

Town Council Regular Meeting
Town of Paonia, Colorado
March 8, 2011

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Session of the Town Council held Tuesday, March 8, 2011 was called to order at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Mayor Neal Schwieterman, Trustees Brian Ayers, Lucien Pevec, Corinne Ferguson, Sid Lewis, and David Weber; Scott Leon, and Town Clerk Barbara Peterson. Trustee Blake Kinser was absent.

Mayor Schwieterman determined a quorum was present and proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Lewis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- Mayor Schwieterman read a thank you letter from a student of the Creative Concept Class.
- The regularly scheduled Council meeting to be held on April 12, 2011 has been canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Visitors

Larry Wissbeck, asked if census data had been released. Trustee Ferguson gave Mr. Wissbeck web addresses to access the information.

Unfinished Business

Paonia Foreclosures

Trustee Weber investigated information to evaluate if Paonia foreclosures have been subject to improper paperwork processes. Trustee Weber spoke with two (2) real estate agents. Delta County handles all the paperwork. Colorado is unique in that it has a public trustee system whereby a public appointed official reviews to make sure banks follow proper procedure outlined in statutes. There is public oversight instead of arbitration and negotiation. Trustee Weber indicated that possible reasons why Paonia has not been hit with more foreclosures such as the coal mines providing a stable source of income and the income mix has shifted to more outside sources for example pensions, retirement incomes and internet based businesses. In 1985 the town was almost 50% dependent upon the mines and today it is more around 25%. Trustee Weber is interested in possibly investing in the foreclosed properties whereby the town would function either as a bank or landlords. Because legalities have not been researched, the Finance Committee will explore this option.

New Business

Mountain Harvest Festival – Park Permission Request

Laurene Bissel, Event Coordinator was present. The Mountain Harvest Festival is requesting to use the Town Park on September 23 through September 25, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to dark each day. Vendors would remain on the pavement with the same layout as last year. Trustee Pevec moved to approve the park permission request as presented. Trustee Weber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mountain Harvest Festival – Special Event Liquor License Request

The Mountain Harvest Festival is requesting to have a special event liquor license for the festival to be held on September 23 through September 25, 2011 at the Town Park. Hours indicated on the request are September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., September 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on September 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Area to be licensed is the green space, not over on the pavement area. Chief Leon indicated no problems. Ms. Bissell indicated if there is a conflict with a school event, that alcohol sales could be stopped sooner than anticipated. Trustee Pevec moved to approve the special event liquor license as requested. Trustee Weber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mountain Harvest Festival – Community Center Rent Waiver Request

The Mountain Harvest Festival is requesting the rent for the community center be waived in order to have another music location. Trustee Lewis moved to waive the rent for the community center for Saturday, September 24, 2011. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mountain Harvest Festival – Street Closure Request

The Mountain Harvest Festival is requesting to close the 200 block of Grand Avenue from 7:00 p.m. until midnight on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Anticipating over six-hundred (600) attendees, the request is for safety concerns, although a liquor license is not being requested for the closed off area. There will be four (4) music venues, with alcohol being sold at the Blue Sage Center for the Arts and the Paradise Theatre. Ms. Bissell indicated the businesses not have any problems as most will be closed for the day. Restaurants are being encouraged to stay open late to accommodate festival attendees. Chief Leon noted it will take time to clear the cars before the festival begins and suggested 6:00 p.m. for the closure. Mountain Harvest Festival will post businesses the day before and the Town will issue a public service announcement the week before. Trustee Weber moved to approve the street closure request starting at 6:00 p.m. for September 24, 2011. Trustee Pevac seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Paradise Theatre – Liquor License Renewal

The Paradise Theatre is requesting a renewal of a tavern liquor license for the property located at 215 Grand Avenue. Chief Leon indicated no problems. Trustee Pevac moved to approve the liquor license renewal as presented. Trustee Weber seconded. Discussion noted there is a new owner of the building, but not the liquor license. Motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPR)– Master Plan Update

Lisa Cook was present on behalf of the NFPPR and noted a copy of the draft master plan is available in the library. The NFPPR is looking for feedback to make sure the information in the document is accurate. Trails connections were discussed.

Additional Business

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schwieterman reported that although Council had passed a resolution opposing the closing of Paonia and Sweitzer Lake State Parks, it was not necessary as the Division of Wildlife will be taking over the administration of those parks. The FORE Alliance is completing a pilot study with Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) in Olathe. The program has not turned out as fiscally feasible as originally anticipated. The Alliance is reviewing whether local building officials may do energy audits. A training class will be held in April for area Building Inspectors. Mayor Schwieterman spoke with the Hotchkiss mayor, Wendell Koontz regarding the proposed school district budget cuts. Kami Long, Mountain Valley News reporter, indicated at the joint budget committee (JBC) meeting last night the school consolidation was taken off the agenda for Paonia and Hotchkiss. Crawford Elementary still may be consolidated with Hotchkiss. The State has not finalized their portion of funding. The JBC will make recommendations on April 4, 2011. Council concurred to have the Clerk and Mayor draft a letter asking the questions regarding why the cuts seem to be affecting only this end of the county, voice concerns over the four (4) day school week and invite someone to come talk directly to the community at a Council meeting.

Public Works: Scott Leon reported the one-million gallon (1MG) treatment plant should be completed by the end of March. Sewer lines are choked with roots in some areas. There have been complaints regarding alleys and the Town is waiting for repair parts to address those issues. The street sweeper has been out cleaning. Spring cleanup is being discussed for two (2) weeks, one (1) possibly in April and one (1) in June.

Police Report: Chief Leon reported an increase in vandalism and criminal mischief calls. There are a couple of suspects and the department is trying to figure out who is responsible for what.

Finance Committee Report: Trustee Pevac reported the Finance Committee is working on an investment policy.

Parks Committee Report: Trustee Pevac requested the parks maintenance contract request for proposal be published for next week. There is community interest in helping to develop and design a bike park at the old lagoon site. The town has not received an official closure letter from the State, and cannot develop the property yet. Kevin Dirk is forming an official organization for trails. The North Fork Trails group would be happy for volunteers and any input from citizens. Trustee Lewis noted an

invitation from CAWS regarding a dog park for March 19, 2011 at 10:15 a.m. at the library.

Public Safety Committee Report: Trustee Ayers reported there will be an Airport Advisory Board meeting on March 16, 2011 regarding the proposed AT&T tower. Trustee Ayers also reported concerns from citizens regarding the reduction in street lighting.

Street Committee Report: Trustee Ferguson had nothing to report. Trustee Lewis reported complaints from citizens regarding the railroad crossings on Third Street and Delta Avenue. Clerk Peterson noted the railroad company has been called and advised of the dangerous condition of the tracks. Scott Leon noted the railroad did come and install more gravel under the ties on the Third Street crossing.

Water/Sewer Committee Report: Trustee Weber reported the one-million gallon treatment (1MG) project is 80% complete. Trustee Weber moved to approve a partial payment to ECO in the amount of \$165,857.89. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Bone Mesa water maintenance agreement will be ready for the next Council meeting.

Personnel Committee Report: Trustee Weber had nothing to report.

Minutes:

Corrections noted. Trustee Weber moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2011 as amended. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed with an abstention from Trustee Ayers.

Disbursements:

Trustee Pevec moved to pay the bills ending March 8, 2011. Trustee Weber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:50 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Mayor, Neal Schwieterman

Town Clerk, Barbara J. Peterson