

## Tropic Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting  
Held Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

**PRESENT:** Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Lisa Johnson, Gene Anderson, Marie Pollock and Michael Ahlstrom. Marie Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk & Elaina Purcell – Tropic Town Treasurer.

**OTHERS:** Kent Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

**PRAYER:** Marie Pollock

**PLEDGE:** Mike Ahlstrom

**VISION STATEMENT:** Marie Niemann

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Mike Ahlstrom to approve the minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting held Thursday, April 8, 2021. Second by Lisa Johnson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mike Ahlstrom to approve the agenda. Second by Gene Anderson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

---

### THE COMMUNITY

Additional County Trash Bins & Lower Town Speed Limit: Attending Planning Commission meeting, Annette Chynoweth express concern with the 40 mph speed limit through town and the need for additional County trash bins. Annette was not in attendance – follow up with Annette to attend town board meeting discuss these concerns – Not action was taken.

Sidewalk Funding: Elementary School Principal Mr. Peterson is continually seeking funding to better the community and the students. Two grants were submitted, one for safe sidewalks/pathways; both were denied. Mr. Peterson reported the submissions were reviewed again and funds were approved. An “in kind” match from Garfield County using equipment/manpower, Garfield County School District cash match of \$15,000. Funding from Tropic Town is \$25,840; which funds will need to be included in this next year’s budget.

Another grant Mr. Peterson is looking into is recreation grant to expand the baseball park. Council member Mike Ahlstrom reported on an interest in 1A Girls softball tournaments as well as other uses of the baseball complex for recreational events.

Statehood Grant: Council member Gene Anderson reported in celebration of a 125 years of Statehood, State of Utah is providing a tree grant of \$4,000; would like to look into this to replace a number of trees at the heritage center and the shrubs along main street, along with the repairs to the drip system.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Conex Box: Planning Commission reviewed a request for a Conex box for storage – all was found to be in order. The motion was made by Gene Ander to approve the placement of a Conex box for Ward William. Second by Lisa Johnson - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

## **EMPLOYEE REPORT**

Marie Niemann: A number of items were reported ~ Renewing of Notary Commission. GRAMA Request for Michael and Jennifer Taylor has been completed; after many hours and changing of requested information, the cost settlement was \$107.90.

The public hearing with the State has been postponed till June 10, 2021; however we've been told the Taylors would retract the appeal now that they've received the documents. Food Bank in June will be a week later – June 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussed Founder's day recognition, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration - bounce houses, equipment cleaning & private use of equipment – Council was against renting out private functions.

Elaina Purcell: Work meeting prior to Town Board with Morris Peacock – Town Auditor, identified items needing clarification - Nothing further to report.

Kent Johnson: Working at the Town Park; Main Street sprinkling system repairs, etc.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

A resident had texted Kent regarding a dog that is chained up and in her view is being neglected. Kent had contacted the owner making him aware of the concern. Mayor Brinkerhoff was contacted by the dog's owner as well, expressing his concern of the accusations. Discussion commenced noting dogs that are not contained whether tied up, in a kennel or within a fenced property, by definition is "running at large" and is violation of the Town's Dog Ordinance. Mayor and Town Council concluded the dog is not being neglected and the resident's claim is unjustified.

## **FINANCIAL/WARRANTS**

A few items need clarification for the Town's Audit – A motion was made by Marie Pollock to clarify the items as outlined and approve the Warrants: Second by Lisa Johnson - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

### **Audit Clarifications:**

Amount of allocation from the Cell Tower funds - \$1,000 will be placed in the Fire Department account; the remaining \$1,587.41 will go in to Capital Improvement Fund.

Amount of Capital Improvement Funds – A Capital Improvement Fund was opened in 2019; the amount deposited was not identified. The amount placed in the Capital Improvement Fund was \$150,000.00

Sale of Ford Dump Truck – In November 2019 two bids were received on the sale of the Ford Dump truck; a bid of \$4,001 was received from Brett Chynoweth; a second bid of \$7,501 was received from Landon Holm. The bid was awarded to Landon Holm and was given seven-(7) business days to claim. Upon failure to claim, the Council awarded Brett Chynoweth the purchase of the Ford Dump truck.

