**Town of Mantua Council Meeting Minutes**

Held on November 2,2023

6:30 at Town Hall 409 North Main Mantua, Utah

**Council Members present:** Mayor Terry Nelson

Karen Nelson Justin Brown

Jared Jeppsen Matt Jeppsen

Shayla HammerStone – Recorder

**Audience present:** Janis Johnson Pam Eaves Esther Hatch Jen Gardner Kurt Spiers Keith Johnson Ken Jones

**Meeting opened by Mayor Nelson and the invocation offered by Justin Brown**

**Pledge of allegiance – led by mayor Nelson followed by all in attendance.**

**Mayor Terry Nelson approved the minutes for the meeting held on October19, 2023 as printed.**

**Matt Jeppsen made a motion to approve the bills, Justin Brown seconded.**

Karen Nelson-YES Justin Brown-YES Jared Jeppsen-YES

Matt Jeppsen-YES Terry Nelson-YES

MOTION PASSES

**Public Comment:** Esther asked what quantum fiber is. Karen explained the basics then Terry reminded them that this was a comment only, not a discussion.

**Action Items: Spiers Annexation**

Terry read a letter from Harper as he couldn’t be at the meeting, then asked if anyone had anything to add. The letter stated that the Spier’s do not want to annex into the town. This family has spent a lot of time and money to make this location work for Mantua. They have been patient, ethical, and professional during this whole process. Matt stewed a lot about this and after reading the agreement, he doesn’t want to annex this piece of property, but he doesn't want this to be the standard going forward. Because this has been such a different situation, and the Spiers have been so accommodating, it’s not ethical to insist they annex into the town after all this time has passed. Matt also appreciates everything that Spiers has done.

**Karen makes a motion to not annex the spiers property that an application was made for, Jared seconded. Justin Brown abstained.**

Karen Nelson-YES Justin Brown- Abstained Jared Jeppsen-YES

Matt Jeppsen-YES Terry Nelson-YES

MOTION PASSES

Kurt thanked the council.

**Town Emergency and Emergency Communications**

Mayor Nelson asked if we had already discussed and voted on this, and Shayla told him that the motion needed some clarification. What was voted on and the information received after the vote, did not match up. Shayla stated that what was voted on was DHHS will be used for emergency text communications. Shayla told the council that the wording of the motion needs to match what is being voted on. The system being used needs to be named in the motion. Justin declined to make another motion because he feels that this was voted on at the last meeting and it would be redundant. Janis explained, we need the program specified in the motion. Shayla felt like she needed more information before it was voted on. Karen said we are working with DHHS and their system, and that is all we need in the motion. Janis explained that we just need something to attach to the minutes explaining the program. The mayor asked Justin Brown to get more information to Shayla about the program.

**Discussion Items:**

**Esther Hatch – Little Valley Days**

Esther presented her information about the cookies she made for the Little Miss Mantua celebration. She went over the communications and receipts between her and the office. Esther stated that she made the cookies last year for the pageant and was reimbursed for the cookies even though she didn’t have a business. She brought up filling out the wrong form. This she and Melissa Hickman decided on charging $2.50 for a cookie and she made 100 cookies. Karen called her and asked her about having a business and a food handler’s permit. She turned in an invoice in August for $197.50. Esther stated that she got an email from the town office telling her that because she didn’t have a business license and would not be reimbursed as a business. Shayla sent her an email referring to Eric from the Bear River Health Department to obtain a food handler’s permit. Esther insists that a home bakery does not run through the health department, but that it runs through the department of agriculture. She told the council that she has a degree in agriculture and this topic is under the “Cottage law.” Esther then received an email asking her how many cookie supplies she has left. She stated that the new total is $352.12 and she’s not leaving without that money. Matt asked her why the amount went up. She said that she’s not okay donating her time twice. Terry is also working with the financial officer to work out a payment. Janis said during the meeting that we do not pay for someone’s labor and said that Esther invoiced the town for her labor. The concern of supplies was brought up and Esther turned in some of her leftover supplies to the meeting. Esther worked with Melissa Hickman during the little miss Mantua pageant, and they decided on $2.50 a cookie. Esther brought up getting estimates from other local cookie places that would total over four hundred dollars. A member of the council thinks that procedural corrections need to be made during little valley days to prevent any miscommunication. Mayor Nelson stated that over three hundred for 100 cookies is excessive. Esther thinks that the town residents need to know that if they pay for things out-of-pocket, they may get screwed over. She said she is lucky enough to have Justin Brown pay her fees when she got the email from the town. Esther came to the town council meeting tonight so that she could get Justin reimbursed. Mayor Nelson said that this needs to be discussed further and at another time. Esther encouraged him to make a motion to make this an action item and to vote on the $352.12 reimbursement tonight. The mayor said he’s not comfortable with that and this needs to be discussed at a later date.

