

November 20, 2024

**Town Council Present:** Mayor Kerry Barney, Duane Barnhurst, Jon Spendlove and Janell Barney

**Staff:** Jacie Torgersen & Tyler Mendenhall

**Public:** Sam Grimshaw from UDOT, Gary Goble, Cassie Mack, Russ Riggs, Ben Neilson, Kade Iverson and Jim Kabonic

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting began at 7pm with an opening prayer by Councilor Spendlove and everyone recited the pledge.

**2. Approval of October 16, 2024 Minutes**

Councilor Barney motioned to approve the minutes and Councilor Barnhurst 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the vote was unanimous.

**3. Review October Invoices, checks & financial report/budget**

Councilor Barney motioned to approve the October expenditures and Councilor Spendlove 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the vote was unanimous.

**4. Public Hearings**

**5. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications**

**5.1 Deann Brown - Garfield Memorial Hospital update**

Deann Brown has been the hospital administrator for the past 2 ½ years. The county took ownership of the hospital in 2000. IHC manages the hospital but the county owns the hospital. There is a portion of sales tax money that is collected from the communities that goes to a hospital fund, the hospital has not had to use that money yet. They are planning on building a new operating room because the current building is 50 years old. The hospital will have to use some of the county tax money to build the new operating room. They just hired a new physician, Kelsey Allen, to replace Dr. Richard Birch who retired. Deann Brown is going around to meet with each community to make them aware of what the hospital is doing and to ask if they have any questions or concerns.

**5.2 Hatch Employee Christmas party**

The town will have their Christmas party on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Smokehouse in Panguitch. This will be for the town board, planning & zoning commission and cemetery board along with their spouses.

**5.3 Town of Hatch maintenance position**

The town is looking into hiring a part time or full-time maintenance position. This person would take care of parks, community center, roads and the cemetery and some water. This person would replace Russ Torgersen and Kade Iverson and some of Tyler Mendenhall's responsibilities. The town would like to keep Tyler in place since he is a certified water operator. Mayor Barney would like to get things in place to advertise the job now, Jacie Torgersen feels that it would be better to wait until spring. Councilor Barnhurst wanted to know if it is something that the town can afford. The town is only paying approximately \$1200 a month now. Jacie Torgersen checked with Roger Carter to see if the town would be obligated to pay insurance and benefits if they had a full-time employee and he said they

would not. There is an exception to the rule if you have fewer than 50 employees. Councilor Spendlove feels that it would be best to pay this person a salary like the other town employees are paid. Mayor Barney would like to hire this person to begin in May but advertise for it now. Jim Kabonic said the town would need to make the job attractive for someone to want to do it so he thinks all jobs should be combined even the water. Councilor Spendlove thinks it would need to be someone local who would want to do the job. Russ Riggs suggested finding out from Russ Torgersen how much time it takes to do the job now. The council is thinking there could be enough work for an employee to get 20-30 hours a week in the summer. They would like to make the job a year around job for \$15-\$20/hour 30 hours a week. Ben Neilson said that any legal documentation for the water system would have to be done by the certified water operator but anything for maintenance purposes could be done by the maintenance person. Jim Kabonic questioned the town council why they are wanting to add this job and make a change from what is already being done. Mayor Barney said they would like to get more things done along highway 89 and other projects. Councilor Barney asked if the town could hire a high school student to help out in the summer. Jacie Torgersen doesn't think they can with the insurance but she will check into it. Mayor Barney would like to advertise the job now for a part time position at \$20/hour to begin March 1<sup>st</sup> and the job will be open until filled.

#### **5.4 Purchasing policy**

The council reviewed the procurement procedure for the town. There was a complaint filed against the town for not following their purchasing policy. The policy was reviewed by the town board and they are aware of it and willing to adhere to it.

#### **5.5 Ben Neilson - Hatch Town Dam**

Ben Neilson had prepared some information to give the town council on the Hatch Town Dam. There was a notice in the paper that the legislation with rebuilding the Hatch Town Dam is proceeding. Ben Neilson had some ideas to present of what the town could do to be prepared for when the dam is rebuilt. He suggested annexing unincorporated land into the town boundaries so that the town will have a say in what happens to that property. He suggested that the town purchase property for another water tank. If the town purchased property now it would be much cheaper than after the dam is put in place. He also suggested purchasing property for future sites of well #6 and #7 since the population will increase and the town will need more water. The east side of Hatch has more ground water available which is why he suggested well sites on that side.

Russ Riggs doesn't know that the Hatch Town Dam will be built in our lifetimes. The change application has to go through changing the water from irrigation water to storing water. Mr. Riggs would like the town to consider the big debt expense they incurred in 2008 when they drilled well #5. The county requires high density acreage of 6 acres to build a home and the town has low density at ½ acre. Mr. Riggs feels that the growth should pay for the infrastructure. He doesn't feel that the tax payers right now should have to pay for something that may happen in the future. Mayor Barney would like to pay off the town's debt before taking on more.

