**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 2, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.**

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Council member Chad Lyman and City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Nancy Porter, Garfield County Sheriff Eric Houston, Bill Weppner,

Margie Weppner, Neal Carpenter, Terence Tontlewicz, Mark Austin, Lawrence Barnes,

Alex Engel and Julie Brugger.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SWEAR IN NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Recorder Steed administered the Oath of Office to the Newley Elected Council members,

Marlene Stowe, Lenza Wilson and Blaine Porter.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Council member Wilson moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING**

**Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES**

Council member Stowe said there are no updates at this time.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**MARK AUSTIN – CONSIDERATION TO VACATE A PORTION OF 100 NORTH AND 400 WEST.**

Mr. Austin presented a plat map to the Council (attached). Mr. Austin said he is asking the Council for their consideration to vacate part of 100 North and 400 West. Mr. Austin explained his plat map. Mr. Austin said there have been changes in the ownership of these roads because in 1974 the recordings do not show them as City roads. Council member Porter said if the roads and land belong to the city, he is against abandoning them. City Attorney Huntington said Garfield County Recorder Talbot gave him deeds to look at on this property, but he has not had time to go over them. Mayor Torgersen said we have been working with Mr. Austin for years on this project and it sounds like there is new information, so she suggests having a work meeting with Mr. Austin, his Attorney and City Attorney Huntington to discuss the plat map before a decision is made. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Orme moved to table this item until after there is a work meeting with Mr. Austin, his Attorney and City Attorney Huntington. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

**NEAL CARPENTER - NEW WATER METER FOR SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING – COUNTY**

Council member Porter said he has looked at the property and does not see any problems with approving a water meter for Mr. Carpenter. City Recorder Steed said Mr. Carpenter will need to start building his home within a year or the meter will go back to the city and all fees are nonrefundable. **Council member Porter moved to approve the new water meter for Mr. Carpenter.** **Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Porter, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.**

**APPOINT MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

**Council member Stowe moved to appoint Council member Chad Lyman as the Mayor**

**Pro Tempore. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Lyman, Wilson, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

**APPOINT PLANNING AND ZONING MEMBERS**

**Council member Stowe moved to appoint Tara Woolsey and Terry Olsen to a three-year term on Planning and Zoning. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE**

Sheriff Eric Houston said last year was busy and presented a summary of the year to the Council. Sheriff Houston explained there have been a lot of changes. Sheriff Houston said all the deputies are County wide and not assigned to individual towns. Sheriff Houston said this gives the County better coverage and so far, response time has been faster. Sheriff Houston said this has also made it so the officers can all have two days off a week and not be on call seven days a week. Sheriff Houston said they also have two sergeants in place, Cameron Leach and Jared Dunton. Sheriff Houston explained the new training program he has in place for new deputies. Sheriff Houston said Clancy Ott is currently at POST and will be an officer as soon as he is out of school.

Sheriff Houston explained the new 911 system is up and running County wide and has been an asset locating lost individuals. Sheriff Houston said there are seven helicopters within an hour of us, so they have been doing most of the rescues on the monument.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

City Recorder Steed said she has nothing to report at this time.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting there have been three incidents. Mr. Weppner said they had a dumpster fire, escorted Sweeden Sorensen back home from the hospital and gave Santa a ride to the Community Center.

Mr. Weppner said he is applying for a Grant to purchase turnouts for the Fire Department and will contact City Recorder Steed or Treasurer Nancy Porter for information.

Mr. Weppner said he would like to start charging the Federal Government when the Fire Department responds to incidents on Federal Land. Mr. Weppner said there are problems with the Fire Truck and suburban after taking them down the Hole in The Rock Road to respond to a vehicle fire.

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department needs to find a place to store the firework mortars. Mr. Weppner said they would like to look for a large, enclosed trailer to store the mortars and park it at the city yard.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN**

Council member Lyman had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON**

Council member Wilson said the lights on the Veteran’s Monument have been replaced with LED lights.

Council member Wilson said with all the events at the park he would like to put some outlets on the Fire Station. Council member Wilson said he will get a cost and bring it to the Council for consideration.

Council member Wilson said he has the lights for the Gym and the old Community Center.

**COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER**

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE**

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME**

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

**UNPAID BILLS**

**Council member Wilson moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman, Wilson and Porter voting aye.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Council member Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.**

**Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.**

Stephanie Steed, MMC

City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 1/16/2024