to the lack of overhead space above the ceiling, but it will be nice to be warm this winter and cool when it heats up again.

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July 9, 2024

I have discovered that a majority of Town Council Minutes have not been uploaded to our webpage. I am working on getting those rectified as soon as possible. In the meantime, if residents want to read a copy we have one available at Town Hall.

Chatter continues on the WAMCAT forum regarding towns now charging credit card fees for residents paying by card either online or in person. They are trying to encourage people to use an ACH transaction directly from their bank account. Watching the thread. It appears as though there are many unhappy clients around the state. I'm sure Hudson would have the same if we started charging a credit card processing fee. It is, however, something to watch in the future with the price of everything going up.

We have hired Taylor Anderson as the part-time office assistant. She is catching on quickly to the computer and billing. She does a great job on the phones and greeting people coming in. Having already worked here for almost two years, she has just melded right into the position. With time, she will free up a lot of my time and enable me to work on more pressing matters.

The Code Enforcement officer has been busy and has served several Summons for court. I will be acting as the Court Clerk on days we have court in Town Hall.

Hudson Daze was well attended. There were a few issues that popped up due to lack of communication, but those were handled and taken care of quickly. I was busy with the kid booth for playing games.

I played telephone tag several days with Black Mountain Software, which is another accounting software used by Municipalities in Wyoming. Black Mountain came highly recommended by some other municipalities, and I sat through a demo and spoke at length with a sales consultant. While it is a useful product, it comes at a higher price than we are paying per month for our current software and has an initial outlay of almost \$24,000! I think we will just stay with Caselle and continue to attend the training opportunities when they come up.

I spent a couple of days gathering documentation and scanning and sending it to the State Audit Department in response to their requested follow-up from 2017-18 when they audited the town.

Jerry Kendall stopped by and asked when the crosses would be replaced in Gold Star Park. He said he is working with the VFW in Lander to procure some monies to get a plaque made for the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans. The crosses have been put back in the park along the back fence.

With the new fiscal year comes many requests to update our tax exempt status forms. I have been filling out a lot of those and scanning and sending them out.

My health concerns are hopefully behind me now. I had a little surgery in Salt Lake a couple of weeks ago. Taylor came in and did a wonderful job of manning the office. I will probably have a few more trips to Utah for follow-up, but should be able to function better than I have been. Thank you all for the concern, prayers and good wishes.

June Maintenance Report 2024

Week of June 1st. Harry on call the weekend of the 1st performed daily maintenance and tests at WTP, lagoon check drive through tanks brush pile cemetery. Monday through Friday performed daily duties for WTP and maintenance. Started manually watering zone 10 in cemetery due to solenoid out on zone valve. Met with Kadence our summer helper and got her up to speed with new mower etc. and ready to go. Clean out a total pig sty of a vehicle being the white flat bed for Kaydence to use. Met with E.P.A./D.E.Q about lagoon

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tampering and answered questions showed photos. The county yard for fuel 42 gallons gas, 24.1 gallons diesel and 27 gallons in flat bed. Met with Quincy Orhai at Ohio and 7th street to discuss water and sewer taps if property was sold. Met with Homeland Security at lagoon to answer questions concerning tampering. Work order for Coffee residence to shut off water for no payment. The head gate for town watering was opened and flowing. Harry to lander for C.P.R. Final test and passed. Meet the State of Wyoming at lagoons for More Questioning and sampling. Lander ACE Hardware for chains and locks on effluent gate wheels. Parks, library, and cemetery all mowed and weeded. Received a monthly samples kit for lagoon but no acid in kit, called Energy labs and they will send overnight. Brush hogged bottom of canal from town hall to river. Grab sample to Riverton wwtp lab for E-Coli test. Ordinance cruiser to county shop fill tank with 11 gallons fuel. On the weekend of the 8th and 9th Don on call.

Week of June 10th. Daily and weekly duties and tests performed for WTP and maintenance. Meet with Mayor, HDR, Viper to discuss Lead Copper Project. Continue Mowing parks, library, cemetery and weed. Continue weeding canal. Perform Bac-T sample at 665 Missouri. Push brush pile back. Continually manually water zone 10 in cemetery. Clarks is supposed to be here this week. Monthly sample for Lagoon was taken and shipped via FedEx to Casper for testing. Thank you Don for Taking all towns Samples to Riverton for us. Spraying weeds is ongoing and done intermittently when time allows. Brush hog entrance parking lot at ball field and around ticket booth when tractor made a concerning loud backfire and began barely running. Limp it back to shop. I'm sure its done for and needs a complete over haul and engine rebuild. Clarks here to fix Zone 10 cemetery solenoid but doesn't have the style that's in the system due to age of system. Will come back with a replacement. E.P.A/D.E.Q. here to Put on a class for State of Wyoming sewer/ wwtp operators. They used the town Hall for classroom and lagoon for field trip training. Haul score board to ball field. Ferguson delivered 4-meter pits. Ian Etter called with questions about digging up curb stop and turning water off if needed to replace. Work order for Ashley 100 S. Missouri, water turned on. Received E-Coli and Monthly lab reports. Continue to manually water Zone 10 at cemetery. Received last weeks E-Coli and Energy labs report from Casper. Harry on call Saturday and Sunday. Did weekend rounds and placed garbage cans and traffic cones out for Hudson Days event. performed water plant duties. Sunday retrieve garbage and haul to dumpster from weekend events.

Week of June 17th. Daily and weekly duties and maintenance performed for WTP and WWTP. Unclog ditch backed up and flowing out of street in front of the Sunrise school, used sewer tape on either end and finally got it to come loose. Mowing and weeding is ongoing as needed. Still manually watering zone ten in the cemetery. Haven't been able to find control box prior to that zone to find bad or broken wire. Ordinance cruiser to lander for new battery. Work order behind town Hall Darrell Price possible water leak. Found that town ditch diverted down 3rd and overflowing out of culvert at Illinois. Haul score board back to town shed on south Main. Toured H.D.R. for two hrs. around town walking through the distribution system. Work order 100S. Missouri to turn off water. Hotsey steam cleaner cord plug failed and a new one was ordered. 1st round of Mosquito spraying done Wednesday the 19th and will be done weekly on Wednesday nights. Read meters Wednesday and Thursday the 19th and 20th. Don on call the weekend of 22nd and 23rd.

Week of June 24th. Daily and weekly duties performed for maintenance, lagoons, cemetery, brush pile and tanks. Zone 10 is still being watered manually as not able to find controller box that prior to it to be able to trace line interruption from controller. Fuel equipment for week ahead operations, mix weed killer and try to

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July 9, 2024

spray some weeds. Sprayed skeeters early morning at cemetery, tanks, brush pile and down old highway and through lagoons. Met with Seth Woods and inspected lagoon and all is good. We'll see him again on the 9th of July. Dot physical in lander and received medical endorsement. Found fire hydrant on 1st and Missouri leaking and tightened. Met with Zeke Bonnella discussed flow testing for hydrants and our old equipment vs new. Fill potholes on east 3rd street. Return battery for core charge on the cruiser. County yard for 50 gallons gas. Received monthly report back from lagoon report to Energy labs. Continued mowing weeding of parks, library, and cemetery. 26th spray skeeters 9:00 p.m. till midnight. E-Coli grab sample to Riverton WWTP for testing. Received new tractor from Bob Cat. Hook up new brush hog. Harry on call for the weekend of 29th and 30th. All weekend duties performed for water plant and lagoons as well as security checks throughout town.

Water Treatment Plant Report to Council

July 9, 2024

The Treatment Plant Produced 2,886,552 Gallons of water for the Month of June 2024, averaging 96,218 gallons per day.

