

**OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
March 14, 2022, 6:30pm in the Town Hall Complex**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Irene called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call:

Cm. Angie Hobbs

Cm. Joe Neel

Cm. Bryson Kennedy

Cm. Craig Mustard

Also, Present: Linda Crane, Clerk/Treasurer, Will Redmond, Public Works Director

CITIZEN/VISITORS: Yvonne Johnson, Joyce Menke, Myron Hunt, Austin Hunt, Christine Neel, Shorty Richardson, John Johnson, Reese Johnson, Bob Johnson, Shae Johnson, Ken Casner, Brian Lashley, Brian O'Connor, Sam Johnson, Garrett Irene, John Crane, Nicolas Bair, Mike Armstrong

APPROVE AGENDA: Cm. Kennedy motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Cm. Mustard seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

APPROVE MINUTES: Cm. Hobbs made a motion to approve the February 23, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes; Cm. Kennedy seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

CITIZEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL: Ken Casner addressed the Council with concerns about public property being used on private property, WyDot's snow removal and the use of the trash trailer.

Mr. Casner spoke on the use of public equipment, the snowplow and pickup, being used on private property, the post office parking lot. And the fact that WyDot cannot come on the town's street to plow snow. He was also concerned about the amount of revenue the town gets from the trash trailer.

The Mayor told Mr. Casner the public/private property issue had been resolved years ago and the town has an MOU with WyDot on snow removal.

Nicolas Bair CEO of Bair Energy addressed the Council and audience on the Simpson Ridge Hydrogen Project. He wanted to introduce himself to the Council and the public and give some information on the project. Bair Energy is a family-owned business out of Oregon. Their plan is to construct 12 turbines over a 12-acre area to produce green energy to power the plant. Bair said the projected life of the project is 25 years. The project will cover 32 acres of leased ground and have a height profile of 32 feet. He gave numbers on the amount of hydrogen produced a day and the number of trucks that would haul the product from the facility. Bair talked about the safety regulations and the safety of hydrogen. He has met with the Carbon County Emergency Planner and would like to receive input from the county and local fire department and the EMS. This project is not going through the Industrial Sitings Committee, but they will be doing all the environmental and regulator analyses required. There were concerns about their need for large amounts of water and how did the town sole source aquifer designation play into this need. He said there are restrictions that prohibits the drilling of a well so they would like to discuss water purchase from the town or investigate hauling water and storing on site. He told the Council that it could take 250 temporary workers to construct the turbines and 6 employees beside truck drivers to run the facility. They are going before the Carbon County Planning and Development Board April 4th. They plan on being functional by 2024. The hydrogen produced here would remain in the state. The project is the first in the nation to produce green hydrogen.

NOTE: April 3rd Simpson Ridge Hydrogen Project will host an open house from 6:30 to 8:30 at the town hall complex. They will have a presentation with staff to answer questions.

REPORTS:

Fire Dept: Garrett Irene told the Council he didn't have the exact number of calls for the month. The Department had election of officers, Chief Brian O'Connor, Bob Meyer, Assistant Chief, Garrett Irene, Training Officer, Brent Kelly and Paul Blight, Captains.

SCWEMS: The Mayor reported they are busy keeping the ambulances running. There are 2 positions on the service open in Saratoga and the EMT class has a large group that will be completing the program soon.

Public Works: Director Redmond told the Council they are working on fixing the leak in one of the water tanks. Redmond continues to clean out and organize the cold storage. He is putting together a maintenance log for all of the town's equipment and plans on starting to go through all the equipment. Snowy Range Glass gave a price on the museum doors. The front door is a custom size door and with full glass is around \$1500. The back door can have the hardware replaced for \$540 or replace the entire door for \$975. The Council will look at including these in the next fiscal budget. The floor in the vestibule at the library is heaving when it gets hot and restricting the door from opening all the way. He is checking into the problem. He continues to study for the water, sewer, and pesticide certifications.

HCJPB: Mayor Irene attended the quarterly meeting with the Board on March 3rd at 6:00 in the Elk Mountain Town Hall. They paid bills and transfer money. They will need to reseed the reclaimed area.

Museum Board: Director Hobbs told the Council the electrician is coming in the next 2 weeks to do the wiring at the museum. She asked where they would like to place the electrical boxes and if we had the fill to bed the trench.

CCVC: Received minutes from their meetings.

CCCOG: The next meeting March 16th at the Hanna Recreation Center.

LEPC: Meeting canceled because of the water issues in Rawlins.

CCEDC: Director Yvonne Johnson updated the Council on her activities. She has ongoing projects for existing and new businesses and Non-profit retaining and expansion plans. She listed future projects in the county that she was at liberty to discuss.

TREASURER REPORT: **Cm. Kennedy motioned to approve the February Treasurer Reports;** Cm. Hobbs seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel Aye, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

BILLS TO RATIFY AND PAID: **Cm. Hobbs made a motion to pay the bills from February 15, 2022, thru March 15, 2022, in the amount of \$23,848.97;** Cm. Mustard seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel Aye, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

WIND IMPACT REPORT: Clerk Crane told the Council the report had not changes from last month. The town received no funds from the Chokecherry Sierra Madera Project.

CORRESPONDENCE: City of Rawlins, WAM JPIC, Innergex-Last Mile Transmission CUP, Various emails and board minutes.

Crane ask the Council if they wanted to vote for the open positions in the WAM JPIC Board. No interest was shown.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Gas Update: The Mayor told the Council that Steve Shute sent a RFP for the Feasibility Study on the Natural Gas Project. This study will give the town the parameters of doing such a project. **Cm. Hobbs made a motion to sign the Feasibility Study for the Natural Gas Project with Steven Shute, Pinedale Natural Gas in the amount not to exceed \$20,000,** Cm. Mustard seconded the motion, Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel Aye, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

McClain Variance at 206 Evans: Director Redmond went through the zoning code and the paperwork for Russ McClain's building permit and variance request. He took measurements with Mr. McClain and found that he didn't need the variance for the building. At the last meeting a motion was made to deny the variance request as presented. **Cm. Mustard motioned to rescind that motion;** Cm. Neel seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel Aye, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

Informational: The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16th, time to be announced. Any donations of candy to stuff the eggs will be appreciated.

RNB Checking Accounts: Cm. Kennedy made a motion to remove former Council Member Tammy Page and add Council Member Joe Neel to the RNB checking and Money Market accounts; Cm. Hobbs seconded the motion; Council Poll; Cm. Hobbs Aye, Cm. Neel Aye, Mayor Irene Aye, Cm. Kennedy Aye, Cm. Mustard Aye, motion carries.

Brian Lashley, WyDot Maintenance Supervisor wanted to discuss the increase in the stations trash fees. The Mayor told him he had a meeting with Mr. Baker over the increase and to leave the rate increase as is until Baker has time to review it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None needed

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, **Cm Hobbs motioned to adjourn at 8:55PM;** Cm. Kennedy seconded the motion; all Council Members present voting Aye none Opposed.

CLERK

MAYOR