

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
May 2nd, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, Mark Garrett, Art Schultheis, Clerk Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer. Cory Cucchiara was absent.

Minutes Sam Keller motioned to approve the minutes and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

Warrants: Warrants, as follows, were approved, with a motion by Dot Sharp and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Salary and Benefits

Warrant #9047813-904823 for: \$13,200.50

Warrant #'s 911003-911112 for:

General: \$ 8,391.80

Streets: \$ 1,211.55

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$

Water/Sewer: \$ 2,672.74

Subtotal: \$12,276.09

Grand Total: \$ 25,476.59

New Business:

Public Hearing: Mark Garrett Variance, Resolution #791

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:32p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, Mark Garrett, Art Schultheis, Clerk Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer. Cory Cucchiara was absent.

Mark presented the plans to build a four plex next to the current four plex. He explained that he has spoken to all of the neighbors and all were in favor of it. He said that one neighbor was concerned about lights shining into his house and Mark told the neighbor that he would put up a barrier or fence to avoid lights shining into his home. Jenni also said that all the neighbors that contacted her had no issues with the four plex being built. He explained that the demand for rentals in Colton is high. Sam Keller motioned to close the public hearing and Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all. The public hearing closed at 7:41 p.m.

Resolution #791:

Scott Miller motioned to approve Resolution #791, to allow a four plex in a residential zone. Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Art Schultheis:

Art told the council that he spoke with Andy Cervantes from Department of Health. Andy told him that the town had to initiate the capacity determination. Steve explained that he has several calls into Andy to discuss this further. Art told the council that it is unacceptable that he hasn't gotten back to him yet. He also had concerns that the Department of Ecology has not approved the amendment to the sewer facility plan. Mayor Weber explained that these things take time. Art said that the town needs to be more proactive and push to get these things done. He wants to see the town grow and the council needs to try and force the issue with

DOE and DOH. Steve said that he will let him know what Andy Cervantes says once he hears back.

Steve Bremer:

Steve told the council that he spoke with Greg Schultheis about the parish house adding a handicapped ramp to the side of it. The right of way is 80 feet and he measured it and both the parish house and Ken Darby's garage are in the right of way. He doesn't know how this happened but both residents have been there for a very long time. The ramp will be in the right of way. The council had no issues with them building a ramp.

Avista:

Steve told the council that he received a price from Avista to put in electricity between pond #2 and pond #3. They will place a transformer. Then the town will have power close by and can put in aerators and when the town begins the sewer project this will already have been completed. The cost will be about \$10,000. Sam Keller motioned to approve Avista putting in the transformer. Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Dog Complaints:

Dot Sharp told the council that she has heard a few dog complaints about dogs running around and messing in neighbor's property. Jenni will inform the homeowners about this.

Terry McHone:

Jenni told the council that she received a call from Terry wondering if she could take the old bricks behind the fire station. The council had no problem with her taking these. Jenni will let her know.

Halsey Water Leak:

Steve told the council that he just found out about Halsey having a serious water leak over winter, when she was gone. It flooded the whole basement and Cory Cucchiara shut the water off. Steve said that this leak was substantial and after looking at his data that it probably started at the end of December or early January 22. He will try to account for this when he is determining the town's water loss.

Brian Keller:

Mayor Weber told the council that June 30th will be Brian's last day. The town is hoping that the flashing speed zone signs will come in before he leaves. Jenni told the council that she has not heard from Brett Myers about when they will be coming. She will get in contact with him and find out when they will be here.

Legion Park Agreement:

The agreement for the town to take over Legion Park was reviewed. Sam Keller suggested that section 3E be removed. The council all agreed. Jenni will let Gary Riedner know about this. Once these changes are completed and Gary sends the final contract to the town, it will be sent to the town's attorney for approval.

Resolution, #792, Special Levy:

The council approved having the special levy again. The total to go on the ballot will be \$30,000. Sam Keller motioned to approve Resolution#792 and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Resolution #793. 1% Tax Increase:

Dot Sharp motioned to approve Resolution #793, and Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

ARPA Grant:

Jenni let the council know that she applied for a grant to help with the paperwork for the ARPA funds the town received. The town received \$2,000 in assistance to help complete all of the paperwork for the ARPA grant. Sam Keller mentioned that Whitman County employees received big bonuses and wondered if some of the money could be used for town employees. Jenni will check into this.

Library Grant:

Jenni let the council know that the library received a \$10K grant to replace the carpet, the air conditioning, furnishings etc. The library asked if the town would be willing to help with the costs, especially the central air. Jenni said that the carpeting in town hall is very old and worn and it would be nice to get new carpeting when the library gets theirs. Sam Keller motioned to approve \$5,000 towards the central air conditioning and new carpet. Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Jean Arnhold:

Jean called to inquire if she was allowed to keep bees in town. There is nothing in the town's ordinances about a bee ban. Jenni will let her know that it is ok to have bees.

David Nails:

Dot Sharp spoke to David Nails about the recycling bins. He said that all bids came in too high.

KME:

Steve said that he spoke with Phil at KME about getting three radios put in at the sewer ponds so that everything will be computerized for the sewer system. It will cost \$9,000. Sam Keller motioned to move forward with purchasing the radios and Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all

Audit:

Jenni told the council that the town's 3 year audit has begun. It will cost approximately \$11,000.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Scott Miller and seconded by Sam Keller. The meeting closed at 9:31 p.m

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk