

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
October 3rd, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Cory Cucchiara, Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, TJ Burchell, Greg Schultheis, Erin and Scott Heitstuman, Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer.

Minutes Sam Keller motioned to approve the minutes and Ken Darby 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 #904868-904879 for: \$11,158.78

Warrant #'s 911153-911168 for:

General: \$ 2,483.10

Streets: \$ 1,181.49

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$

Water/Sewer: \$ 3,803.18

Subtotal: \$7,467.77

Grand Total: \$ 18,626.55

New Business:

Erin and Scott Heitstuman:

The Heitstuman's told the council that they are interested in purchasing the property next to S and S Cabinet. They want to build a 100 X 145 building for their business, it will have offices and storage for all of their supplies. The council said that the property is in a commercial zone. Steve said that WSDOT may make them put a sidewalk in and Greg said that they have to ensure that the water run-off is drained on their property.

Legion Park Agreement:

Jenni said that she talked with Eric, the town's attorney and it was decided that it was best to include that Legion will place the nativity on the park and if someone complains and wants it removed because of its religious implications, that the park will revert back to Legion as the owners. Cory Cucchiara motioned to approve the agreement and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Steve Bremer:

Steve told the council that he spent hours with the EPA and DOE. The meeting went well, they were impressed with Steve's organization and paperwork. They told Steve that he needed to have all manuals for equipment and procedures used in wastewater system in the wastewater building. Steve got all manuals printed off and placed in the building. They are not enforcement but will write a report.

Ongoing Business:

Flashing Speed Zone Signs:

Steve told the council that Brad and Dave Fowler at Avista, will help put in the speed signs. He has ordered the 20 foot poles to put them on. Both speed signs are here and the town received approval from WSDOT.

Newsletter Regarding Sewer Rate Increase:

Mayor Weber reviewed the newsletter Jenni wrote discussing the probable monthly \$20 rate increase for sewer. It gives a breakdown of the upcoming \$3.3 million sewer project and why the town has to increase the sewer rate. The council agreed that it should be sent out. Dot Sharp asked about the school per student increase. Jenni will prepare a sewer resolution and include both increases and present at the next meeting.

Greg Schultheis:

Greg suggested that the town raise the sewer hook-up rate, \$500 is really low and most towns/cities hook-up fees are much higher. The council said that it was a good suggestion and will look into it.

Legion Park:

Steve asked the council if he should spray the Legion Park. It was decided that he should reseed the areas where the grass isn't growing and spray in the spring. Cory Cucchiara will look to see if there is a PH issue in that area.

Audit Update:

Jenni informed the council that the audit is back on. She has had to answer and send lots of items to them.

Whitman County Bridge Letter:

Mayor Weber reviewed a letter to be sent to Whitman County about getting the town's two bridges inspected. Sam Keller motioned to send the letter and Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

New Billing, Budget and Payroll Software:

Jenni told the council that she has been in contact with a couple of companies. Vision has given the town a discount for being with them for years. Jenni will call area towns to find out what they use and if they are

happy with them. The town's current software, ASP, is obsolete and isn't compatible with the new auditor's site to upload documents for year end reports.

2023 Budget and Salary Increases:

Jenni reviewed line item by line item of the preliminary 2023 budget. The town council discussed wage increases of 8% for Jenni and Steve and to increase the mayor's salary by \$1,000 annually and to increase the council's salary by \$750 annually. After some discussion, Sam Keller motioned to approve the salary increases and Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Joy Faerber:

Jenni let the council know that Joy is now mowing the parks and cemetery. She also removed the weeds in the cemetery and it looks really good.

Police Car:

Mayor Weber reviewed the letter from Ford about a recall on Ford Explorers that were overcooling during idling. Someone will look at the car and bring it in if there is a problem.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Cory Cucchiara and seconded by Sam Keller. The meeting closed at 8:51 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk