

TOWN OF HUDSON
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
333 S Main Street
HUDSON, WY 82515
August 13, 2024

Mayor Oler called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was announced.

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

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

Audience: Susan Bronson, Cory Clouser, Katie Peah, Danny Svilar, Louise Barker, Curtis Barker, Brenda Smith.

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: **Louise Barker – Mrs. Barker would like to discuss her neighbor’s sheep she has as well as numerous dogs and not cleaning up after them. She stated that something has to be done, her neighbor has a lamb and five dogs. Whenever she and her husband come outside their house, there is constant noise and barking and the dog feces smell is overwhelming. Curtis Barker stated that the dogs snarl and bark at everything that walks past. Louise also stated that even when the owner is outside with the animals, she does nothing to curb their barking. Mayor Oler told Louise that the animal owner has a Livestock Permit application on the agenda tonight as well and the council will consider her remarks at that time. Louise stated there are ordinances that say she must clean up after her animals once a month and she needs to follow the rules.*

**Danny Svilar – Mr. Svilar would like to share his thoughts on pit bulls in Hudson and the proposed changes to Ordinance 811. Danny stated that two years ago, a small dog belonging to one of his friends was killed and ripped to shreds by a pit bull with no provocation whatsoever. He is asking for a compromise on the Ordinance that would require all dog owners to have insurance coverage for their animal in case it bites or attacks someone. He stated that any dog can turn on its owner. Mayor Oler informed him of the public meeting that will be taking place and invited him to come and speak up at that meeting.*

CONSENT AGENDA items I, II, and III

I. MINUTES:

Correction/approval of the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 9, 2024

II. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Correction/approval of the Financial Report for July 31, 2024

III. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Correction/approval of the payment of bills for August 2024

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Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Report - August 2024

Water Meter Replacement Project: HDR asked the contractor when the project will start, and he said he was waiting for delivery of the meters.

Frank's Meats Annexation: The annexation report and accompanying maps are complete and ready for town council to select a public meeting date and time and approve the resolution.

Grant Applications: I continue to look for the time to apply for the grant to assess the sewer lift station, sewer lines and lagoon. I am hoping I can do this in the evenings at home this month.

FEMA Flood Training: I attended the US Army Corps of Engineers training on flood mitigation the last week of July. While there, I asked about our grant application, and I found out it is still working through the process. I was pleased to hear we weren't denied. I continue to work on the Flood Plain inventory for Homeland Security. It is just going to take some time.

Level 1 Water Master Plan: I attended the monthly meeting on Friday while I was in Cheyenne. HDR is requesting additional records after reviewing the records requested last month. Kyle plans to visit town hall this week and meet with Don, Harry, and Kathy.

Feral Cats: PAWS for Life contacted Tim regarding cats taken to the shelter and euthanized because they were diseased. It is an unknown disease, and notice went out to the public immediately.

Brownstone Project (SPURR Program): I returned the idea boards to Ayers Engineering when they were in Lander on the 20th. I look forward to seeing their ideas in a formal engineered presentation. I also met with Mr. and Mrs. Fritz on August 5th and confirmed they would like to proceed with the SPURR program, and I am currently attempting to schedule a meeting with all involved.

Vicious Dog Ordinance: We have not received written suggestions to the proposed vicious dog ordinance, but I understand Danny Svilar would like to speak with counsel about it. The public meeting is planned to take place with the annexation public hearing.

New Employee: After conducting five interviews and several things happening in the interim, I offered John Copozzi the maintenance position. He lives between Lander and Hudson; he has a construction background, and he holds a nursing degree. He accepted the position and things are going well. He started employment on July 29.

Water Treatment Plant: We received the controllers for cell 1 and 2. Cell 2 has been up and running for a month and cell 1 should be operating at the beginning of this week.

Cemetery: The entire fence was replaced, cattle guard installed, and livestock gates installed. The Berce Trust agreed to reimburse the town for this expense. Livestock will have trouble accessing the cemetery now. I

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received two bids for the irrigation lines replacement and new controller(s). One bid came in at \$106,000 and the other bid was approximately \$120,000. I spoke with Bob Calfas about this expense as well and I promised to get back with them when I had another bid. I don't think we will be able to get their assistance on this project because they are trying to close the trust, and the irrigation replacement cannot be scheduled until next year. Taylor's audit of the cemetery deeds/records has been cumbersome because the records are a mess, and we mailed letters to the cemetery committee requesting to schedule a meeting with the intentions of asking for their help.

I can't believe it is the end of summer already, it went by way too fast!

