

Bennington City Council
Regular Meeting
May 28, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion by David Galvan, seconded by Judith Swagerty. Motion carried. David Galvan, Dennis Kelley, Trudi Rathbun, Ward Stockamp, Judith Swagerty and visitor Brandon Cochran (7:10-7:42) were present.

Additions to Agenda: Bushes, reflectors, house numbers, website, Welcome to Bennington, retention plan, 2019 Budget, water rates, record minutes, Fun Day slide, and Compliance officers.

May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes were discussed. Corrections to be made to the minutes are: delete first mention of Gary Austin (2nd page, first full paragraph), add "have been approved." to third line of paragraph beginning "Violations were discussed" and move paragraph beginning "Ward Stockamp spoke to both Kendra and Brian Pratt ... " to follow as a new sentence; change wording in 5th paragraph on 2nd page from "right away" to "right of way"; change "Motion by Ward Stockamp, seconded by Trudi Rathbun" in 3rd sentence of 6th paragraph on 2nd page to "Motion by Trudi Rathbun, seconded by David Galvan" and change "Motion by Ward Stockamp" to Motion by David Galvan" on the last sentence of the 3rd page.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, seconded by Trudi Rathbun, to approve the May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected and payment of the printed list of bills. Motion carried.

No violations have been submitted. Three building permits have been approved.

EMS Director Brandon Cochran brought in minutes of the EMS Advisory Board Meeting held on April 25, 2018. The minutes stated the recommended reappointment of Jeff Hodges & Rob Boss to another term on the board. Mayor Stockamp informed Brandon that appointments were made in January: Brandon was reappointed as EMS Director and Rex Loughridge was reappointed to the EMS Advisory Board. Brandon also handed out the 2019 Budget draft for the Ambulance Service. Property Tax Distribution request increased from \$180,000 in 2018 to \$202,000 for 2019. He would like to raise personnel salaries from \$1.36 per hour for on call time to \$2.00 per hour. Director's salary was decreased to be more realistic (the salary in previous years included his on call & run wages), an increase in Vehicle reserve. Discussion regarding D-2 Miscellaneous Income and Patient Income. #404 is 18 years old. It had been the first out truck. #405 is now the first out truck. It is 4-wheel drive. Motion by Trudi Rathbun, seconded by David Galvan, to approve the 2019 Budget request. Motion carried. Saline County donated a power cot to the service. After purchasing needed items for \$1,000.00, it was installed in #405. Sara Hodges is working on a grant for EMS. Consolidated service was discussed. They would not be consolidating with Minneapolis EMS. Looking at consolidating with Ottawa County Rural Fire District #4. State Statute 65-6113 references Establishment, operation and maintenance of emergency medical service. Mayor Stockamp thought this should be referred to City Attorney Aaron Martin. Discussion regarding taxing districts.

Bushes – Trudi commented on the bushes at the SW corner of Stark / Lexington Streets. Hard to see traffic to the left when stopped at the stop sign on Stark Street headed north.

Reflectors – Trudi wanted to know if they could remove the ones in her yard (to the right of the speed bump). Consensus was that she could remove them.

215 E. Bennington was discussed. The original house faced Bennington Street. It was torn down and a mobile home placed on the lot. The front door faces Lincoln Street. City Clerk will be asked to contact owner Tom Woods and ask if they would put “E. Bennington” on the front of the trailer so that delivery persons know that the trailer is not 215 N. Lincoln.

Web site – Judith asked that the zip code on the City’s address be corrected.

Welcome to Bennington – Judith wanted to know if there was any update. Suggested the members of the Cemetery Board be added.

Retention plan – Ward had found his copy. It was scanned and sent to Clerk and all council.

2019 Budget – now is the time to be thinking about expenditures for 2019 so they can be included in the budget.

1% sales tax that went into effect January 1, 2013. Will talk with the auditors as to the best way to handle the funds.

Water rates - \$1.00 increase was suggested. It can be done by resolution at the next meeting to take effect July 1, 2018.

Record minutes – Judith asked if this would help when there are questions on some items. Discussion. No decision made.

Compliance Officers – Building permits have been approved. Mayor Stockamp stated that it is a job that no one really wants to do. Discussion regarding phone calls made to Brian, mail box is usually full. Brian had informed Ward that he checks and empties the mail box several times a day. If people do not leave messages he does know they called. Will set up an email address for them and see if it works better than phone calls/messages.

Tire tracks in Ward’s yards. Brandon said that John Golbek had made them and would take care of it.

Kelly Cochran filled her swimming pool. Brandon was the fire fighter that made sure that there was an air gap while the pool was being filled. Dustin was aware of Kelly’s pool being filled.

Rodriguez house – can condemn due to structural problems. Fire Chief Whitesell will find someone to help him inspect the house.

Fred Kidd had informed Mayor Stockamp that the Recreation Commission was going to have a water slide for Rodeo Fun Day. They will use a water hose from the city building to operate it.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Trudi Rathbun, to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.