

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF PLEVNA- Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
Plevna Community Center.

Mayor Thielen called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Mayor/Council Present: In person - Gary Thielen, Michelle Gray, Kyle Vennes, Promise Miller, Jason Oberlander

Also present: Ashley Martin, Clerk/Treasurer
Sam Thielen, Water/Wastewater Operator

Mark Thielen - Dump Site Operator - Absent

Members of the Public Present: Henry Hastig, Lois Geving, Jason Castleberry.

Approve Minutes from Town Council Regular Meeting - October 7th, 2024

With one correction of prize money for the Town's logo contest from \$100 to \$125, the minutes from October 7th, 2024 regular council meeting were approved.

Public Comment and Questions:

-Henry Hastig - Henry stated that there is a member of the council that has been harassing, ~~borderline~~ stalking him. Henry stated that this individual keeps coming up to him, telling him things that are wrong with his property. Henry wanted some clarifications on a few different subjects. Henry asked if it was acceptable to park vehicles on city easement. Mayor Thielen said that yes parking on city easement is allowed as long as the vehicle was not parked close to the roadways. Henry stated that he was told to remove his vehicle from city easement even though there were multiple other vehicles parked on city easement. Henry has been told that he needs to trim his trees on his personal property. Henry asked if it was required in Plevna to keep your trees trimmed to one person's liking or in a specific way. Mayor Thielen stated that if it is a nuisance then yes they need to be trimmed. Henry stated that one thing that could be considered a nuisance would be all of the cats running around in town but that nothing is being done about that. That there are people in town that feed them. Henry stated that last year he had personal property hit by, and drug into the alley by a blade operator. Henry was told that his stuff was too close to the alley while blading. Henry went around and measured other items that were considerably closer to the alley way and asked what made his items too close to the alley way to cause it to be hit and destroyed by the blade. Henry stated that he doesn't understand how if he is paying for a service, how it is acceptable for the operator at the dump to be drunk and smoking every time he goes to the dump to use the services. Stating that at times the operator is too drunk to get out of his vehicle to do the job that he is supposed to be doing. To him it seems like a very serious case of nepotism. Mayor Theien stated that the issue is being dealt with. Councilwoman Miller stated to Henry that they have had several good conversations and this was the first time she had heard of this issue from him. She stated that there are certain conversations that cannot be had in front of the public. She also stated that there have been discussions and steps being made and that this is not being ignored.

-Going back to the beginning of Henry's public comment of harassment, Councilwoman Miller stated that she has spoken with Henry and the other party and has no issue being the go to between them. Henry stated that if there is an issue then it needs to be sent to him in the mail. He stated that this individual had seen him on main street and turned around to follow him to complain about things. The individual has approached this wife to complain about things, the individual has been caught parked in front of their house to the point that they purchased security cameras. Henry stated that he is at the point that if the individual comes onto his property, trespassing charges will be filed, if he is approached he is

going to be calling the sheriff and reporting it as harassment.. Henry has stated that he does not want this individual on his property or near him or his wife. Council woman Miller told Henry that everything he has brought up she has no problem addressing and trying to find a solution for. She stated that she understands his frustrations and no person should be singled out. Henry stated that if there is a real legitimate issue to please bring it to his attention but at this point he feels this individual is seeking him out over petty things trying to get a reaction. Henry stated that if they want a reaction, they are going to end up starting a legal action.

-Henry stated that he was reading the minutes a few months ago and saw that Councilman Vennes had called the game warden to see if having quail was legal. Councilman Vennes stated that he was approached by some council members about the situation. Henry asked why he didn't come to him first. Henry asked if he thought that he hadn't checked the laws regarding it beforehand. Henry stated to councilman Vennes that he could have approached him, that he has seen him driving by his house, he could have stopped.. He stated that he has his number, so he could have called him. Councilman Vennes stated that when he was approached he just thought it would be easiest to contact the game warden and find out the laws regarding owning quail.

-Councilwoman Miller stated that she thinks that we are on the right track to getting some changes made and getting everyone playing by the same rules. Councilwoman Miller asked Henry if she was able to answer his questions with what they had discussed to which Henry replied yes she had. Councilwoman Miller had shown Henry exactly where the zoning laws were making it to where the quail were not allowed in the R-1 district with the dating. Henry then stated that if there are rules in town then they need to be across the board and apply to everyone.

Correspondence:

Overview of upcoming grants - Clerk Martin added a copy of an email she received into the council packets. This email shows some upcoming grants and different things that would fall under and potentially be good candidates for applying for these grants. Specific mentioned items under these grants are; Local Agriculture, Water Infrastructure, Community Centers, Removing Lead and Asbestos, Weatherizing Healthy Homes, Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Job Training. Mayor Thielen asked if there was a cost share or match with these grants. Clerk Martin said she currently does not have this information; it just states applications are due the 12th of December, and that grants range from \$150,000 to \$350,000. This email came from MSU Extension. Clerk Martin thought that maybe this would work under the water infrastructure for the well work the town is wanting to do.