### **Warrants:**

Additional Security Cameras Cost Increase – Four-(4) additional security cameras were purchased and installed; all were inside the upper level of the Heritage Center/Town Office. Cost is \$1,500. The 20220/2021 Budget will be amended to reflect this additional cost.

Fee Schedule: Revisions included ~ Monthly Office Rental increase to \$200; Conference room for any small gatherings is \$100 and the monthly rental was removed; Weddings/Dinners/Family & Class Reunions remain at \$150. Mayor Brinkerhoff noted the Fee Schedule will need to reflect the yearly fee increase on water/sewer, road/streets and water drainage funds.

## **CULINARY/SEWER**

It was reported the re-development of Spring Creek has produced 100 additional gallons per minute (gpm).

## **ROADS/STREETS**

Town Street repairs continue. Current UDOT SR12 project is causing long traffic delays and congestion; it is reported the project will be completed in September.

The annual town Spring clean-up will be May 24<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>; limb pit will be open during regular town operating hours 8 am to 4 pm. A notice will be posted on the website, town office and post office.

## **PARK/RECREATION**

Heritage Center: Council member Lisa Johnson reviewed needed updates/repairs to the building; exterior door locks, carpet cleaning, etc. Lisa has arranged to meet with a door/lock repairman to examine the exterior doors and provide solutions to resolving the unsecured door issues. Also, it was asked that keys be provided to the Council members to access the heritage center.

Discussion on office space rental commenced as Marie Niemann reported Chad Cottam was not ready to lease the resource room space at this time; which opened it up for another interested tenant. Council member Lisa Johnson proposed the removal of the library, feeling it better used for additional office space and generate revenue. Response to the suggestion was divided - Marie Pollock also felt the library was wasted space Mike and Gene expressing the Heritage Center should be a place providing services to the community, not an office building; suggested keeping a few books, providing tourist information, etc. Marie Niemann reported many visitors use the internet/computer to access their emails and their work related business. The motion was made by Marie Pollock to table the decision, following up on how much the library is being used – Second by Lisa Johnson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Showing their support for the fire department, the Mayor and Council attended the fire department training on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Comments made expressed how fortunate the community is to have the skills and dedication of those who serve as volunteers in the EMS, Fire, Search & Rescue, etc. It was reported the number of members have declined and these services are in need of volunteers. Ideas were shared to help recruit volunteers and promote community service; including “service in action” pictures on the marquee, Facebook, Town’s Website, etc. During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, recognition of those serving will be made along with signup registration.

Tropic Town and Bryce Canyon City will be hosting the State Fire Department Conference June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Mike Ahlstrom reported on a number of events will be taking place, including a barbecue Thursday night at the Town Park. Conference will begin Wednesday morning, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ebenezer’s; an invitation was extended to local mayors to provide a Welcome to the conference and the area. A sponsorship ad for the conference program/brochure approved by Marie Pollock – Second by Lisa Johnson. Motion approved.

**MAYOR’S REPORT** - No Report

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion was made by Marie Pollock to move to Executive session – Second by Lisa Johnson. - Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting “aye”. Mayor abstained.

## **Executive Session Discussion**

Mayor and Town Council discussed Irrigation water and culinary water concerns and issues, including the upcoming litigation for the drilling water well; Tropic will be involved in the case.

Elaina Purcell expressed the decision to end employment with Tropic Town; due to the demand of her time needed at the family's business. Council discussed options for replacement and/or hiring outside professional help.

Other items included providing better customer service by having a credit card reader for the office for receiving payments.

The motion was made by Marie Pollock to return to regular Town Board meeting. Second by Mike Ahlstrom. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

## **ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Mike Ahlstrom to adjourn – Second by Gene Anderson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Lisa, Gene, Marie and Mike voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021  
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk