

MINUTES
TOWN OF CLYDE PARK
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2024

The Public Hearing for Resolution of Intent for Modifications to the Water Rates meeting was called to order by Mayor Sydney Wiley at 7:02 p.m. Council members present were Brian Eckenrod, Teresa Saari and Dave Sarrazin, James Walsh and Roger Chandler.

GUESTS: Persons in attendance: Carla Williams, Maria Skogen, Becca Pinson. Persons in attendance via Zoom: Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Mills

Mayor Wiley presented to the Council and the public a packet of information outlining the Water Rate Increase. Tonight's meeting is the first of two public hearing meetings required. The first public hearing is to sign a Resolution of Intent to raise water rates. The Resolution of Intent is sent to the town attorney, who will share it with the Consumer Council. The second public hearing will be held on December 9, 2024 is where the rates will go into effect. The first page of the packet is the notice that will be sent to the public. Council member Chandler noted a correction in the wording that needed to be made. The correction was noted and will be made. C/T Stacy Mills used the same rate chart from the previous water rate increase with current numbers to show the council and guests how the water rate increase amount would change to cover the town's current and future needs. The last chart in the packet is an accelerator chart from Montana Annotated Codes that C/T Mills added as an example of how the water rates would increase at a 2% increase per year. This accelerator chart can be used so the town does not have to go through the public hearing and resolution process to increase water rates. What the council is proposing is an annual increase of 2% following the increase for 2025. C/T Mills responded that the 2% used as an example. According to Montana Code Annotated, the council can establish the water rates up to 5% without having to go through the public hearing and resolution process every year. Council member Walsh commented that he would like to know what other towns are doing. C/T Mills responded that the other towns she looked into were doing a 4% rate increase. Becca Pinson, PO Box 251, commented that if the water rates are going to be raised, the public needs to be able to drink the water. The water tastes horrible. Carla Williams, PO Box 269, commented that if water rates are going to rise, do not put water restrictions on the town. Maria Skogen asked a question regarding the monthly water payment that comes from the fire protection of the residents that have wells. The fire department money will roll over to the department the town chooses to consolidate with. These funds are kept in the General Fund until it is used for maintenance, training and equipment. Council member Eckenrod explained why there is a need for raising the water rates. There is a million dollar loan that was established prior to this council that needs to be paid on. There is upkeep to the wells and spring boxes. There is wages for staff to maintain the system we currently have. Council member Walsh commented that while we are doing what needs to be done, we can also take care of the citizens' concerns regarding the taste of the water and the water restrictions. Council member Eckenrod discussed the chlorine in the water. The chlorine levels are as low as possible. Should the chlorine levels go any lower, the water system will be red-flagged by the government. Council member Eckenrod will arrange to test water at the homes of concerned citizens. Becca Pinson asked the council how the public will be notified of the public hearing. The council responded that per town codes, notices are put up at the Bank of the Rockies, Glenn's Market, Dales Service station. Council member Saari requested that the Council look into adding a fourth place to put notification of Public Hearings. Mayor Wiley noted that a mass mailing will be going to all town customers notifying them of the next public hearing. No other comments were made. Mayor Wiley proceeded to read the RESOLUTION OF INTENT OF THE TOWN OF

CLYDE PARK, MONTANA, TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY WATER RATES FOR CERTAIN ELEMENT OF THE WATER RATE SCHEDULE IN AMOUNTS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE A IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THE ESCALATING COSTS FOR THE REPAIR, REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WATER SYSTEM to the council and public. Council member Saari made a motion to sign the Resolution. Seconded by Council member Eckenrod. Motion approved and passed.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF INSPIRATION: Read by Mayor Sydney Wiley

