

MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA
Elk's Lodge

Council Present: Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice (via Zoom), David Bacon

Absent: Kacey Smart, Greg Jorczyk

Staff Present: Timber Baceski Clerk/Treasurer, Eric Barsness HPO, Shane Leach PWD

Absent: None

Public Present: Tanya Engle, Sheree Isola, Earl Bahr, Debbie Rogers, Jack Waller, Mary Stassi, Pat Jacobs, Mark Jacobs

1) Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Justin Gatewood, Mayor

2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:

a) Councilmember David Bacon reported that the first annual Miners Day, held on September 21st, was a huge success. Some business owners in Town had multiple times more income that weekend than previous weekends, and the Visitors Center had four times the normal number of visits. Councilmember Bacon thanked the VC Chamber of Commerce for organizing the event.

b) Mayor Gatewood added that Fall Fest was also a big success, including the Bear Aware Event. Mayor Gatewood also mentioned the Bike Race that took place last weekend, which had 138 participants.

c) Mayor Gatewood congratulated Wayne and Katie McKay for the birth of their son this past weekend.

3) Public Comments

a) Pat Jacobs, representing the Virginia City Preservation Alliance, presented a letter to the Council and read the letter aloud. The letter was regarding the disappointing experience the VCPA had with renting the Community Center in August of 2024 for the Victorian Ball.

i) Mayor Gatewood thanked Pat Jacobs and the VCPA for the letter and the efforts that were taken. Mayor Gatewood apologized for the poor experience and explained that a communication plan has been put in place between the Town Clerk and Public Works to ensure it will not happen again.

b) Tanya Engle mentioned that the Poker Tournament was a big success and that it raised some money for scholarships and the elevator.

4) Clerks Report:

Clerk Timber Pruett reported that audit process has begun earlier than usual this year and will occur over a longer span of time. Clerk Pruett has supplied Denning Downey & Associates with the first round of requested documents for that. Clerk Pruett also mentioned that Resort Tax season is wrapping up, and while October will still need to be collected, the monthly figures are on par with last year's remittances so far.

5) HPO/HPAC Report:

HPO Eric Barsness reported that the HPAC board recommended approval for Bill Bahr's site/zoning application, but the board was reluctant to recommend the park design without having a full layout of the park to look at. HPO Barsness spoke with many potential applicants this month and is appreciative that applicants want to be part of this community and are generally very cooperative.

6) New Business:

a) Site/Zoning Permit Application – Bahr (House)

i) HPO Eric Barsness reported that HPAC unanimously recommended this application for approval.

ii) PWD Shane Leach thinks a culvert may be necessary, but the applicant is willing to do so if the need arises.

MOTION: To approve the Site/Zoning Permit Application – Bahr (House). Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

b) Development Permit Application – Town of VC (Roof)

i) The shingles have been getting blown off of this building by the wind in past storms. This permit application is to replace the shingles with a metal roof, some of which is leftover from work done on the Warming Hut.

MOTION: To approve Development Permit Application – Town of VC (Roof). Motion made by Justin David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

c) Development Permit Application – VICE (Slide)

i) HPAC wasn't able to make a recommendation for this application as they wanted to look at the park design as a whole. After talking about the pump track being reviewed and approved by Town Council, though, the board was okay with it.

ii) Mayor Gatewood informed the Council and the public that VICE and the Pace Park Improvement Committee (PPIC) are footing the bill for all improvements to the park. Applications are being submitted for park-related projects as their budget allows. There is a master plan for Pace Park, with the first priority being the pump track, followed by the slide.

iii) Mark Jacobs, HPAC board member, expressed that the community looks to HPAC to be helpful and that the Town asks the public to follow the rules of the Town Code. Mr. Jacobs

wasn't pleased that the pump track was approved by Town Council without being reviewed by HPAC, and he requested that this development permit to be set aside so a discussion can be had with HPAC regarding this permit and the park as a whole.

iv) Councilmember Amy Grice suggested that the Council recommends changing the color of the slide to something that is earth-toned.

MOTION: To approve Development Permit Application – VICE (Slide), with the recommendation that it be an earth-toned color. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

d) DNRC Petition for Controlled Groundwater

i) Mayor Gatewood recommended tabling this agenda item until next month so the entire Council can weigh in on the decision.

MOTION: To table the DNRC Petition for Controlled Groundwater until the November meeting. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

e) Update on ARPA Water Project

i) Hard Rock Construction has completed all of phase one for the ARPA water project and will be returning later this month to begin phase two, which includes installing a bypass system.

7) Budget Items

a) Final Budget Review

MOTION: To adopt the changes to the final budget document and approve it in kind. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

b) Resolution 2024-06 to Certify the General Fund Mill Levies, Permissive Mill Levies, Voted Mill Levies, and Budget for the Town of Virginia City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2024-06 to Certify the General Fund Mill Levies, Permissive Mill Levies, Voted Mill Levies, and Budget for the Town of Virginia City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

c) Resolution 2024-07 to Donate to the Thompson –Hickman County Library, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia City Preservation Alliance, the Vigilance Club, Virginia City Ice, the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center, and the Elks Foundation

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2024-07 to Donate to the Thompson –Hickman County Library, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia City Preservation Alliance, the Vigilance Club, Virginia City Ice, the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center, and the Elks Foundation. Motion made by Amy Grice; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

d) Resolution 2024-08 to Adopt and Approve Wages for the Listed Employees of the Town of Virginia City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2024-08 to Adopt and Approve Wages for the Listed Employees of the Town of Virginia City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

e) Resolution 2024-09 Contract with the Virginia City Rural Fire Department

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2024-09 Contract with the Virginia City Rural Fire Department. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

f) Historic Preservation Officer Services Agreement FY24-25

MOTION: To approve the Historic Preservation Officer Services Agreement FY24-25. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

8) Public Works Report:

PWD Shane Leach has been working on winterization for various things, as well as moving files out of the schoolhouse building. PWD Leach is still replacing signs on Wallace Street and should be finishing that by the end of next week.

9) Consent Agenda:

a) Minutes from August 15, 2024 Special Council Meeting

MOTION: To approve the Minutes from August 15, 2024 Special Council Meeting. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

b) Minutes from September 12, 2024 Council Meeting

i) Changes to be made:

- HPAC Report: change “approved” to “recommended approval”

MOTION: To approve the Minutes from September 12, 2024 Council Meeting as ammended. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

c) Minutes from September 25, 2024 Council Work Session

MOTION: To approve the Minutes from September 25, 2024 Council Work Session. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.

d) Invoices and Checks September 2024

MOTION: To approve the Invoices and Checks for September 2024. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Baco in favor. None opposed.

e) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks August 2024

MOTION: To approve the Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks August 2024. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

f) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks September 2024

MOTION: To approve the Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks September 2024. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

g) Bank Reconciliation for July 2024

MOTION: To approve the Bank Reconciliation for July 2024. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

h) Great West Draw

MOTION: To approve the Great West Draw as presented. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

10) Public Comment:

a) Tanya Engle mentioned that the Virginia City Christmas Stroll will take place on December 7th.

11) Adjournment

MOTION: To Adjourn. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called:** Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood
Mayor

Timber Baceski
Clerk Treasurer