

HATCH TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 19, 2024

Town Council: Mayor Kerry Barney, Janell Barney, Jon Spendlove & Duane Barnhurst

Staff: Jacie Torgersen, Tyler Mendenhall and Janett Young

Public: Tyler Mackaben, Raquel Thompson, Gary Goble, Russ Riggs, Mason Lefevre and Kelley Dix

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting began at 7:10pm with everyone saying the pledge and an opening prayer being offered.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Councilor Barney motioned to approve the regular May 15, 2024, meeting minutes and Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

Councilor Barney motioned to approve the work meeting minutes for May 15, 2024, and Councilor Spendlove 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

Councilor Barnhurst motioned to approve the special meeting minute for May 23, 2024, and Councilor Barney 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3. Review Invoices, checks & financial report/budget

Councilor Barney motioned to approve the May expenditures and Councilor Spendlove 2nd the motion. Jacie Torgersen is going to have a printout each month for each councilor over the department that they are over: parks, roads, water, fire. The council members will have the opportunity to review the expenditure each month for their assigned department. This will help with the budget since everything can be reviewed each month instead of a whole year at a time. Jacie Torgersen had Pelorus help her set up reports for this so she will print them out each month for the council to review. Janett Young would also like everyone to write the budget categories on the receipts that are turned in, so she knows where to record them.

4. Public Hearings

5. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

5.1 GCJLS Donation

Councilor Barnhurst motioned to donate \$250 to the GCJLS and Councilor Barney 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

5.2 Authorization for future votes on town irrigation water shares

Councilor Barney motioned that in the future the town council needs to vote on how the council wants to vote for their irrigation water shares instead of just leaving it to Mayor Barney's opinion. Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

6. Ordinances

6.1 2024-06 Recreational Vehicle Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Russ Riggs feels like the town needs to have some definitions to go along with the amendment before it is passed.

What is seasonal use?

What is considered employment?

What does the same owner of commercial property mean? How many RVs are allowed on a piece of property? He feels that no other municipality has an ordinance like this to pattern one after so that is why it is so difficult to write this. He also wanted to know why full-time residents are discriminated against. This ordinance caters to people who just leave here seasonally. In the ordinance it allows people to live in a recreational vehicle owned by the same business owner on a commercial piece of property. Kelley Dix would like the council to look at entertaining the idea for disabled, homeless or housing for veterans in considering this ordinance.

6.2 2024-07 Liquor License Ordinance

Councilor Barnhurst motioned to approve the liquor license ordinance and Councilor Barney 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Janell Barney – yes

Duane Barnhurst – yes

Jon Spendlove – yes

Mayor Kerry Barney – yes

6.3 2024-08 Water Utility Rates Ordinance

The council has found a couple of ways to save money in the enterprise fund. The treasurer’s salary will be paid out of the general fund and the town can take money from the capital projects fund and pay off one of the water loans from 1983 so that will save \$6,000 a year.

Mayor Kerry Barney had asked for the highest six rates of the water bills just for reference. They were all businesses except for one home who does a lot of outside watering. Russ Riggs said that there sixty-five residents who have irrigation water in town and the rest of the homeowners have to pay for expensive water to do their outside watering. The town council is raising the rates to break even and get out of the red so they can qualify for grants and create savings for the water fund for future repairs and projects. The town council decided to raise the rates 25% for both residential and commercial and then they will re-evaluate the rates again next year. Raquel Thompson feels like with these rates there are 3-4 motels in town that are getting penalized the most. Mrs. Thompson said she will be paying more for her water bill 3 months out of the year than her power bill, which does not seem right. She thinks the town should make up the money by impact fees or connections fees. The town cannot charge more for connection fees than the material costs. The impact fee must be calculated by an engineer and adopted by ordinance for the town to charge but it is something that can be looked into. Mason Lefevre also feels that the town should be charging an impact fee for new water connections and that it would help the town out. The town did charge this at one time so it should be re-instated and then with

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raising the rates the town should be able to stay solvent. The town will begin charging a stand-by fee with the new rates which will be half of the current water rate. There are approximately ten in town that will be charged that fee so that will generate a little more income also. Janett Young will have to set up new accounts for the stand-by fees. The town council needs to make the enterprise fund viable, so it is not going in the hole. (see attached for new rates/tiers) Councilor Spendlove motioned to approve the new water rates including a standby fee and Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

6.4 2024-09 Resolution for 2025 Budget

Councilor Barnhurst motioned to transfer up to \$50,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to the water fund to pay off the 1983 FHA water loan in July 2024 and Councilor Spendlove 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

Councilor Barney motioned to transfer \$5,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to the water enterprise fund to cover the amount that is in the red for 2023.

Councilor Spendlove motioned to approve the 2025 budget and Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

7. Report of Officers – boards – committees

7.1 Water Department – Water Usage

Well #5 pumped 1,235,000 gallons for May. Tyler Mendenhall will change the wells on the 15th to save some of the electric charges and he is trying to run the wells at off-peak times to see if the town could be able to do that and cut energy costs also.

On July 1st he will get some quotes for a fire hydrant across from Jaycen Walter's home to be installed by the end of the summer. The water department is going to try and install it themselves to save money. He met with Sunrise Engineering and they did an evaluation on our water system and said that there is a good infrastructure on our water system.

7.2 Fire Department

7.2.a ISO rating – things to improve

Councilor Spendlove had some information on things that town can do to improve their fire rating after meeting with the ISO representative. The town is currently rated a class 10 which is like they don't really even have a fire department. The town needs to have four firefighters go on every call that is structure related and an incident report needs to be done on it. The fire department needs to document 3 hours of training per quarter. This is training that can be done at the fire station with videos/books etc. There needs to be flow tests done on 3-4 hydrants quarterly. If the Hatch Fire Department can do this and have some active members be a part of the department this ISO gentleman thinks he can get the town to a seven rating. Kelley Dix had a concern about people's names being on the fire gear at the station and Councilor Spendlove said that they are just Velcro and can be removed. Raquel Thompson wanted the department to be open to having women be a part of it and a part of the training.

7.3 Road Department-

There will be a UDOT meeting on June 27th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Hatch Town Building to discuss passing lanes to the north of town.

7.4 Parks & Recreation-

7.4.a 4th Celebration

The celebration will be as follows:

7am – Flag Raising

7-9am – Fire Department breakfast

10am – Parade

Races, gunny sack races, three legged races, water balloons, water slides at park afterwards

Noon – Hot dog lunch

Councilor Barney has ordered shirts that should be here for the 4th so people could order some then and then more will be available for the 24th. Tyler Mackaben said the town could order the food through his restaurant for the celebrations if they would like to.

7.4.b 24th Celebration

Councilor Barney and Jacie Torgersen talked about letting people pre-order pit BBQ roast for the 24th dinner. There was a concern brought up that there wouldn't be enough meat for the dinner and if there were extra roasts then people wouldn't order them if they had pre ordered already so the town decided not to do that.

7.4.c Bids for Removal of Cottonwood Trees

There was a bid presented from A-OK trees for the removal of the six cottonwood trees at the park. The trees are tipping over on several fences and also the shed at the church. The bid was \$2,400 to remove all the trees and the clean-up also. There was another bid for stump grinding for \$600. Councilor Barney motioned to approve the bid for \$3,000 to have the work done and Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous. The town would like to plant some new trees for the future.

7.5 Grants-

7.6 Planning & Zoning Commission

7.7 Cemetery

8. Public Input

9. Unfinished or New Business

Tyler Mackaben posed a question about making changes to his liquor license with the new town ordinance. They would just be making a name change from Pig Pen Saloon to Mackaben Hospitality. The owner would not be changing, just the name of the business. The town council thought that would be ok if the owner didn't change. Jacie Torgersen can check with Barry Huntington to make sure.

The next meeting will be on July 17th. Jacie Torgersen will be gone; she is taking her son to the MTC that day. Councilor Barney will also be gone on a family vacation and will not be

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available. The council was trying to decide if they should go ahead with the meeting or reschedule to a different time. Mayor Barney said they would go ahead with it.

10. Adjournment

Councilor Barney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm and Councilor Barnhurst 2nd the meeting, the vote was unanimous.