CLERK – TREASURER REPORT

July 2024

I do not know what happened to summer. It flew by too fast! Town Hall has been busy as usual.

The floors finally got replaced and I worked from home remotely for a week due to the fumes from all the glue. There were residents upset that Town Hall was closed, but we did our best to keep them advised and check the mail and phones.

I had a phone conference with Black Mountain Software to discuss changing our accounting software. Their software looked much easier and more user friendly, they gave us a great price, the mayor and I were both excited. Then, they realized that they forgot a couple of the charges associated with the software on their quote and the new price put them out of consideration as it is much higher than we are currently paying for Caselle. Caselle is a good program, just a little too big and cumbersome for a small municipality. I will continue to explore options. But in the meantime, we are happy with Caselle. I have registered for the annual conference in October in Salt Lake and hope to get a chance to discuss some options with a sales rep while I am there.

We have officially hired Taylor Anderson as the office assistant. She is still going to CWC, but managed to arrange her class schedule to be able to apply for the hours we need to fill, and we were happy to offer her the job! We have been working on training and getting her up to speed on the computer. She is catching on and doing great with utility payments and fielding phone calls and resident visits which frees up some of my time. I am hoping that once she is fully trained, I will have a chance to catch up.

I also have another hat to add to my collection. I am now the Municipal Court Clerk. We held our first municipal court on the 31st for two residents who were cited for not registering their animals. Judge McKee presided and all went well.

I filed the quarterly report for the waterline extension for Franks. Things are progressing with the annexation and work will soon commence.

I have been working on new forms and updating them. We have a new lien form to file for residents that are behind or on a payment plan for their utility accounts. We will place a lien on their property until the account is brought current. That way, should they try to sell the property, our lien will have to be satisfied before they are able to have a clear title to sell.

We ordered two new cameras to track any activities around the sewer lagoon area. Harry and John will get them installed soon.

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We continue to have problems with the bank cards from BMO bank. The mayor spoke with a representative from Wyoming Community Bank, and we have chosen them as our new bank. I will prepare the resolution for approval. If approved, and once the minutes are signed for August showing the new depository and signatures, we will close the BMO account and transfer to Wyoming Community Bank.

Hudson experienced a huge wind, thunder, and lightning storm recently. Several trees were blown down and there was a lot of clean up needed. The storm also knocked out power for awhile and when the power was restored, one bank of lights in town hall were fried. The electrician was called and had to replace several LED lights to restore lighting to the utility office.

We have had a couple of burials at the cemetery and Taylor has been tasked with trying to straighten out the records for the cemetery. We have learned that the records were not kept up to date very well and there has been no cross-referencing of deeds and burials. Taylor has been working on the project when time allows, and we have sent out letters to those that were interested in a cemetery committee asking for a meeting to see if they can be of help.

I took time to update records on the town web page and have uploaded the minutes and payments for the year. These documents get posted at town hall and the post office, but the posting at the post office only seems to stay up for a day or two before someone removes it. Hopefully, having them online will give more residents the opportunity to read and stay up to date.

I have also been trying to learn the elements of the electronic sign out front. I have figured out how to edit and change the text to put messages up. I need to call the company to have some account access changed and restored from the previous administrator. They also have great tutorials I can watch online when time allows.

I also mailed out payment agreement forms for those residents on a payment plan and overdue notices to those who are not. I sent out nine agreements and received two back so far. I will be preparing the liens for their properties soon. It is time the town got serious about overdue accounts and payments. There will be shut off notices sent out this month and I expect some fall out from irate residents when their water is shut off.

I will be out two days this month for medical appointments but am hoping it will soon be remedied to just a check up here and there.

Reminder that the primary election is August 20th. Make your vote count!

Water Treatment Plant Report to Council

August 13, 2024

The Treatment Plant Produced 3,933,661 Gallons of water for the Month of July, 2024, averaging 126,892 gallons per day.

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

Harry delivered the required Distribution Lead/Copper sampling bottles to the consumers to fill as directed and to be picked up and shipped to Energy Labs the next day. Two of the samples were not filled correctly by the

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residents and had to be re-sampled. Final results from the lab showed no detectable lead in all five sample locations. Copies of the results were distributed to the consumers who sampled and certification of delivery and results as well as lead statements were sent to the EPA as required.

The annual disinfection by-product sample will be collected next week at the north end of the distribution system

Issues with the raw water supply valve controllers on now both LPMs have been addressed. Two complete raw water valve assemblies were ordered and have been received and will be installed when I return to work next week. The assemblies include the butterfly valve, actuator and a fully calibrated controller. We were able to reuse the actuators and the distributor did the proper calibration for our application.

