Town of Butte Falls Council Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Meeting Held Via Teleconferencing May 18, 2021

Members present were Acting Mayor/Council President Trish Callahan, Council Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Anna Huerta, Councilor Alvin Thompson and Councilor Loren Oden. Councilor Stacy Equitz came into the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Staff present was Treasurer/Budget Officer Katie Misfeldt, Planning Commission Chair Lyle Bozworth and City Recorder Lori Paxton.

Audience present was Sara Beck, Dan Murphy, Leah Wattenburger and Marc Ellis.

Vice President D. Oden made a motion to open the meeting at 7:03 pm. Councilor L. Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from April 20th and 27th. Vice President D. Oden made a motion to approve the two sets of previous minutes. Councilor Huerta commented that there was not enough information from the Planning Commission report. She said she listened to the recording to transcribe that portion of the minutes. She said she tried to submit it to the city recorder to be added to the official record, but it was denied. Councilor Huerta said she didn't agree with the verbiage in the draft council minutes and wanted more detail.

City Recorder Paxton said she asked the mayor if the transcript should be included in the minutes and the mayor said no. Mayor Spencer told her Councilor Huerta is not the official recorder. Treasurer Misfeldt said there are rules and procedures to follow when recording and transcribing the minutes. We do not have to go into detail, we only have to give a brief summary and record all motions.

Acting Mayor/President Callahan said the transcript statement is duly noted, but we can't accept it.

Councilor L. Oden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Alvin Thompson – aye; Vice President D. Oden – aye; Councilor L. Oden – aye; Councilor Huerta – nay; motion carried.

Review and Payment of Bills: Vice President D. Oden made a motion to approve the bills. Councilor L. Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Public Comments: Sara Beck said she would like to sign up to be on the budget committee next year and liked Treasurer/Budget Officer Misfeldt's idea of having the committee and council meet a few times a year to review the status of the budget and treasurer's report.

Dan Murphy referred to the fence application signature line for the neighbor and asked if it was a good idea to keep it on when no other town requires it? He said it wouldn't stand up in court and he would like to see it removed from the document.

Leah Wattenburger agreed with Dan Murphy about the neighbor's signature line and said it was not necessary as long as setbacks are followed.

Anna Huerta read a section from a letter she had. City Recorder Paxton reminded Anna that she has to recuse herself as a councilor during this public comment period. Anna stated she is recusing herself as

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a city councilor and will not vote or engage in conversation in regards to the neighbor's signature line.

Marc Ellis said most people have never complained about the neighbor's signature line in the past, he said it was put there for a reason. The reason other towns do not have it is because Jackson County Code Enforcement handles fences issues. He said would like to see the signature line left in and approved of removing the fence section from the variance section of the zoning ordinance.

Corrective Action Plan: a plan for noting deficiencies in the June 30, 2020 audit report. Vice President D. Oden made a motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan. Councilor L. Oden. All ayes motion carried.

Department Reports: Planning Commission – a report is available at city hall upon request. Chair Bozworth submitted to the council a revised draft plan of the yard fence application, guidelines and fence permit. City Recorder Paxton said the changes are highlighted in blue.

The council discussed at length the changes to the fencing permit process. Whether to leave in the neighbor's signature line or remove it and if there should be another fee of \$20 if the property owner changes the plans versus the planning commission requesting changes.

Councilor L. Oden asked Councilor Huerta and President Callahan to refrain from voting on this since they both are personally involved. City Recorder Paxton replied that Councilor Huerta has to recuse herself and thought that President Callahan had to as well since she was sitting in as acting mayor. (7:20 pm Councilor Equitz arrived in the meeting.)

Councilor Thompson made a motion to request the neighbor's signature line be removed from the fence application. Councilor Equitz seconded. Roll call vote: D. Oden – nay; Thompson – aye; L. Oden – nay; Equitz – aye; motion not carried. City Recorder Paxton said to bring this issue to the next meeting, but asked the council to vote on the application as is for now, it can always be changed later. Vice President D. Oden made a motion to accept the fence application as is for now. Councilor L. Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried. City Recorder Paxton suggested holding a work session, in person, to iron out all ideas regarding the signature line.

Councilor Thompson made a motion to remove the fence from the Variance Section of the zoning ordinance. Vice President D. Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Police & Public Works Departments: A copy of their reports are available at city hall upon request.

Council Report: Acting Mayor/President Callahan said there will be another Forest Chat meeting n the second Saturday of June, with more details to come later.

Chair Bozworth submitted plans from ZCS Engineering for the grade school seismic retrofit project. He said the planning commission recommends it. Councilor Thompson made a motion to approve the plans. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Vice President D. Oden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.

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