**Crown Castle contract**

This renewal was signed in 2016 and must be signed every 5 years. They pay $6,000 annually and it increases 4% every year. This year they paid around $16,000. In 2024 on top of the 4% increase every year, there was a 15% increase, then things will continue with the terms of the contract. This is something that can be shown to the attorney to make sure things are accurate. The council discussed the 15% increase, and some other renewal information. The mayor asked about the option to add additional land. The council decided they needed to agree on this before turning it into the attorney. The mayor asked the council members to take it home, read it over and they could discuss it at the next meeting.

**Keith Johnson: Cross Country Ski equipment**

Keith showed pictures and then discussed the updates on the parks and all the progress that has been quickly made for these improvements. They have 2 years to finish this project. Progress has been made on the bathrooms and wood chips have been put down in the park. There was some brick work put down and will have to stay there until winter is over. At 9th street park there will be some concrete poured for some light poles. Two concrete slabs will be poured at Dane’s park for picnic tables and Dane’s park is almost done. Keith sent an email to the maintenance people at church to see if there was a way to use the parking lot while people are using the ski trails. They told him they weren’t comfortable with that, so he explored other options. Keith presented a few locations to the council about alternative places to park. They discussed other places to pile up the snow. A ski costs around 2 or 3 thousand dollars. He brought up 3 different options for the ski equipment. $16 thousand was the approved amount of the grant money. The trail he’s discussing is .75 of a mile. Some of the audience discussed how Harper Johnson has gotten up to the wells and he’s snow-shoed or used his own vehicles in the past. Getting his opinion on this would be beneficial. If this purchase is approved, the purchased item needs to remain in the town custody for 10 years or a penalty is given. Janis Johnson asked about storing this in the maple springs maintenance building area and reminded him there needed to be room for the maintenance supplies. There is a bench, weed barrier, and the mini-X in that building. The trailer for the mini-X is stored outside. It was asked, who is approved to use the mini-X Keith stated that the only 2 people that have a key to the mini-X are, him and Don. The use of this ski sled will be the same. He will not allow the town to control his ability to use this equipment. Either they let him use it, or they can pay him as employees of the town. A motion was made to make this an action item.

**Justin Brown made a motion to make Keith Johnson’s cross country ski equipment from a discussion item to an action item. Matt Jeppsen seconded.**

Karen Nelson-YES Justin Brown-YES Jared Jeppsen-YES Matt Jeppsen-YES

Terry Nelson-YES

MOTION PASSES

**Action Items**

**Keith Johnson – Ski sled**

Keith is asking for 21 thousand to buy a new ski sled. A new one will come with tires and tracks. Jared suggested buying a side-by-side that could be used to groom the trails. Don is using his own equipment right now. The town is responsible for ¼ of the 16-thousand-dollar grant that was issued.

**Justin Brown made a motion for Keith Johnson town to buy a tracked 4-wheeler and grooming device (for the town) not to exceed 21 thousand. Matt Jeppsen seconded.**

Karen Nelson-YES Justin Brown- YES Jared Jeppsen-YES

Matt Jeppsen-YES Terry Nelson-YES

MOTION PASSES

**Planning and Zoning**

Nothing.

**Fire Department**

They had a great turn out at the Halloween hot dog cookout.

**Public Works**

Someone brought up putting up streetlights and asked that it be discussed at the next council meeting.

**Grants**

We got a grant to help with this Intersection of Rocky Dugway, fish Hatchery and Meadow road. All of this is paid for by the county except for 9 thousand dollars. The council likes the new intersection that was just worked on. Karen brought up different kinds of activities and looking into a grant for teaching recreational things in the community. She’s wondering about interest before applying for it. Mayor Nelson encouraged Karen to apply for it.

**Council and Mayor Comments:**

Keith is wheel barrowing cement for the basketball court. Karen thanked Keith for all his work. Terry asked the council to help with serving hot cocoa at Night with Santa and filling the candy bags. Justin wants to solicit input for putting in a stop sign at the intersection of Willard peak rd and Fish Hatchery. Some people have asked to paint the curb red by the church so that people don’t park there.

**Justin Brown made a motion to adjourn, Karen Nelson seconded.**

Karen Nelson-YES Justin Brown-YES Jared Jeppsen-YES Matt Jeppsen-YES

Terry Nelson-YES

MOTION PASSES