

Bennington City Council
Regular Meeting
2/12/2018

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM with a motion by David Galvan, seconded by Judith Swagerty. Motion Carried.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Ward Stockamp, David Galvan, Judith Swagerty, Dennis Kelley and Trudi Rathbun who arrived at 7:26 PM. City Clerk Adrienne Luthi was also present. City Operations Dustin Murk arrived at 7:35 PM. Darcy Smith was absent.

Additions to the agenda were Rural water usage, Division of bills, Demo Permit, Floodplain information, South East corner of Stark and Washington, Rodeo fun day update, Liquor store, Burn pile, Carpenter Permit, Murphy propane tank permit.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Dennis Kelley to approve the minutes as written and the bills as printed. Motion Carried.

Several violations were discussed. Ward Stockamp spoke to Kendra Pratt and Aaron Martin about serving Randolph Brown. Aaron Martin agreed that having it served by law enforcement was the best choice. Adrienne Luthi informed the council that Brian Pratt had approved the permit for Kristen Murphy to set a propane tank. Adrienne Luthi has not heard from the State regarding the BFE for Bennington. Judith Swagerty updated the council with the information she learned at the county commission meeting. Colton Carpenter re-submitted his building permit with the changes requested by Brian Pratt.

The water and sewer funds were discussed. Adrienne Luthi will create a letter to inform all water bill customers in the bill going out March 1st, 2018 of the issues with our aging system and increased costs resulting on future increases in rates of both water and sewer.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, seconded by Dennis Kelley to pay \$5000.00 out of the general fund to go towards the KDHE loan amount of \$14,428.99, due March 1st, 2018. Motion Carried.

Judith Swagerty updated the council on the information she learned at the Solid Waste Meeting. Judith Swagerty explained there were only ½ as many grants this year and that no date had been set yet for an E-waste dump site, Tires would be accepted at the city shop the last part of March and that the free dump days would be the first whole week of May and October this year.

Discussion on Liquor stores in the city will be tabled until the next meeting. Adrienne Luthi will ask the list serve for some examples of what other cities use.

The division of bills was discussed. Ward Stockamp would like Adrienne Luthi to ask Anita Goertzen if there is a template or if she knows of a way they should be divided or a way they are divided that might simplify things.

Giving free water to several places in town was discussed. It was decided that because of our aging system, and increased costs causing our water fund to struggle to support itself, the City of Bennington is no longer able give water to non-profits and others as a courtesy for their various services to the community throughout the years. Bennington Bible Church, United Church of Bennington, Lions club, Bennington Community Library and the Bennington Senior Center will all start receiving a monthly bill. The first bill will be sent out on April 1st, 2018 for March 2018 usage. This will give them a month to prepare after receiving the letters that will be going out the end of February 2018. The Bennington Fire Dept., Ottawa County Fire District #4, will be charged a bulk rate on all water used at the fire station or any water used to fill trucks at any hydrants around town. They will also receive a letter explaining the city's situation, and that they will be responsible for keeping track of any unmetered water used to fill trucks. The fire department will need to turn the gallons used into the city monthly for filling trucks at unmetered hydrants, any water used at the fire station itself will be charged after the meter is read. They will be charged a bulk rate like anyone buying bulk water from the city. \$6.00 for 1000 gallons. The Bennington Cemetery will also be charged a bulk rate on any water used. The Bennington Arena, owned by the city was discussed. Between all the events held at the arena last year, 88,730 gallons were used. Anyone using the arena from the present day will fill out and sign an agreement to use the arena. As far as water is concerned, the meter will be read at the time it is turned on and read again when it is turned off. The party using the arena will be responsible for paying bulk water price for any water used.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Judith Swagerty to charge monthly and bulk rates to the above groups as stated above. Motion Carried. Dennis Kelley abstained.

The Bennington Rodeo Arena, owned by the City of Bennington, was discussed. Charging a daily fee for use of the arena to offset the cost of any maintenance and for the electric charges was discussed. Tabled until the February 26, 2018 meeting.

Well 5 was discussed. The well needs work. There have been complaints about the quality of the water when the well is run each week. To have the well cleaned is approximately \$6000.00, to install a 2-inch flush hydrant would be cheaper and, would avoid the worst quality of the water which is the first 5 or 6 thousand gallons, having to run into any households. There is also a possibility that the city could work with the fire department to perhaps fill trucks with the hydrant when possible, rather than running the water on the ground. Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Judith Swagerty to install a 2-inch flush hydrant with a shut off valve at well 5. Motion Carried.

Dustin Murk discussed RWD #2 and how much it is costing the city to purchase water, when we can produce enough on our own when the pool is closed. Dustin Murk would like to shut off the rural water during down times, which would leave the city with a minimum bill rather than a few thousand dollars each month. Council informed Dustin Murk that he should do what he thinks is best based on what he knows the city needs to serve all our customers.

The city purchasing a skid steer to use for alleys, ditches and many other jobs around the city was discussed. Dustin Murk, at the council's request, obtained three quotes from Bob Cat, Case, and John Deere. All options on the three machines were the same. Distance for service and warranties were the main points taken into consideration. There is money set aside in the equipment reserve fund to pay for part of the machine and the other part should come out of alley maintenance since the machine will be used in the alleys too. Motion by Trudi Rathbun, seconded by Judith Swagerty to approve the purchase of Bob Cat skid steer for \$32,027.30, with \$10,000 coming out of the alley maintenance fund, and the remaining balance of \$22,027.30 coming out of the Capital equipment reserve fund. Motion Carried. Dennis Kelley abstained.

Ward Stockamp was contacted about what the city's rules are on a liquor store in Bennington. After looking at our ordinances on the subject, there is nothing preventing a liquor store from opening if the owner gets the proper state license. Adrienne Luthi will find some ordinance examples for liquor stores and Sunday sales and bring them to the February 26, 2018 meeting for the council to review.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, seconded by David Galvan to approve audit for 2017 by Summers, Spencer and company PA, with corrections to be made. Motion Carried. Adrienne Luthi will contact Craig Dassow with the corrections of removing city of Solomon from our paper and adding Bennington Recreation committee and Bennington Recycling.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Trudi Rathbun to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. Motion Carried.