

TOWN OF MALDEN
MARCH 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Bob Law, Lori Dickinson, Scott Shauf, Danielle Roth and Councilmember Janell Turner joined by phone. Town Clerk Micki Harnois and Public Works staff Ernie Brown were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bob L. moved to approve the amended agenda, Scott S. seconded, motion carried.

Lori D. moved to approve the February 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Bob L. seconded, motion carried.

Announcements: On March 12th the Upper Columbia Academy kids and on March 20th to 24th the Pathfinders are coming to Malden to assist residents with yardwork and putting up fencing. Team Rubicon will be in Malden to do more tree removal. The John Wayne Trail Riders will be in the Malden Park on May 31st through June 2nd.

Public Comment: No comments

Committe Reports:

LTRO Committee update-The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 8th in the Malden Park starting at 2pm. The next LTRO meeting will be on March 15th.

Building Committee-We are waiting for the architectural designs from Architect West for the new public building and new community center.

Park Committee-The next meeting will be on March 28th. They will be discussing the new playground equipment. There will be a public hearing on the new park plan in the latter part of April 2023.

Old Business:

Verizon Tower Update-The tower is upright and there is power to it. We are waiting for the notice to proceed. All cellular companies in the area will be able to access it. It is 80 feet in height.

Housing-Town staff is still contacting property owners that have no dwellings on their sites. Information will be shared on assistance such as down payments depending on a household income scale. This will assist Community Action Center (CAC) on their work on a housing grant through the Housing Trust Program.

Selection of Engineering Firm from submitted SOQs-Bob L. made a motion to table the decision to a later date. Lori L. seconded, motion carried. The Council needs more time to review the submitted material.

New Business-The Council decided to remove the dumpster that has been available for the residents since the Babb Fire of 2020. It was originally meant for fire victims who are cleaning their properties. But it has been abused by others for awhile. There have been mattresses, microwaves and other items thrown in it beyond the normal household garbage. This has increased the garbage bill by an average of \$100 a month. Clerk Harnois was directed to call Empire Disposal on Thursday and request that the dumpster be removed. She will order a larger can be placed at the food bank.

Warrant Register-Checks# 7456 to 7465 TOTAL=\$9,622.34 CLAIMS=\$9,493.74

PAYROLL=\$128.60 Bob L. moved to approve the checks, Lori D. seconded. Motion carried

Department Reports

Clerk: Clerk Harnois reported that Wi-Fiber has placed internet in the temporary fire station. It already is in the town hall. We are allowed two free services as a tradeoff for them to be able to place their equipment on the water tank. When the new fire station is built, the service at the temporary fire station will be moved to the new building. When the new community building is up and running the internet at the exiting city hall will be moved to that location with the free service being continued. She reminded those who want to have Team Rubicon come to their place to be sure and complete a right-of-entry form and submit to town hall.

Public Works: Ernie reported that all Department of Health reports are completed and sent in for review.

Fire Department: The department hold their meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6pm. The ten air packs have been certified. There are benefits for volunteer firefighters. They have liability insurance when they are actively fighting a fire. Paying \$30 a year as an individual after 30 years will earn retirement which is \$300 a month. Grants are available for EMT training, there is a reduction on their cell phone plans and credit unions offer benefits for first responders.

Public Comment: No comment.

Council Comments-Bob L. announced that the food bank will be open on March 22nd from 12pm to 2pm. Lori D. stated that there are people from Rosalia coming to the food bank as there is no longer a food bank there. Daniele R. was asked to give some information about herself. She met her husband David at a bible camp in Montana. After they had their first child they moved to Malden in 2020 which was about seven months before the 2020 fire. They did lose their home and they now have three children and she is a stay-at home.

Mayor Comments-Mayor Dan reminded everyone about the John Wayne Trail Riders coming to town on May 31st thru June 2nd. The Malden Community Church will put on a breakfast for the riders on June 1st and 2nd. They are asking for help in preparing the meals. Mayor Dan said that the town has a grant for the gravel roads and hopes to have the project done this year.

Janelle T. moved to adjourn, Danielle R. seconded, motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:36pm.

Micki Harnois/Clerk/Treasurer

Dan Harwood/Mayor