

Bennington City Council

Regular Meeting

September 14, 2020

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with a motion by Dennis Kelley, second by Trudi Rathbun. Motion Carried.

Additions to the agenda; Property boundary surveys (Judith Swagerty).

Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Dennis Kelley to approve the printed list of bills and the minutes as written. Motion Carried.

A violation sheet is being provided at each meeting. David Galvan read the list. Adrienne Luthi explained the situation with the permit which was not approved as of the 9/14 meeting for Kiltz.

Present at the meeting were David Galvan, Judith Swagerty, Trudi Rathbun, Dennis Kelley, and City clerk Adrienne Luthi. Absent were Mayor Ward Stockamp and Brian Davidson. Visitors were Dustin Murk (left at 7:05), Robert and Lynn Hagmeier (left at 7:16), Michael and Debra Scheibler (left at 7:35), Neal Oliver (left at 7:16), John Trow (left at 8:06), Bruno Rehbein (left at 8:06), Chris Rose (left at 8:12).

Dustin Murk asked why there were no parking signs on both sides of Watters street. Judith said a long time ago, it was decided not to allow parking and that the city needed to see if there was a resolution done to prevent parking on it and what the resolution stated. More information will be found. Tabled until the next meeting.

Open Public hearing at 7:11 p.m. for 108 N. Stark owned by Robert and Lynn Hagmeier. Bruno Rehbein stated that the property does look blighting to the neighborhood and the porch in the back is in bad shape. It is not a building that needs torn down, but it does need cleaned up, fixed up and painted. Robert Hagmeier stated that it is his intent to have the property fixed up and cleaned up. Dennis Kelley made a motion, seconded by Trudi Rathbun to adopt Resolution 2020-9 to start repair or removal within the next 30 days. Motion carried. Closed public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Open Public hearing at 7:19 p.m. for 113 E. Bennington street owned by Michael and Debra Scheibler. Bruno Rehbein stated that the property was blighted, unsafe and dangerous and needed to be torn down. Michael Scheibler stated it is his intent to either tear it down and put something else on the property or fix it up and rent it out. Bruno Rehbein informed Michael Scheibler about the restrictions with the property being in a flood zone. Michael Scheibler asked for the first of the year as a deadline to start repair or removal when he makes a final decision on what he wants to do. Trudi Rathbun made a motion, seconded by Judith Swagerty to adopt Resolution 2020-10 to start repair or removal within the next 108 days. Motion Carried. Closed public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Open Public hearing at 7:35 p.m. for 409 N. Parker owned by Hilga Trow who is in a nursing facility and overseen by her son John Trow who resides in the mobile home also on the property. Bruno Rehbein stated the old house on the property is unsafe, blighting and needs to be taken down. John Trow stated

he has been cleaning up the property but with his job teaching, he has slowed down on the work at this time. He intends to clean out the house which is being used to store some personal items and have the building removed. John also stated that he needed until the first of the year to get things ready for the tear down. Motion made by Judith Swagerty, seconded by Trudi Rathbun to adopt Resolution 2020-11 to start demolition and obtain a demo permit within the next 108 days. Motion Carried. Closed public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Open public hearing at 7:45 p.m. for 423 N. Lincoln owned by Marinda Eklund. Bruno Rehbein stated that the property was blighted, unsafe, dangerous, and needed to be taken down. Marinda Eklund did not appear at the hearing to state her case. Motion by Trudi Rathbun, seconded by Dennis Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-12 to start the demolition process in 30 days. Motion Carried.

Chris Rose discussed the rec. Registration for fall sports was light but he is going to try and put together some teams. Chris asked for approval of shirts for the kids. The shirts say Bennington Rec Fall Sports so they can be used for any sports and for another year if needed. The total is \$756.00. Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Trudi Rathbun to approve payment of the shirts in the amount of \$756.00. Motion carried.

Dustin Murk has a list of items to be discussed.

Dustin asked the council where to put the speed limit sign that Dennis Hanson requested on Parker Street. Dustin also would like to put up two, one that people would see when driving South and another one down on the South end of Parker so people driving North would also see it. Council decided that the North Sign will be placed by Dennis Hanson's home and the South sign will be in the gravel area by the gas station parking lot.

Dustin would like to rent a lift to trim trees around town in the alley areas and some areas in front where he can. Council agreed to allow him to rent the lift.

Dustin needs to purchase more gravel for the area that the dumpsters are going to be sitting and down the road a little where the gravel is gone. Three-inch gravel is \$700.00 per load, he needs 4 loads. Motion by Trudi Rathbun, second by Judith Swagerty to allow purchase of 4 loads of gravel at \$700.00 per load for this project. Motion carried.

The new dump site was discussed. Dustin asked who will run it over the weekend and what sort of fencing he should put up. Dustin can discuss fencing with Ward Stockamp and as far as who will run it, Dustin can ask his part time help if any of them can come for part of the time or the full day. The council asked if Dustin can turn the camera's at the recycle center to face the dump area so that we can see if anyone from out of town is dumping or if someone dumps outside the fence when the area is closed. The area will be open from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM every day. Adrienne Luthi will write something in the newsletter about the expectations, the camera's being present and the hours of operation for the dump days.

Motion by Judith Swagerty, second by Trudi Rathbun to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Motion Carried.