**Dutton Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 6, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Fleshman called the meeting of May 6, 2019 to order at 7:02 pm at the Dutton Town Hall.

**Present**

**Mayor** Susan Fleshman; **Councilpersons**: Bob Dauwalder, Frank P. Klein; Candace Ellsworth; Pat Bayala **Public Works Director /Finance Officer/Clerk** Jeremiah Kjensmo; **Assistant Clerk** Becky Hagen. **Choteau Acantha** Vonnie Jacobson; **Public** Kara Fuhringer, Mariah Racine, Stacey Humiston, Collette Wilson, Randy Rossmiller, Diane Greyn and Laura Nowlin.

**Public Comment**

Laura Nowlin expressed concern about the dog problems in town.

**April 1, 2019 Town Council Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Councilwoman Ellsworth, Second by Councilman Klein to approve the Minutes of the April 1, 2019 Town Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Current Bills**

Motion by Councilman Dauwalder, Second by Councilwoman Bayala, to pay the current bills as presented and those yet to come in. Motion carried unanimously.

**Construction Applications**

Construction applications were approved for two Dutton residents:

* Brad Fleshman requested to build a garage. Motion by Councilman Klein, Second by Councilwoman Bayala to allow construction of garage. Motion carried unanimously.
* Kari Barstow requested to build an interior fence. Motion by Councilwoman Ellsworth, Second by Councilman Klein to allow construction of fence. Motion carried unanimously.

**Update on Water Project**

Mayor Fleshman discussed Hard Rock Construction having to slow construction down due to moisture. The Mayor said that Hard Rock Construction planned on continuing construction on May 7th. Mayor Fleshman said the parks, Legion, cemetery and Schuler’s still need two-inch meters and pits installed. Covers and rings still need to be put on curb-boxes at some curb-box locations. The Mayor also mentioned the generator has been operated and linked with both pumps.

**Draw Package**

* Motion by Councilman Dauwalder, Second by Councilman Klein, to approve the WRDA Draw #11 in the amount of $8,103.75. Motion carried unanimously.
* Motion by Councilwoman Bayala, Second by Councilman Dauwalder, to approve the SRF Loan A #7 in the amount of $66,030.00. Motion carried unanimously.
* Motion by Councilwoman Ellsworth, Second by Councilwoman Bayala, to approve the SRF Loan B #6 in the amount of $66,463.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**Hard Rock Construction Payment # 5**

Motion by Councilwoman Ellsworth, Second by Councilman Klein, to approve payment number five in the amount of $126,779.40. Motion carried unanimously.

**Update on the Purchase of All In Inc. Insurance Building**

Mayor Fleshman discussed Matt Leudtke, the owner of the All In Inc. insurance building, offered the Town the building at the price of $110,000.00. Mayor Fleshman and Councilman Dauwalder spoke with a loan officer at Opportunity Bank of Montana about loan possibilities. Councilman Dauwalder stated the loan officer mentioned the Town could get a loan for $110,000.00. The Mayor said Leudtke said he would be willing to do $10,000.00 for contract for deed, which the bank favors. Mayor Fleshman said the first loan would be a semi-annual payment for 20 years at 5% interest. Another option would be Intercap. Leudtke indicated another insurance company might be interested in purchasing the building. Councilman Dauwalder pointed out to the Council and the Public that the building has been redone. Councilman Klein said the building might not be worth $100,000.00, and his concerns are the age and structure of the building. The Mayor mentioned the bank estimated the building was worth over $110,000.00. Councilwoman Ellsworth mentioned she would at least like to see the building and wondered if inspections are required for commercial property. Councilman Dauwalder pointed out how nice and convenient expansion would be and how well-maintained the building is. Motion by Councilman Dauwalder, Second by Councilman Klein, to make offer to purchase the building contingent on a building inspection and financial approval. Motion carried with Councilwoman Ellsworth, Councilman Klein, and Councilman Dauwalder voting yes. Councilwoman Bayala abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

**Kara Fuhringer/Dogs, Dogs, Dogs**

Kara Fuhringer thanked the Town for speaking with her neighbors regarding the dog and garbage issues. Fuhringer expressed concern that ordinances are against kennels and it is not fair that people cannot enjoy their private property. Fuhringer stated she is unable to enjoy her property due to barking dogs. Collette Wilson expressed how Greyn’s dogs effect the neighbors because they cannot enjoy themselves. Collette Wilson and Randy Rossmiller said they have written letters, to the Town lawyer, but there have been no results. Diane Greyn said she never received a letter from the Town’s lawyer after complaints of her dogs were submitted by her neighbors. Wilson suggested a committee to find a way to move forward with the dog issues the community has been experiencing. Wilson also stated that people are getting attacked by dogs when they are out walking around town. Wilson said that the town cannot be enjoyed because people let their dogs run freely. Stacey Humiston said it is best to be proactive in these situations and that she also fears for her grandchildren. Rossmiller and Humiston pointed out the dog ordinance and that kennels are out of compliance. Laura Nowlin mentioned she is tired of being chased by dogs; especially vicious ones. Rossmiller inquired if the Town Council could rewrite dog ordinances and suggested raising the fines to persuade people to take better care of their dogs. The Council agreed updating the dog ordinance is necessary. Motion by Councilwoman Ellsworth, Second by Councilwoman Bayala to increase the fines and reevaluate the rest of the dog ordinance criteria. Motion carried unanimously.

**Dog and Cat Days**

Mayor Fleshman mentioned that the yearly cat and dog vaccination clinic will take place Thursday, May 30th from 2-4. There was discussion about the need for more participation from the Towns residents being needed to continue doing the event every year.

**Arbor Day May 23rd**

Mayor Fleshman explained to the council that the Town gets an Arbor Day grant every year, that the town matches from the State to plant trees. Previous years tree plantings were discussed.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Fleshman discussed that the pool was in the process of being drained, and the bathrooms at the park are opened and ready for baseball. Heaters were put in the bathrooms to prevent pipes from freezing. The Mayor said Public Works Evan Gouchenour has been very helpful doing extra work at the park. The dug out is up, but enlargement of the fall zones have not been completed. The fence was fixed and improved. Carps draining was scheduled to drain the pool on May 14th. The Mayor mentioned that new lifeguards will be hired. There was discussion that the potholes had been worked on and that Chris Sullivan was going to come to Dutton and lay asphalt. The Mayor said that the Town will start mowing soon, and that Evan sprayed the baseball field for weeds. There was discussion on how quickly the meters are read, and the Town has been accepted for a grant allowed for GPS, and that the application has been accepted for $26,000.00. Mayor Fleshman informed the Council and public that the office will be closed May 27th for Memorial Day.

**Adjourn**

The next Dutton Town Council Meeting will be June 3rd, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

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**Susan Fleshman, Mayor** **Becky Hagen, Assistant Clerk**