

Bennington City Council
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2019

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 P.M. with a motion by Dennis Kelley, second by David Galvan. Motion Carried.

Additions to the agenda were: Natural gas cost, Alley's, End of year transfers, Alley committee report.

Motion by David Galvan, second by Dennis Kelley to approve the printed list of bills and the minutes with the correction of adding "and main entrance door is open on the other" in paragraph four after "water heater door is off on one of them". Motion Carried.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Ward Stockamp, David Galvan, Darcy Smith, Judith Swagerty, Trudi Rathbun, Dennis Kelley and City Clerk Adrienne Luthi. Visitors were Melody Shehan and Billy Ferguson, (both left meeting at 7:25 P.M.), Karen McClain, (left meeting at 7:20 P.M.) and Dustin Murk. (arrived at 7:04 P.M. and left at 8:20 P.M.)

Violations were discussed. Ward Stockamp informed the council that Brian and Kendra Pratt had tagged 5 vehicles for violations, two were brought into compliance and the other three were working on it.

Karen McClain gave an annual report on the recycling center activities and reported on the finances.

2019 appointments were approved with a motion by David Galvan, second by Trudi Rathbun. Motion carried. Appointments are as follows:

Municipal Judge: Steve Baccus

City Paper: Minneapolis Messenger

City Treasurer- Betty Davis

Depository- Bennington State Bank

City Clerk- Adrienne Luthi

Compliance Officers- Brian and Kendra Pratt

Operations Worker/Animal Control Officer: Dustin Murk

Animal Control Officers- Mayor and Council

President of the council- David Galvan

Utility Collection Agents: City Clerk Adrienne Luthi and City Treasurer Betty Davis

Water and Sewer- Dennis Kelley and Trudi Rathbun

Streets and Alleys- Judith Swagerty and Darcy Smith

Dustin Murk was appointed for one year, expiring in 2020 to fill the empty seat on the Zoning board.

David Carson to a 3-year term on the Zoning board

Brian Levendofsky to a 3-year term on the Zoning board

Chris Rose to a 3-year term on the Recreation Commission

Adrienne Luthi will find out who's seat Candi Gwenapp has filled and if the position needs to be appointed now or what year it is going to expire. Adrienne will also let the Rec Commission know, in

case they don't that their at large person, Brian Levendofsky needs to be re-appointed to a new three-year term.

Melody Shehan and Billy Ferguson discussed Melody Shehan's water leak and her resulting \$547.99 water bill due January 15, 2019. Motion was made by Judith Swagerty, second by David Galvan to allow Melody Shehan to pay an extra \$25.00 per month on top of her regular water bill without penalty as long as she does not miss a payment until the total of \$547.99 is paid in full. Motion Carried.

The Alley Maintenance fund was discussed. Motion by David Galvan, second by Dennis Kelley to reduce the monthly alley maintenance fee on the water bills from \$7.00 to \$5.00 effective February 1st, 2019. Motion Carried. Bennington City code states the rate may be changed by affirmative action by the Bennington City Council. Adrienne Luthi will write a resolution for approval at the January 28th council meeting.

Purchasing some new Christmas lights for light poles while they are on sale was discussed. No Action Taken. Tabled until January 28, 2019 meeting.

Complaints received regarding ATV's and other off-road vehicles around the city were discussed. No action taken.

Trudi Rathbun discussed the cost to convert her home from electric to Natural Gas. There has been no new information from the Natural gas company at this time and no other meetings have been scheduled. Adrienne Luthi will put something in the next city flyer encouraging citizens to call around for a free estimate so they will be more informed about what the conversion costs would be for them personally. Twin Valley Schools have not contacted the city stating that they have any more information on the conversion costs for the school district.

The city office roof was discussed. The water damage in the conference room seems to be getting worse. Dustin Murk will get some information on what is wrong with the roof and look into what the city's options are to either fix it or replace it.

Sewer cleaning was discussed. The Council looked at three bids Dustin Murk presented. Motion by David Galvan, second by Judith Swagerty to approve a 3-year contract with Utility Maintenance Contractors. Motion Carried.

Dustin Murk discussed future street work and using a slurry seal instead of chip sealing. The cost of \$2.60 a square yard is the same for both chip sealing and slurry sealing. Dustin Murk will get a quote and a 3-5-year plan from South Central Sealing and Paving who does the slurry seal.

Dustin Murk presented the council with information on a leaf machine he found. Council asked him to continue looking for a less expensive one and that it would be re-visited later. No action taken.

Dustin Murk got a quote for a grater attachment to fit on the skid loader to straighten and pull rock back into the alleys. It could also be used to re-cut ditches. Motion by David Galvan, second by Darcy Smith

to approve purchase of a grater attachment for the skid loader costing \$6500.00 with half of the cost coming out of the alley maintenance fund and half out of the equipment reserve fund. Motion Carried.

Motion by David Galvan, second by Darcy Smith to adjourn meeting at 8:30 P.M. Motion Carried.