OPEN FORUM

Items not on the Agenda: Mayor Wiley welcomed the visitors and explained how the Open Forum will proceed. This is for items not on the agenda. Mayor Wiley turned the time over to the public. Carla Williams, 204 3rd Ave S spoke directly to Mayor Wiley. Ms Williams asked Mayor Wiley to answer truthfully if she was a mayor for the citizens and a mayor for the town. Ms Williams continues her reasoning for this question is due to the variances the mayor has asked for personally, (dogwood plants at the mayor's home) and for her business, (outside ice machines not in compliance with sidewalk clearance.) Ms Williams expressed her feelings that the Mayor is doing her job for herself and not for the town. Mayor Wiley responded that the dogwoods at her home will be moved in the spring when the ground is ready for planting. Ms Williams continued expressing that the Mayor is trying to benefit herself and her businesses as the Mayor. Again Ms Williams expressed that Mayor Wiley is not acting as a mayor for the town but for herself and her businesses. Ms Williams continued that the mayor is asking for another variance for her business due to code violation of obstructing the sidewalk in front of her business. Mayor Wiley asked Ms Williams if she wanted the Mayor to resign. Ms Williams replied no, that she is making a point that people see this. Council member Eckenrod that the Council tabled the dogwoods multiple times. The ice machine at Glenn's is used by the public. Council member Eckenrod continued that the Mayor and council have done and continue to do many things for the town. Council member Walsh stated that to Ms Williams point, object matters and things like this matter and it is important. Ms Williams continued saying that the Mayor tells the town that there is no money to do things yet there are two clerks working. The Mayor is doing things that don't make sense. Council member Chandler commented regarding the dogwoods and the ice machines, it does not matter who owns them, the variance needs to be addressed. Council member Saari said the Mayor brought the dogwood violation to the council and the council passed the variance for the spring relocation of the dogwoods. Council member Chandler put on record that every town member must abide by the down codes. If there is a violation to a code, a variance needs to be issued.

MAYORS REPORT: The Mayor is continuing to find a solution to move forward with the fire department. Wilsall and Clyde Park Rural have been good about responding to our needs. Wilsall came within an hour of calling them and drained all the pumps on the trucks and got them winterized. Attorney Jon Hess sent an email laying out the plan for moving forward. He suggests holding a Public Hearing first to get the town's input. The Mayor would like to send out a survey through a link or mailing to get more response from the town. Next, our Council and Clyde Park Rural Fire Department board need to meet to see if consolidating is possible. The question was asked about Home owners insurance raising due to the lack of a city fire department. There is a possibility that could happen. Becca Pinson asked if the fire chief position could be filled. Mayor Wiley replied that with the town having 300 residents, Clyde Park is not required to have a city fire department. The Mayor continued with her report. Becca Pinson responded that as a member of the town she was asking a question about the fire department and how it would impact her home and family. Ms Pinson continued that she was asking respectfully and Mayor

Wiley was ignoring her question. Mayor Wiley said she wasn't ignoring Ms Pinson and asked for a minute. Mayor Wiley tried to continue but at this point Mayor Wiley became ill and asked to be excused. Mayor Wiley asked Council member Walsh to take over the meeting. Council member Walsh called for a motion to have 10 minute recess at 7:47. Council member Chandler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council member Walsh called an end to the recess and continued the Council Meeting at 7:57.

MAYORS REPORT (continued): There were bulleted items left to discuss on the Mayors Report. Fire Department and Shop Maintenance. There were no notes to these bulleted items. Council member Walsh asked if C/T Mills or Deputy Clerk Barr had additional information about these items. CT Mills replied that as the mayor previously mentioned, Attorney Jon Hess has laid out a plan for the mayor and council to follow regarding the fire department. A public hearing will take place and notice will be posted in the usual places and on web sites. Council member Eckenrod reported on the Shop Maintenance. The Emergency vehicle is being moved over to the shop maintenance building for the winter. The heat will be turned off at the fire department building. ARCA Records Archiving Service: C/T Mills reported it is still a work in progress. Update on Hiring /Contracting for snow removal. Council member Chandler suggested calling locals to plow town streets and then send an invoice for payment. Update on Great West and Preliminary Engineering Report: C/T Mills reported it is still in process.

Treasurer's Report: This report was given by Clerk/Treasure Stacy Mills. Checks and claims including the stipend for the volunteer firefighters are ready to be printed with council approval. In October we billed \$15,117.40. In November we collected \$9,913.96. Web site views for November were seen 4,063 by 2,359 people. In the last 30 days no less than 50 people have used the web site per day. The employment opportunity page has been viewed 109 times in the last 30 days by 83 visitors. The agendas have been viewed 64 times by visitors in the last 30 days. News, including this meeting and the announcement of it, has been viewed 161 times by 147 visitors. Council member Walsh asked C/T Mills if there was anything further for the Treasurer's Report. C/T Mills said there was nothing else to report. She needed to know if a motion was going to be made to approve the claims. Council member Walsh said that before they made a motion he had a question for Council member Chandler. Council member Walsh asked Council member Chandler if he had a chance to see any of the treasurer's reports in his box before this meeting. Council member Chandler responded that he had not seen one piece of paper until he got to this meeting. It has always been for the last seven years that I have been on this council, there was a packet that was delivered the Friday before the meeting so the council could study the financial reports. And going by that I refuse to approve this financial report. Council member Walsh replied he was glad he brought it up and thanked Council member Chandler for his response. Council member Walsh asked if anyone would like to make a motion on the financial report. Council member Saari said they get approved in the Consent Agenda. Council member Walsh acknowledged Council member Saari's comment and continued that they would be at the Consent Agenda soon. After a pause, Council member Walsh then stated this was his meeting and he believed he could ask for a motion now on the financials. He then asked if someone would like to make a motion without waiting til the Consent Agenda. Council member Chandler made a motion that from now on financials are in paper and delivered to the council members on Friday before Council Meeting so they can study them over the weekend. Council member Saari asked if it was just the financials or all the paper work. Council member Chandler responded that it will be all the paperwork. The motion was seconded by Council member Sarrazin. Council members Chandler and Sarrazin approved the motion. Council members Saari and Eckenrod opposed the motion. Council member Saari stated she did want the financials in paper prior to the meeting. Council member Walsh voted to approve the motion. Motion passed.

CSO Report: This was reported by Council member Eckenrod.

Water: Went through everything with Great West Engineering. They have remote access to all the SCATA since installment with their PER. They have all the information from PECCIA. No issues with the water. Bob has been moving chlorine.

Animals: Nothing to report.

Site Permits: James Boyd/Jason Jacobson. A motion by Council member Chandler to table this permit to the next meeting when the applicant has approved septic system permit. Seconded by Council member Sarrazin. Motion approved and passed. Rebecca Pinson asked about a site permit she submitted. Her site permit will be on the next agenda and cannot be voted on in this meeting. She explained that her porch is ready to fall in and wants to extend it 2 feet. Council member Walsh responded that she would go ahead and do her porch and let the process go due to the safety hazard of her porch.

Cemetery/Park: Nothing to report.

Street: Council member Chandler noted the sign on Bracket Creek was missing. Council member Eckenrod responded that the sign is in the trees and that Mayor Wiley had been notified of this. Council member Chandler requested that orange flags be ordered and put up on all speed limit signs. Asphalt has been used up by patching Jay Epperson's drive. An invoice for the patching needs to be sent to Mr. Epperson. Asphalt needs to be ordered. Per Council member Walsh, this is a budgeted item and does not require a motion and vote.

Standing Committee Report:

Budget & Finance: Nothing to report

Public Works: Reported by Council member Eckenrod. No work has been done on an ordinance for animals and overnight camping. Motion was made by Council member Chandler to table overnight camping ordinance until the next meeting. Seconded by Council member Saari. Motion approved and passed.

Parks & Recreation: Nothing to report

Streets and Alleys: Nothing to report

Planning, Zoning, and Subdivision: Council Member Saari turned in the agenda and minutes for the last meeting. Jeff Bradner of the subdivision, Sunnyside Meadows, came to the planning board meeting. His plan is to build work/live units and a walking area. He will be coming to the next planning board meeting to talk about duplexes. Continuing to update Subdivision Regulations.

Solid Waste: Council member Sarrazin reported. Continue to balance the budget. Still having issues with illegal dumping. Looking at installing cameras or hire to monitor dumping

Consent Agenda:

These items may all be accepted by a single motion, or individual items may be motioned to be moved off for further discussion before approval:

1. Minutes of the October 2024 Meeting. Motion made by Council member Chandler to accept the October 2024 minutes as written. Seconded by Council member Sarrazin. Motion approved and passed.

2. Claim Warrants and Financial Reports. Motion made by Council member Saari to approve the financials as written. Second by Council member Eckenrod. Council members Saari and Eckenrod approved the motion. Council member Chandler opposed the motion. Council member Sarrazin abstained from the motion. Motion approved and passed. A motion was made by Council member Saari to approve the payment of October claims. Seconded by Council member Eckenrod. Motion approved and passed.
3. ARCA Records and Archiving: Motion was made by Council member Chandler to table the ARCA Records and Archiving. Seconded by Council member Saari. Motion approved and passed.
4. Snowplow Request: Action to get a copy of the bid request in the packets for next month's council meeting and table this as Old Business in the next meeting. Motion made by Council member Saari to table the snow plow request to the December meeting and given all the paperwork ahead of time to review. Seconded by Council member Sarrazin. Approved by Council members Saari, Sarrazin and Chandler. Opposed by Council member Eckenrod. Motion approved and passed.

Unfinished Business: Variance to Glenn's Market to be tabled until next meeting. Discussion and next steps of the Fire Department to be tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: Reestablishing the Cemetery board for the maintenance of the cemetery. A motion was made by Council member Chandler to reestablish the Cemetery Board, advertise in all locations and have a public meeting 30 minutes before the January 2025 meeting. Seconded by Council member Sarrazin. Motion approved and passed.

Motion made by Council member Chander to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council member Saari. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Mayor

Clerk