

*Eureka Town Council Public Hearing for
Budget Amendment
Eureka Town Hall --- Eureka, Montana
Monday, April 12, 2021*

Mayor Schermerhorn opened the Public Hearing for the Budget Amendment at 7:00 p.m. There were no comments. Mayor Schermerhorn closed the Public Hearing.

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Monday, April 12, 2021*

Present AND constituting a Quorum:

Mayor	LeeAnn Schermerhorn
Council Members	Ethel White, Arthur Walters, Douglas Davies
Town Clerk	Lisa Flynn

Visitors: Nikki Meyer, Amberli Emery, Derek Emery, Erika Tucker, Blanche Flanagan

Mayor Schermerhorn called the council meeting to order at 7:05 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT on agenda items. None.

Ethel White made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Art Walters, carried all ayes.
Doug Davies made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Ethel White, carried all ayes.

Reports. No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wastewater Project – Phase 1b. Mayor Schermerhorn read the report submitted by Town Engineer Toby McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh said there is nothing outstanding on Jackola’s end for closing the project. He has not received any feedback from SRF on the submitted O&M manuals. It is coming up on one year from substantial completion which was 5/20/2020 for the pipe, grinder and generator and 6/5/2020 for the street repair, double chip seal, and hydroseeding. He will coordinate with SRF on anything they need during the warranty period and work with the Town to identify any warranty items.

Capital Improvement & Growth Policy Planning. Toby McIntosh said work on the CIP and Growth Policy is ongoing. A draft growth policy will be sent to the Steering Committee 4/19 to reflect the additional content.

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmers Market – Chamber of Commerce. Blanche Flanagan said they would like to use General Pershing Veteran’s Memorial Park again. They are changing the time to 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.. Doug Davies said the Town needs a copy of the insurance and Covid Plan. Mrs. Flanagan said she will get the copies. Vendors will be told to wear gloves and provide hand sanitizer. Masks will be suggested, but cannot be enforced. Mr. Davies commented that the insurance and Covid plan are required on the Special Event Request Form, but were not provided. Ethel White made a motion to approve the Farmers Marker event contingent on the receipt of the proof of insurance and Covid plan, seconded by Doug Davies, carried all ayes.

Rendezvous Events. Blanche Flanagan stated she has received approval from the State of Montana to close Hwy. 93 for the parade which will start at 12:00 p.m. and last approximately one hour. There was discussion regarding parade participants. They will be limiting vendors to 50. They would like approval to have the food vendors and beer garden in Riverside Park. The beer garden hours will be 4-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-12p.m. and 1-4 p.m. on Saturday. Can Am members will be patrolling the beer garden. Ethel White said the past beer garden was well done. Doug Davies made a motion to approve the use of Riverside Park for the food vendors and beer garden contingent on furnishing copies of insurance and Covid plan, seconded by Ethel White, carried all ayes.

Resolution No. 2021-786 to Amend FY21 Budget. Doug Davies made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-786 to Amend the FY21 Budget, seconded by Art Walters, carried all ayes.

Sign Permit – Lost Sailor Smithy. Ethel White made a motion to approve the sign permit for Lost Sailor Smithy, seconded by Art Walters, motion carried Ethel White and Art Walters voting aye, Doug Davies recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Sign Permit – Beamers. Art Walters made a motion to approve the sign permit for Beamers, seconded by Ethel White, carried all ayes.

Sign Permit – Montana Technical Solutions. Ethel White made a motion to approve the sign permit for Montana Technical Solutions, seconded by Art Walters, carried all ayes.

Police Commission appointment. Mayor Schermerhorn informed the Council that the Town of Eureka has a three person Police Commission that serves an advisory role in hiring and mediation of police disciplinary matters and public relations. The commission is currently short one member so an ad was placed in the local paper. One response was received from Rosalie Aauto who has served two terms on the Town Council and has experience working with the police department in Los Angeles California. Art Walters made a motion to appoint Rosalie Aauto to a three year term on the Eureka Police Commission, seconded by Ethel White, carried all ayes.

Police Chief appointment. Mayor Schermerhorn said she met with Councilperson Doug Davies and the Eureka Police Commission to interview the two applicants for the position of Police Chief. After the interview process, the recommendation is that Steve Iker is the best qualified for the position. Doug Davies said Mr. Iker’s background is impressive and the other applicant was good as well. Doug Davies made a motion to approve the appointment of Steve Iker as Chief of Police effective April 16, 2021, seconded by Art Walters, carried all ayes.

MOU for Drug Task Force. Mayor Schermerhorn said she was approached last week about signing a MOU for the Drug Task Force. This MOU would allow the Drug Task Force to come into Eureka to work cases. At that time it was not possible to sign because the Town of Eureka was not actually mentioned in the agreement. Since then the agreement has been updated to include the Town of Eureka. Doug Davies made a motion to sign the MOU for the Drug Task Force, seconded by Ethel White, carried all ayes.

Request to change Ordinance 2010-315 Dispensation of Medical Marijuana. Erika Tucker said the current Ordinance only allows for one dispensary per 2,000 residents. She would like to ask the Council to change that to allow two dispensaries. She said she has been a life long Eureka resident and understands that the topic is controversial. Ms. Tucker explained what her business plan entailed and products she would be selling along with education on use. Doug Davies said he does not see any justification to change the ordinance. He also said an email was sent by councilperson Scott Bernhard who stated opposition to changing the ordinance. Mr. Bernhard did not want a dispensary in a residential neighborhood. Other issues include traffic and children in the area. Mr. Davies also mentioned that the more dispensaries that existed, the more the market would be diluted and less profits per business. Art Walters said he had the same concerns regarding residential issues. Ethel White said she also has concerns regarding residential issues. Mayor Schermerhorn said it would cost the Town money to change the ordinance. Also, at this time the State legislature is looking at the situation and are questioning issues with what was voted on, so it is possible there will be changes. Until we know what the final outcome will be, it would be best to wait until it is settled. Council members agreed to look at the ordinance again once the legislature makes their final decisions.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

Ethel White said the street behind the VFW is in a very bad state and needs to be addressed. Mayor Schermerhorn said that due to Lincoln County’s decision not to help the Town with streets again this year, that we will be getting our pug from Missoula. Mrs. White also said that there had been an assault on the librarian in Town and that is unacceptable.

PUBLIC COMMENT on non-agenda items. None

With nothing further to come before the council, Mayor Schermerhorn adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

LEEANN SCHERMERHORN, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Flynn Clerk/Treasurer