

Council Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jill Gross, Shelly Krueger, Tim Croy, Amanda Yaprak, and Andrew Grossnickle

Members Absent: None

Employees Present: Jim Eads, Josh Shepherd

Guests: Hannah Beliles, Keaton Schopf, Leah Sander (Ink Free), Jackie Gorski (Times Union)

6:30 PM Call to Order, Budget Public Hearing

6:35 PM Tim motions to Adjourn Public Hearing. Shelly Second. Adjourned.

6:35 Call to Order, Regular Meeting

Tim motions to accept the August 2nd meeting minutes as printed. Shelly second. Pass.

Guests:

Hannah Beliles presented a discussion to the council on potential programs available to help the feral cat problem. As an introduction, she stated her goal was to help control the feral cat issue in town and spread the word about spay and neutering programs.

Keaton Schopf stopped in to introduce himself to the council as a potential Marshal candidate. He provided a brief background of his work experience and his presence here in the community.

Old Business:

Chalk-the-walk – Tim thanked everyone who participated in Chalk-the-walk over Labor Day weekend. He stated Ink Free and channel 22 News covered the event.

Prayer Walk – Amanda thanked Dillon Cottrill and Bourbon United Pentecostal Church for the prayer walk and fellowship. There were many community members that attended, and it was a successful event we are hoping to continue next year.

Income Survey – Amanda and Tim thanked the MACOG team that came to Mentone to complete the income survey. They also thanked the community members for their participation. The results from the survey recognized Mentone as a Low to Moderate Income (LMI) community which qualifies us for CBDG funding. Next is the planning and application due before year end.

Craft Antique Fair – Shelly announced the fair Saturday September 30th from 9am-3pm at the Subway parking lot. Wheels on Fire Cancer Crusades will have a pancake breakfast from 7am-10am.

Railroad Crossing – Shelly stated she received communication from the railroad stating the crossing reconstruction and rebuilding is scheduled for 2024. In the meantime, they stated they will make a temporary patch expected before year end.

Board Creation – Andrew reminded the council he is still looking into the creation of Cemetery, Park, and Zoning boards or committees.

Unsafe Properties – Andrew stated he has been looking into the two properties that were considered dilapidated. He mentioned a condemnation process but advised an Unsafe Building Ordinance and appointing an enforcement administrator as the best route. Andrew reviewed our current ordinances and stated he can send a letter to address the violation of the yard and weeds.

Clerk Window – Josh stated Glass Dr. has been in to measure the window and it should be completed within the next two weeks. Craig Welding did a great job on the shelf, council agreed it looks nice.

Shop floor coating – Josh stated Garage Force completed the floors at the shop.

Dump Truck Chassis - Josh received a notification from Kerlin that his truck is going to be built but they will need to revisit the trade in value for the current truck.

CCMG Paving 1 – Josh stated Phend and Brown did a great job on the street paving and were very good to work with. Siders Asphalt will be re-stripping Broadway Street within the next few weeks.

Washing Street Project – Josh informed the council that L.I. Excavating is 99% complete with the storm tile project and has placed grass seed on the worksites. The final step is to test the tile to verify everything is working properly.

New Business:

Rotors Over Mentone – Tim reminded everyone that Saturday September 9th is the event at the Bell Aircraft Museum from 10am-3pm

APEX Meeting – Tim stated he has a meeting September 21st with an APEX representative to review any concerns the town or community members may have. Individuals can respond to the Mentone News and Information Facebook page with their concerns.

Late Utility Payments – Amanda brought the concern that there are a significant amount of water shutoff notices going out due to past due utility payments. She advised the council to consider raising the deposit amount to at least cover 30-60 days of an average water bill. The council agrees the utility deposit should be increased from \$100 to \$300. Tim motions to allow Amanda to work on an ordinance increasing the water deposit to \$300. Shelly second. Amanda and Andrew will work on an ordinance with a November 1st effective date.

American Tower Lease Agreement – Amanda informed the council that American Tower, with support of Verizon, has contacted her to re-negotiate the lease agreement. She requested the council look into the proposal and reach out to the contact provided if they have any questions or concerns.

Horizon Bank – Jill stated she received a notice stating we have a dormant account with Horizon Bank that will start incurring fees if it does not get used. She discussed with Amanda the potential merging of two dormant accounts. Shelly motions to allow Jill to sign the letter from Horizon bank stating the account is not dormant. Tim second. Pass.

Deputy Notice – Jim stated on August 21st Jacob Bill put in a two weeks' notice as he had accepted a position out of state. Concerning Jim's upcoming retirement, he notified the council on options to close the Mentone Police Department or initiate the process of hiring a new marshal. The council agreed it would be in the Town's best interest to continue the Police Department. Tim motions to continue with the Police Department

and proceed with hiring a town marshal. Applications must be submitted to the clerk's office no later than September 15th. Jill second. Pass.

Parking Ordinance – Jim recommended the council consider adding guidance for longer vehicles, such as trailers or RVs, when drafting a parking ordinance.

Park Creek – Josh discussed with the County Surveyors Office the concern that the clean-up efforts were temporary and unsatisfactory as there were no preventative measures taken on the leftover tree stumps. Josh stated the Surveyors Office did not have the funds for landscaping, so he spent a few days grinding stumps, cleaning up the leftover mulch, and planting grass seed.

Trees – Josh identified 6 trees that need to be cut down, 4 trees are on the newly paved Broadway Street. He has reached out for quotes. Jill motions to allow Josh to proceed with cutting high priority trees not to exceed \$10,000. Tim second. Pass. In addition, Josh mentioned the need to plant trees around town but advises only specific types of trees that will not destroy sidewalks or cause future problems.

Cemetery – Josh reminds the council of the need for a Cemetery Policy. As the policy or contract is in the works, he would like to include an endowment fee or other fees to help maintain the cemetery.

Shelly motions to accept claims. Tim second. Pass.

Next Meeting Wednesday October 4th at 6:30 PM.

7:37 PM Shelly motions to adjourn. Tim second. Adjourned.

Attest: Clerk Treasurer _____ Council President _____
Amanda Yaprak Jill Gross