Ryland from Bros - Mayor Thielen had thought that Ryland would be joining us for our meeting as he had stated that the town should be ready to go out for bids in November. Clerk Martin emailed Ryland to let him know of the date change to our council meeting because of the holiday. Ryland responded to Clerk Martins email stating that the DEQ is requiring an operation of maintenance manual for their permit which is taking some additional time to put together.

Old Business:

Dog Licensing:

Councilwoman Miller asked if Clerk Martin had found the old dog tags that the Town had. Clerk Martin informed the council that she had not found the old tags. Councilwoman Miller then stated that she believed at this time all there was left to do was move to buy tags if the town plans to implement the ordinance that is already in place, and then put a cost on the licensing. Councilwoman Miller also suggested that as far as penalties, they should be laid out the same as the fireworks ordinance. If penalties and fines are not specified they go back to the generic penalty of "up to \$500" with no specifics. Councilwoman Miller stated that she believed the city of Baker has it set at \$10 for all spayed and neutered, and \$15 for all non spayed and neutered dogs but that the council could decide to charge how everyone sees fit. Council Man Oberlander asked if there was a way we could set up some sort of

vaccine clinic since we will be implementing the licensing ordinance that requires having proof of a current rabies vaccine. It was said that the Baker Vet Clinic used to come over and hold a vaccine clinic in Plevna, this was typically done when the weather was nicer, around spring time. Councilwoman Miller has looked into the tags. It will cost roughly \$140.00 to get 200 tags. These tags can be purchased with no year on them so they can be used for years to come.

Council Woman Miller made a motion to implement a fee of \$10 for spayed and neutered dogs and \$15 for non spayed and neutered dogs, yearly fee for dog licensing from January 1st through December 31st, and follow the penalty fees of \$100, \$200, and \$500 if not licensed. Councilwoman Gray seconded the motion. Discussion: Above. Action:

Aye: 4 Nay:0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Carried:4:0

Beautification Projects:

The logo contest has been put out to the public. Councilwoman Miller said that hopefully we start seeing some entries turned in. She also asked if a flyer had been taken up to the school, which it had. Clerk Martin stated that the flyer for our logo contest has been posted at the school, the post office, in the message board outside the office, on the town's website and on the town's facebook page. Councilwoman Miller stated that she had also shared it to the "Plevna roots" facebook page. Councilwoman Miller then asked if the council would want to use the portion of money that was talked about to order the picnic tables that were already decided on for the park. She stated that the picnic tables and gutters for the park building shouldn't cost more than \$3,000. Clerk Martin specified that in the budget, there is a chunk of money that is specifically for the park.

Councilman Vennes motioned to purchase new picnic tables for the Plevna park as well as have gutters added to the park building. Councilwoman Miller seconded the motion. Discussion. Above. Action:

Aye: 4 Nay:0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Carried:4:0

New Business:

Town Celebration

Councilwoman Miller had a conversation with Vaughn Zenko who stated that there was something put together to do something with Plevna, but when it was discussed with the commissioners they thought that it was too close to the Heritage Days that the museum does in Baker. Councilwoman Miller said that she would have to get a bit more information from Vaughn about what they have put together but that Vaughn seemed to be very excited and willing to help with some sort of celebration for the town of Plevna. Dates were discussed as far as when the City of Baker holds different events. Councilwoman Miller stated that if we could decide on an estimated time frame for when the town of Plevna would like to look into having a celebration, she can get together with Vaughn to come up with a better time. Possibly set a date at the next council meeting. Councilman Oberlander mentioned that if it is held before college students go back to school he believes there will be a lot of participation from them. Councilwoman Miller said maybe July would work best. Councilman Oberlander said that he believes Baker holds some sort of three on three basketball, usually accompanied by some sort of town gathering in July. Sam Thielen brought up a big battle "the siege of Plevna" that took place on July 20th. Councilwoman Miller said she will go talk to Vaughn and get more information on different events that the city of Baker holds as well as more information on what they had put together for the town of Plevna.

Zoning Clarifications

Councilwoman Miller said that it has been discussed how any “grandfathered” chickens into the town would have taken place in 2017. Most if not all of those chickens should be passed on by now. She has had people mentioned to her, recently, that she did not know they had chickens but that they were not here in 2017. She thinks that it is time to level the playing field and give everybody a time frame. If they’re within the residential district, their chickens just need to be gone. Mayor Thielen stated that we will have to have everyone in town remove any chickens that they have. Mayor Thielen’s suggestion is to write a letter to everyone. Clerk Martin stated that a general, generic letter should be sent to everyone, whether they have chickens or not outlining what the zoning ordinances are and that livestock is not allowed within the residential zoning, R-1 district. Mayor Thielen stated that this was discussed a few years ago. There was a survey sent out and there was more against having chickens than there was for having chickens. Councilwoman Miller asked what kind of time frame everyone wanted to give to residents. Mayor Thielen said to send a letter giving everyone 60 days to get rid of their chickens and tell them what the fines will be. Clerk Martin asked for clarifications on the fines. Councilwoman Miller stated the fines will be the same as the firework ordinance which is \$100 for first offense. \$200 for second offense. \$500 for third offense. Mayor Thielen stated that we would need to amend the original ordinance that grandfathered livestock into town. Councilwoman Miller stated that the original ordinance would not have to be amended because the zoning ordinance would override any previous ordinance, which the zoning ordinance states that there is no livestock allowed within the R-1 district.

