

**TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016, 7:00 PM
South Prairie Town Hall
121 NW Washington Street**

The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:07 PM, Mayor **Tony Caldwell** called to order and presided over the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members: Stu Terry, Tim Trent, Jan Twardoski and Barb Wigton were present.

Also in attendance: Stephanie Ebenstiner, citizens; Dwight Partin and Joe Mills, South Prairie Creek RV Park; Carol Morris, Town Attorney; and Marla Nevill, Clerk/Treasurer.

FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor **Tony Caldwell** requested everyone stand for the "Pledge of Allegiance."

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 7, 2016:

❖ **Terry/Wigton** moved and seconded to approve the Agenda for June 7, 2016. Mayor **Tony Caldwell** requested moving Citizens Comments to after Review and Approval of Agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Five Minute Limit per Comment or Complaint):

Stephanie Ebenstiner requested permission from the Council to close Rainier Avenue on July 4th. **Carol Morris** referenced RCW 47.48.010 and stated they would have to post a notice and it would have to be posted at each end of the street. Discussion followed.

❖ **Twardoski/Trent** moved and seconded to approve the request from Stephanie Ebenstiner to close Rainier Avenue on July 4, 2016. Three Ayes and One Nay. Councilor Barb Wigton voted Nay. **Motion carried.**

INTERVIEW CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL POSITION #5:

Joe Mills introduced himself and said he had a wide background of knowledge and thought he would be an asset to the Council. Discussion followed.

❖ **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to appoint Joe Mills to Council Position #5. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERING REPORT:

CITIZENS' COMMENTS CONTINUED:

Dwight Partin told a story about a Christmas tree that had fallen out of someone's pickup. He thanked Tony Caldwell for his concern for the safety of others and wanted to give him a hand and started applauding.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2016:

❖ **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2016. Discussion followed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR MAY 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,018.10:

- ❖ **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to approve the Bills for May 2016 in the amount of \$42,018.10 (forty-two thousand eighteen dollars and ten cents). Discussion followed. **Carol Morris** said since the bills report was not ready, the Council could preliminarily approve the bills and audit it at the next Council meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Pierce County Planning and Land Services:

Pierce County was not willing to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with South Prairie after comments from Town Attorney regarding issuing permits in the 120-day timeframe. This is not some minor issue; and Pierce County has been sued for not issuing a timely decision. **Carol Morris** said the Town could enter into an Interlocal Agreement with another jurisdiction or hire a planner. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Community Center Cleaning Person:

Mayor Tony Caldwell stated we received an application for cleaning the Community Center; and he gave a summary of their qualifications. He suggested that we should obtain a background check and asked for input from the Council. Discussion followed. Council Members Jan Twardoski and Barb Wigton requested a background check. Council Members Stu Terry and Tim Trent said they did not think a background check was needed. Mayor Caldwell said we have a tie vote and he has to break the tie. He voted for the background check.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT:

1) Mayor Tony Caldwell said we received a complaint about exotic animals. He said he would contact the citizen and also animal control. Discussion followed.

2) Mayor Tony Caldwell said Council Position #5 vacancy is filled. Discussion followed.

3) Mayor Tony Caldwell said we have a water leak and it was recommended by our locating service to hire a collator. He contacted Utility Service Associates out of Seattle and received a quote of \$2500. Discussion followed.

- ❖ **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to authorize hiring Utility Service Associates to check for water leaks. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4) Mayor Tony Caldwell said we need a Planner and recommended Emily Terrell. He said she works with the Towns of Wilkeson and Carbonado. He said we went with BHC for engineering. **Carol Morris** stated they agreed to sign the agreement with minor corrections. Discussion followed. **Carol Morris** said she would contact Emily Terrell tomorrow about a contract. Discussion followed.

5) Mayor Tony Caldwell said the stolen 1995 Ford Utility Pickup was recovered; and we are waiting for an estimate to repair the fence. Discussion followed.

6) Mayor Tony Caldwell said he met with other Mayors and Planners to discuss population numbers in our Comp Plans. He said some towns and cities numbers are too high and some numbers are too low; and we are meeting to discuss adjusting the numbers so it would benefit each of the jurisdictions. Discussion followed.

7) Mayor Tony Caldwell said he contacted Pierce County about fixing the potholes and clearing the brush on Tubbs Rd. Discussion followed.

CLERK'S REPORT:

1) Marla Nevill read a letter to the Council. (See Exhibit "A" attached). Discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Potential Litigation – Approximately 10 Minutes

- ❖ At 8:40 PM, **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to go into Executive Session for approximately ten minutes to discuss potential litigation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

❖ At 8:50 PM, **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to close the Executive Session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS:

1) **Mayor Tony Caldwell** said Town Attorney sent letters to residents with Code violations. Discussion followed.

2) **Councilor Stu Terry** stated the Union negotiations were a failure and it has been turned over to the attorneys.

6) **Mayor Tony Caldwell** said Tim Trent has been doing a great job.

ADJOURNMENT:

❖ At 8:53 PM, **Terry/Twardoski** moved and seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of June 7, 2016. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Date Approved: July 5, 2016

Marla Nevill

Clerk-Treasurer

Concerns Addressed to the South Prairie Town Council, June 7, 2016

Dear Mayor and Town Council,

It is paramount that I address the following concerns to the Mayor and Town Council:

- 1) The Town Council not replacing the vacant position of the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer is putting the operations of the Town Hall at risk and unraveling 20 years of fairly smooth operation of the Town.
- 2) There is absolutely far too much work for one person to cover all of the duties in a 32-hour a work week.
- 3) Council packets were not sent out for the June Council meeting, due to lack of staff and not enough hours to complete this task.
- 4) We've had clean audits for the last 19 years; a testament of operating this office in an efficient manner with a minimum of two staff members. This could definitely change when there is insufficient staffing to cover all of the duties.
- 5) With such limited staff, we run the risk of penalties being assessed for not getting taxes (i.e. 941, Excise, L&I, Employment Security, etc.) filed in a timely manner.
- 6) Error rate increases; because of constantly having to stop one task to address another task. There is an increased risk that something will be overlooked.

There are a lot more issues that could be noted but due to time constraints this will have to suffice.

Thank you,

Marla Nevill, Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit "A"