June's Bacteriological sample was collected on June 10 and delivered to the state laboratory on time and tested satisfactory. The SWTR (Surface Water Treatment Rule) report for June was sent to the EPA on July 6 with a corrected report sent on July 8, 2024.

The annual CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) was completed and posted at the kiosk at town hall and the post office. Emailed to EPA on June 28.

Harry is preparing for the required Distribution Lead/Copper sampling and is distributing the sample bottles to the consumers to fill as directed and to be picked up and shipped to Energy Labs the next day.

Issues with the raw water supply valve controllers on now both LPMs are still being addressed. The controllers will not keep calibration causing valve torque issues and shutting down the filters. The issues with the raw water supply controller and valves for both LPM #1 and #2 have come to a head with a catastrophic failure over the July 4 Holiday. I had to call out an electrician from ITCET to assist me with the problems encountered.

I had to cannibalize the controller from LPM#1 to make LPM #2 operate in a haphazard manner but we're getting by. New complete valve assemblies have been ordered. They are completely assembled and calibrated. We're using the controllers that we returned to complete the assembly which will save us about \$2,000. First assembled valve package should arrive by the date of the council meeting.

To further exasperate the issues with the control valves, we're experiencing air leaks from glue failure on the membrane cassette manifold causing failed and aborted membrane Integrity tests. We now have an air leak on LPM #1 that is shutting the filter down. We've been somewhat successful in making temporary repairs but the last attempt on LPM#1 was a failure. Repair attempts are ongoing. I'm waiting for a quote from Veolia for replacing all the manifolds in both skids with the membrane replacement in October.

TOWN OF HUDSON
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
333 S Main Street
HUDSON, WY 82515
July 9, 2024

The instrument air dryer at the plant has failed and a suitable replacement has been located from a distributor in Casper. CLS (compressor leasing supply) has a unit being shipped from Denver. We should receive it this week. Dry air is necessary for the pneumatic valves and controls to continue to operate properly.

I will be having lower eyelid surgery in SLC on Tuesday the 16. I may be black and blue in the face for a while, so don't be alarmed.

Don

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to approve the department reports, seconded by Councilwoman Helen Gordon. The motion unanimously passed.

Old Business:

METER PROJECT: Mayor Oler reported on the Water Meter Project status and told those present that the contracts are signed and the Notice to Proceed was just sent out to the contractor. Now we are just waiting for the contractor to inform us of their schedule. Mr. Scott asked about the costs to homeowners. Mayor Oler explained that the meters are paid for by the town and any pits or repairs to the pits would be at the expense of the homeowners.

ORDINANCE 811: Mayor Oler reported on the updated Ordinance. The proposed Ordinance has been posted at the Post Office for the public to read. The highlights on the document are proposed changes. Councilman Brady Hamilton stated he would like to suggest some changes to some parts. Particularly Paragraph 416 (b) he would like to change it to read any 'previously known' vicious dog... It was discussed when the question was raised that what if your dog bites someone on your property? The Ordinance is too vague on the answer. Attorney Sollars said it should be as clear as possible with no vague areas. Mr. Sollars will review the changes, tighten up the language, and send a new draft to council members. The town will schedule a public meeting to discuss the updates to the Ordinance in early August. Once there is an approved Amendment to the Ordinance, it will be posted with copies made available for public review and placed on the next meeting agenda for reading.

Frank's Waterline/Annexation: Mayor Oler reported that she has been working on the application to begin the Annexation process. Once the application is approved, we will schedule a public meeting and then it will have to be read in three consecutive council meetings for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

TOWN OF HUDSON
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SUSAN BRONSON/GIRLSCOUTS – PROPOSAL FOR YABLONSKI LIBRARY BUILDING:

Susan Bronson appeared before the council to present an idea and proposal for the Library building. Susan stated she is the Wyoming/Montana Girl Scout leader overseeing twelve (12) troops as well as a board member of the Hudson Community Heroes Non-profit organization. Ms. Bronson stated she has spoken to her district administration, and they approved her to present the proposal to the town. The Girl Scouts, with the help of Hudson Community Heroes, would like to lease the Yablonski Library building for a term of five (5) years at one hundred dollars (\$100) per year. They would assume all liability for the utilities, upkeep and maintenance on the building, lawn, sidewalks, painting, cleaning, etc. She stated the inside needs a good cleaning and inventory taken of the books and material. They would like to propose set hours of operation and provide access to computers and internet for the public. They would have trained volunteers operate the library and run an after-school program for local children. These volunteers would then be eligible to receive the Silver Award in Girl Scouts which is one of the highest awards. They would like to have families involved and have family movie nights on the lawn when the weather permits. Ms. Bronson stated they would like to have a lease signed at the next council meeting and begin work right away so they may have a grand opening in October.

Mayor Oler thanked her for her presentation and said the proposal sounds great, but the town attorney would have to approve the lease agreement. Attorney Sollars asked about premises liability insurance and suggested they get a renters insurance policy, as the structure is covered under the town's insurance policy. Mayor Oler stated how nice the park looks after the cleanup and painting and thanked the Girl Scouts for their efforts.

HUDSON COMMUNITY HEROES: Maralyne Middour reported that the Hudson Community Heroes has raised \$625 and is about \$500 short for the Wreaths Across America program this year. She is confident we can raise the remainder of the money needed. Maralyne also reported on the amount of money raised toward the Animal Welfare Project in Hudson which is \$561 and once she has a planning document, she can pursue grant funding.

ORDINANCE 855 – ORDINANCE RELATING TO FIXING AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNTS OF GENERAL TAX TO BE LEVIED TO MEET THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF SAID TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON THE 1ST DAY OF JULY 2024 AND ENDING AT MIDNIGHT ON THE 30TH DAY OF JUNE 2025 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to declare an emergency for Ordinance 855 was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by councilman Zeke Bonella. Motion to declare emergency passed.

A motion to approve Ordinance 855 Fixing and Determining Tax Levy for FY 2024-25 was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Brady Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF HUDSON
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
333 S Main Street
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July 9, 2024

CEMETERY UPGRADES: Mayor Oler reported that she has been in touch with Bob Calfus with the Berce Trust and has a conference call scheduled with the trust representatives to discuss further donations. The bid to replace the fencing is just over \$32,000. Mayor Oler also stated that Mr. Calfus said they are open to helping wherever they can, and she is going to approach them about repairing the sprinkler system in the cemetery since it is quickly deteriorating. Councilwoman Gordon asked about the watering system at the cemetery. It is an underground sprinkler system.

Motion to move forward contingent upon funding being provided to allow Mayor Oler to secure cemetery fence replacement was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Zeke Bonella. Motion passed unanimously.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mayor Oler reported on the near catastrophic event at the Water Treatment Plant that took place over the 4th of July holiday. There was a complete failure of a controller on the main valves. Don and others were able to cannibalize parts and got it saved and working again. The parts to repair it should be here tomorrow and are a plug and play. The new controller is a \$425 part. Councilman Kevin Kummer would like to have a back up controller on hand to prevent another failure. Mayor Oler agreed. She went on to state that we will likely have a very large bill coming from ITC for coming to repair it on a holiday weekend, but the good news is that the town did not have to get water hauled in from Lander.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Potential Litigation, personnel, and utilities

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made by councilman Brady Hamilton and seconded by councilwoman Helen Gordon. Motion passed at 7:17 p.m.

Motion to return to regular session was made by councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by councilman Zeke Bonella. Motion passed and return to regular session commenced at 7:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the council. Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Helen Gordon seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

TOWN OF HUDSON
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333 S Main Street
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July 9, 2024

Attest:

Approved:

Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman

Mayor, Sherry Oler

Councilwoman, Helen Gordon

Councilman, Kevin Kummer

Councilman, Zeke Bonella

Councilman, Brady Hamilton