Department Reports:

- ***Water/Wastewater Operator*** - Sam informed the council that he had gone to his water training last month and he passed his test. Sam learned that our system is fairly new with little problems compared to other towns and cities. There are new chlorine tanks coming for the pump room, as they have a ten year lifespan and the town’s is ten years old. Sam will have wastewater training in the spring. Sam let the council know that only 25 new meters will be coming to begin with.
- ***Container Site Operator*** - Mark absent
- ***Clerks Report*** - The Utility Billing past due accounts were reviewed with the Council.

Town Financials:

Financial Report(I)

The October 2024 financial report was reviewed and accepted by the Council.

Approve Claims/Voided Checks – October 2024(A)

The Council reviewed the Claim Detail report for October 2024. See attached October 2024 Claims Check Register in the amount of \$7800.26

Councilwoman Miller motioned to approve the claims report as presented. Councilman Oberlander seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Action:

Aye: 4 Nay:0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Carried:4:0

Mayor/Council Comments:

Mayor Thielen was in contact with Reed Sutter with Ferguson Waterworks. Reed will be getting in contact with Clerk Martin to set up a date to load programming onto the computer.

Mayor Thielen had Bros Engineering send us a complete estimate for a new well system so that when the grid grant comes out we have what we need to apply for it. The estimate comes to something like 1.4

million. Mayor Thielen will be speaking with Ryland to have some unnecessary things removed from the estimate, the building and land purchase are things that are not needed in the estimate.

Mayor Thielen wanted to clarify that every time he has spoken with Henry Hastig he has not approached him in a hostile manner. He stated that yes, he has asked Henry to move a vehicle on city easement that was too close to the roadway. Mayor Thielen stated that he had turned around and followed Henry to the dump, but that he followed him to inform him that the town would be doing some road maintenance and he didn't want his vehicle that was parked on city easement to get anything on it, and asked that he move it. Mayor Thielen also stated that he has never been onto Henry's property.

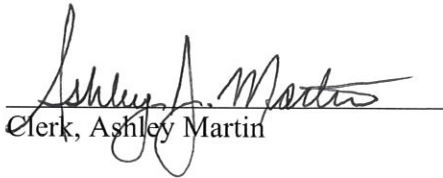
Adjournment:

Having no further business, Mayor Thielen adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Plevna Town Council will be Monday, January 13th, 2024

12/9/24
Signature Date:


Clerk, Ashley Martin


Mayor, Gary Thielen

October 2024 | Claims Check Register

11/12/24
12:23:02

TOWN OF PLEVNA
Check Register
For the Accounting Period: 10/24

Page: 1 of 2
Report ID: AP300

Claim Checks

Check #	Type	Vendor #/Name	Check Amount	Date Issued	Period Redeemed	Claim #	Claim Amount
-99722	E	18 Montana Dakota Utilities	1061.36	11/12/24	10/24		
-99721	E	19 Mid Rivers Communication	84.03	11/12/24	10/24	CL 1804	1061.36
3721 *	S	108 B&B Septic Services Inc	115.00	11/12/24		CL 1806	84.03
3722	S	150 Biq Skv Mini Barns	238.00	11/12/24		CL 1807	115.00
3723	S	136 BROSZ ENGINEERING, INC.	515.00	11/12/24		CL 1814	238.00
3724	S	5 Coral Creek Landfill	433.15	11/12/24		CL 1813	515.00
3725	S	9 Enerqy Laboratories, Inc.	53.00	11/12/24		CL 1800	433.15
3726	S	12 Farmer's Union Oil	163.63	11/12/24		CL 1802	53.00
3727	S	14 G&G Garbage	370.00	11/12/24		CL 1810	163.63
3728	S	17 Hawkins Inc.	198.84	11/12/24		CL 1801	370.00
3729	S	42 MT DEQ	176.00	11/12/24		CL 1812	198.84
3730	S	149 Naqall Homes	605.00	11/12/24		CL 1805	176.00
3731	S	20 Runnings Supply Inc.	56.02	11/12/24		CL 1809	605.00
3732	S	145 Samuel Thielen	621.68	11/12/24		CL 1803	56.02
3733	S	148 SDI Architects + Design	1447.50	11/12/24		CL 1798	621.68
3734	S	22 TWEnterprises Inc.	765.96	11/12/24		CL 1808	1447.50
3735	S	146 VISA	896.09	11/12/24		CL 1797	765.96
						CL 1811	896.09
Total for Claim Checks			7800.26				
Count for Claim Checks			17				

* denotes missing check number(s)

of Checks: 17 Total: 7800.26