

Bennington City Council  
Regular Meeting  
September 23, 2019  
Draft Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion by Dennis Kelley, seconded by Trudi Rathbun. David Galvan, Cord Gwennap, Dennis Kelley, Trudi Rathbun, Ward Stockamp, Judith Swagerty and Recreation Director Chris Rose (left at 7:35) were present. Flag salute was led by Mayor Stockamp.

Additions to the agenda included Flood Plain updates, Office 365, Community Center, Roof Repair, Doug Toburen's dogs, Newsletter and Natural Gas.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Dennis Kelley, to approve the September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented and payment of the printed list of bills. Motion carried.

Violations: Doorknob hangers were distributed to Mauchs, Halters, Fanchers, DeWitts, Allen Vignery, Swetsons, Carpenters, Marian Duer, Emmanuel Tabares De Rodriguez, Woods and Lori Wilson (trailer). Ward informed the council of the problem with ownership of the trailer. City Attorney Aaron Martin has not replied yet as how to send notice to the former owner of the trailer.

Newly appointed Recreation Director Chris Rose reported he has registration fees for Adrienne to deposit. Soccer has 51 players signed up, they begin on October 5 and will play for four weeks. Football will begin in November and last four weeks, 47 plays have signed up, very few from Bennington. He would like to purchase cones (\$13.99 for set of 12, he would like to purchase 5 sets), equipment bags (\$6.99 each, 10 needed), footballs (\$15.00 each on Amazon, need 20 minus those that Cord Gwennap has from last year). He is still looking for equipment that has not been returned from coaches last year. He has visited with the Messenger regarding shirts for the players, need 50 for soccer. Ward has a place he orders from that is a lot cheaper. Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Trudi Rathbun, to purchase the items requested up to a maximum of \$500.00. Motion carried.

Chris reported he has checked on online registration. Bluesombrero is a free site (formerly through Dick's Sporting Goods). 3.4% charge for credit card payments. He would need the City's EIN and Bank routing to sign up. 1-2 months to get everything set up. Consensus of the council that Chris should go ahead and sign up with this site. They offer 24/7 website support and have 97% customer satisfaction.

Discussed ongoing need for purchases. Consensus of the council to allow up to \$500.00 maximum per month without council approval, for purchases that need to be made. (This will be added to the job description) He is keeping track of his time spent right now. The Recreation Facebook page has 500 subscribers currently. Gabe Wilson and Stephanie Kidd had been the administrators of the page. They have been removed as administrators, he and City Clerk Adrienne Guillory-Luthi are the current administrators.

Recreation Advisory Board was discussed. Former members Brian Levendofsky and Fred Kidd are not interested in serving on this board. Candi Gwennap is interested in continuing her work with the Recreation program. Rachel Bieker has said she would serve on the board. Notice will be put on the next city flyer asking for those interested to let the City know.

Violations – listed earlier.

Kirsten Murphy permit application for 10 chickens at 501 N Lincoln. All homeowners except for Joe/Janice Krause (owners of the duplex), were in favor of allowing the chickens. Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Dennis Kelley, to approve the permit. Motion carried. Ward informed Cord that these permits are good for one year and current permit holders must apply each year.

Flood plain update – Dennis attended a recent meeting, information he received was passed around so others could look at the maps. Right now, the focus in Ottawa County is on Culver & Tescott.

Toburan dogs – Ward updated the council on the situation. If the dogs are 51% or more pit bull, they must be removed from the City. If less than 51% they may stay but must be tagged. If they fail, they have 10 days to remove them from the City.

Office 365 – Trudi commented that it had been tabled last meeting, she had not been present to hear the discussion. Cord asked about Apache Open Office, they use it in his work office. Ward stated that Adrienne is happy with the email she currently has. A City Calendar through Office 365 could be utilized by Adrienne, Betty, Chris and Dustin. Tabled for the time being.

Community Building – group met last Wednesday to discuss updates. Jack Stenfors would sell the 13 acres for \$85,000.00 less a personal donation of \$10,000. Discussion. Cord will check on current land values. Discussion regarding pros and cons of this project. Jami Simmons is contacting the engineering firm that did the Abilene Center to get a cost for a feasibility study. Tabled. Trudi informed that a grant application is being completed for 3 sets of bleachers for each of the three ball diamonds. Chris Rose is doing the grant application. Storm shelter was also discussed at the meeting last week. Idea to build a storm shelter at the ball diamonds and have a new concession stand built over it.

Judith had asked about the roof repair. It is completed. Ward will have Dustin mark the meeting room ceiling so we can see if the leaks have stopped.

Newsletter items to be added to what is already on it – Commodities, Mobile Food Pantry and Recycling Center (glass can no longer be accepted).

Natural Gas – no information has been forthcoming currently.

Motion by David Galvan, seconded by Trudi Rathbun, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.