#### **5.6 Use of Blackburn Propane property**

The Blackburn Propane property lease is up May 2025. Councilor Barnhurst suggested that the town does not renew the lease for another five years. Mayor Barney suggested that the town just do the lease a year at a time instead of for a long period of time. He would also like to adjust the property boundaries so that the property line is close to the building so that the town has more room. He would like to see a visitor center/park sharing the information of

the area located on a walking path around the bathroom area. Jim Kabonic would like to see the town sell the property and make money on it after it is assessed. Cassie Mack feels that the town needs to hold on to the property. Russ Riggs would like to see the town find a legitimate use for the property. Councilor Barnhurst motioned to re-do the boundaries for the Blackburn propane lease in May and have the property surveyed to do so and re-negotiate with Blackburn and Councilor Spendlove 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the vote was unanimous.

## 6. Ordinances

### 6.1 Ordinance 2024-11 Resort Tax Ordinance

Councilor Barney motioned to accept the 2024-11 ordinance putting the resort tax in place and Councilor Barnhurst 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all were in favor of the ordinance. Council member Kurt Sawyer was not present at the meeting to vote.

## 7. Report of Officers - boards - committees

### 7.1 Water Department - Water Usage

34,500 gallons were used from well #5 this month. Sunrise Engineering finished the lead survey for the town. All of the information is on GIS locating each water meter in town. Tyler Mendenall thinks it would be nice to have the GIS program for the water department but it is not a need at this time. It is \$1100 for yearly subscription. The planning and zoning could possibly use the program too. It is a tool that would be useful in the future. The town could consider putting it in the budget next year. Jacie Torgersen suggested asking the county if the town could access the program through them.

#### 7.1.a Stand-by fee

The council reviewed the policy for turning on/off the water. Individuals are not allowed to shut the water off inside the town's meter, it is considered a federal offense for someone to do this. Each home should have a shut off valve on their side of the meter and that is where the water should be shut off, not in the town's meter set. The town just did a repair at the bar for Tyler Mackaben, he had been shutting the water off inside the town's meter and the shut-off valve broke. He was not aware that he had a shut off valve on his side. Russ Riggs suggested that if someone has their water shut off then the town should just pull the meter so the service is not available to them like Garkane does with the power. Tyler Mendenhall feels like anyone who has water stubbed to their property has the water service available so they need to pay for it. The council suggested adding a turn on/turn off fee back into the policy of \$280 to encourage customers to continue paying their water bill year around. The town could also offer a courtesy turn on/turn off fee for \$25 if a customer would like the town employee to turn it off for them. Councilor Barney motioned to reinstate the turn on/turn off fee to discourage seasonal payment of the water rates and leave the stand by fee in the policy as stated and Councilor Barnhurst 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### 7.1.b Impact fee

The town has to have a plan in place on how to spend the impact fee. The impact fee has to be spent 3-5 years from when it is collected and it has to be spent on new improvements to the system, it cannot be for repairs to the system. Roger Carter said that the town could have Richard White rewrite the study to meet the standards for calculating the fee and see what the actual fee would be and then have the town decide if they want to implement the impact fee.

### 7.2 Fire Department

Tyler Mackaben suggested offering incentives to the fire department members who complete their quarterly 3 hours of training. He thought this might encourage more members to be active in the department. This amount cannot be over \$600 or the town would need to issue them a 1099. Another suggestion was made to offer a \$50 gift card to Ace Hardware upon completion of the training. Fire chief Spendlove will consider this in encouraging people to come participate in the meetings and do their quarterly training.

**7.3 Road Department-**

The speed signs have been repaired by UDOT and the town needs to see if UDOT will repair the stop sign on 300 N.

**7.3.a Highway 89 alignment south**

Sam Grimshaw came from UDOT to present a map with the new passing lanes on the north and south ends of town. He appreciates all the input that the town council has given. The lanes have been extended since the last time they met together. The passes lanes will begin just right outside of town with the lane on the north being 1 ½ miles and the lane on the south going for 1 ¼ miles. The council thought it looked good, their only concerns were with the businesses at the end of town and how the passing lanes would affect them. Mr. Grimshaw said that the passing lanes should help slow traffic down in town since there will be room to pass outside of town. The council asked questions if they were to do a rest area on the south end of town if a turning lane could be put in. Mr. Grimshaw said that UDOT does not do turning lanes for communities or individuals but a betterment could be applied for, for a turning lane. The council also asked about the speed limits and he said they will stay as they are now. The council would like to have a crosswalk in the center of town, Mr. Grimshaw will get the town some information of who to contact for that. He thanked the council for being involved in the process.

**7.4 Parks & Recreation-**

**7.5 Grants-**

**7.6 Planning & Zoning Commission**

**7.6.a Gottschalk Subdivision**

His application was not completed so it will have to be reviewed again at another meeting.

**7.6.b Engineering firm for subdivision review**

Jacie Torgersen has contacted several engineering firms to get some proposals but she has not received them back yet.

**7.7 Cemetery**

The cemetery is working on getting metal markers in place to measure off of so that the lines for plot placing can be straight.

**8. Public Input**

**9. Unfinished or New Business**

Mayor Barney will order the AED cabinet for the community center.

**10. Adjournment**

Councilor Barnhurst motioned to adjourn and Councilor Barney 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Jjt