The issues we're experiencing air leaks from glue failure on the membrane cassette manifold causing failed and aborted membrane Integrity tests will continue to be addressed by attempts to add additional glue over the leaks. I've contacted Veolia, the manufacturer and am awaiting word and price to replace the leaking manifolds when the new membrane cassettes are installed in October.

The failed instrument air dryer at the plant was purchased has been properly installed. The original installation was ridged piped and no bypass for service was included. The piping from the air tank has been updated with flex couplings and a bypass was installed.

A sales rep from HACH showed up at the plant last week that happened to be a former service tech, knowing about issues with our turbidity meters. I had Harry give him permission to check the unit and he found hard water scale on the laser lens, causing improper readings on the actual sample even though the unit passed calibrations. Interesting difference from the persons in Loveland I'd been dealing with, reading from a script and dwelling on software updates.

I now know who caused the issue and why the issue began with the turbidity meter. My suspect was correct, and case closed on this one.

My lower eyelid surgery in SLC last month went well and I am very much improved and nearly fully mended.

July Maintenance Report 2024

Week of July 1st 2024. All daily and weekly maintenance for town and water plant performed. This includes all mowing and weeding of parks, library and cemetery. Work order for Jones at 108 N. Ohio to locate curb stop. Work order for crosses to be put back up in Memorial Park. Use new tractor for first time to hog road to tanks and around them as well as road into brush pile. Work Ron lighting for meter pit reader pad pass through missing, we had none so ordered three and will install when they arrive. Harry off from the 3rd till Monday the 8th.

Week of July 8th. 2024. All daily and weekly maintenance for town and water plant performed. Tour wastewater lagoons with Seth from Dubois Maintenance Division and James Brough formerly of DEQ but know with Y2 Engineering. Monthly wastewater samples taken and sent to Casper Energy Labs. Began the lead and copper sampling process for DEQ/EPA. Skeeters continued to be sprayed on Wednesday nights. Three E-Coli

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samples were taken to Riverton wastewater lab for analysis this month and quarter. Lander county yard for fuel, 27 gallons diesel, 38 gallons gas 27.5 gallons gas skeeter truck. Harry on call the 13th and 14th.

Week of July 15th 2024. All daily and weekly maintenance is performed for the town and water plant. Brush hog well field and water plant. Informed Kelly and Darrell Fencing that we had approval for fence project at cemetery, they will be here a.s.a.p. Emergency restart or lift station at lagoon after power outage, as the breakers trip and need manually reset after power comes back on. Finish picking up lead and copper samples for testing. Work order for Peterson cremation hole to be dug. Lead and copper samples sent to Casper Energy labs. Don on call weekend of 20th and 21st.

Week of July 22nd 2024. All daily and weekly maintenance for town and water plant performed. DEQ here this week for a records review of wastewater plant and lagoons. Quarterly DMR's submitted and accepted. Brush hog fire dept. parking lot. Plot Watts cremation hole for digging. Harry on call weekend of 27th and 28th. Harry in Douglas for Disaster and Terrorism training for water and waste facilities. From 29th of July to the 2nd of August.

Motion to approve Department Reports was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Zeke Bonella. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

METER PROJECT: Mayor Oler reported on the progress of the water meter project. She stated that Viper underground is anticipating starting with meter replacements next month. Louise Barker asked why the residents have been paying an extra five dollars each month for so long if the job hasn't even started yet. It was explained that the project started long before now and there have been engineering costs, mapping and many behind-the-scenes things that have had to happen before we can get to the actual part of installing the new meters.

CEMETERY UPGRADES: Mayor Oler reported on the Berce Trust Cemetery donation and the replacement of the fence and installation of the cattleguard. The new fence is completed and the cattleguard has been installed. The trustees are going to reimburse the town for the expenses once we send them the invoices.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 811: Mayor Oler reported on the updated Ordinance and that the suggested changes from council have been made. The draft will be posted on the webpage and at the Post Office and Frank's Meats for review. She further stated it would need to be set for a public meeting to discuss.

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Councilwoman Helen Gordon made a motion that the new Ordinance be set for Public Hearing on September 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Hudson Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer and passed by vote.

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR YABLONSKI LIBRARY: Town Council reviewed the Lease Agreement between the Hudson Heroes/Girl Scouts for the Yablonski Library Building, and all agreed that it will be very nice to have an operating library in Hudson once more. They stated that MaryAnne Robison did so much good with her volunteer work in the library and they are happy to see that carried on.

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to approve the Lease Agreement and Councilman Kevin Kummer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Oler signed the lease on behalf of the Town and sent it with Susan Bronson to obtain signatures. Once she returns the signed lease and payment, the keys will be issued, and they can begin their work in the library.

SET BACK PERMITS:

There were two set back permits up for consideration by the council.

Edgar Wooten
308 S Illinois (Van Riper's sold)

Would like to put a modular cabin on the property (14' wide x 50' long)

Discussion was held about the hookups and that the new fence on the property was built right over the top of the curb stop making it impossible to turn on and off. Mayor Oler stated that she would issue a work order and have it investigated.

Councilman Kevin Kummer moved to approve Set Back Permit for Wootens. Seconded by Councilman Zeke Bonella and passed by vote.

Mayor Oler excused herself from the meeting at this point and sat in the audience while the set back permit for her property was discussed.

Keith and Sherry Oler
164 N Ohio

Removal of porch and replace with wood deck or repair porch and concrete. Approximately 8'x10'

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Councilwoman Helen Gordon questioned if the porch would be replaced with a wood deck or with concrete. Clerk Shoopman, who is familiar with the project spoke on behalf of the Olers and explained that the current concrete steps will be removed, and a larger deck will be installed using either wood or concrete depending on price, but the size will be the same as stated on the permit in either case. Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to approve the Set Back Permit for the Olers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer and the motion passed.

Mayor Oler then returned to her place at the Council Table.

Brian Rhorbacher

Mayor Oler reported that Brian Rhorbacher had contacted her and requested to move a shed temporarily to the town easement on the dead-end portion on his property. A discussion was held about setting a precedent for the town and having other residents start storing property on town easements. Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to deny Mr. Rhorbacher's request for the temporary placement of a shed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer and passed unanimously.

LIVESTOCK PERMIT:

The next item before the council was a livestock permit application submitted by Ms. Desmond.

Marilyn Desmond

309 S Oklahoma (Owned by Larry Leonardi)

Would like a permit for one sheep. (.07 Acres [2997 sq. ft] minus a 14' x 80' trailer.)

After discussion and review of the ordinance, it was determined that Ms. Desmond does not have enough land to qualify for a livestock permit and the permit should be denied.

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to deny the Livestock Permit and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Helen Gordon. Motion passed.

Frank's Waterline/Annexation: Mayor Oler reported on the Frank's waterline project and presented the annexation report to the council.

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RESOLUTION 2024-06: A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCED WITH W.S. § 15-1-404 FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES OWNED BY FBS HUDSON, LLC, AND THE TOWN OF HUDSON

There was a review of Resolution 2024-06 and Motion to publish and set a public hearing for September 17 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the annexation was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and Seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2024-07: A RESOLUTION SETTING PROCEDURE FOR UTILITY BILL PAYMENT AGREEMENT

This Resolution will set forth the procedure of issuing a payment agreement for delinquent utility bills. Clerk Shoopman explained that the town is required by the State Audit Department to have a written payment agreement in place. This stems from a 2017 audit of the town. Ms. Shoopman reported that the audit department has instructed the town to follow the ordinances set forth regarding utility billing and collections. Review of Resolution was held, and Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to approve Resolution 2024-07 setting procedure for utility bill payment agreement. Councilman Zeke Bonella seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

DEPOSITORIES:

Wyoming Community Bank WYOSTAR/WY Investment Fund

Clerk Shoopman reported to council that pursuant to the approval last month to send RFQs to other banks, that she did contact several banks, and that the Mayor spoke with two banks and would like to recommend designating the new Depository for the town as Wyoming Community Bank.

Councilman Kevin Kummer moved to approve and designate Wyoming Community Bank / WYOSTAR/WY Investment Fund as the Depository for the Town of Hudson. Councilwoman Helen Gordon seconded motion. Motion passed.

SIGNATORIES for all Town Designated Depositories:

Mayor Sherry Oler

Mayor Pro-Tem: Brady Hamilton

Clerk/Treasurer: Kathleen Shoopman

The Signatories for all Town Designated Depositories are Mayor Sherry Oler, Brady Hamilton, Mayor Pro-tem and Kathleen Shoopman, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to designate Signatories as set forth above. Councilwoman Helen Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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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 6:47 pm.

Attest:

Approved:

Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman

Mayor, Sherry Oler

Councilwoman, Helen Gordon

Councilman, Kevin Kummer

Councilman, Zeke Bonella

Excused
Councilman, Brady Hamilton