**February 06, 2024**

**Town of Guernsey**

**Regular Meeting**

**Platte County, Wyoming**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Delgado Excused, Pro-Tem Mayor Harris, CW Wells, CM Augustyn, CM Michaels

**STAFF:** H. Dawson, M. Fronapfel, J. Harrison, J. Thomas

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pro-Tem Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and was welcomed to the meeting.

**REGISTERED GUESTS:** Bob Case, Shawna Reichert, Tammy Hohnholt, Mike Fronapfel, Brad & Stacia Cook, Elle Behrmann, Ron Green, Ada Pulos, Jim Pallow, Becky Mikel, Craig Frederick

**AGENDA:** CM Augustyn moved to approve the agenda. CW Wells seconded. The motion carried.

**MINUTES:** CW Wells moved to approve the January 02, 2024 minutes as presented, CM Augustyn seconded. The motion carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:**  Pro-Tem Mayor Harris presented the vouchers for approval. CM Michaels moved to approve the Considerations of Claims in the amount of $168,192.01, seconded by CM Augustyn. The motion carried. Vouchers follow in their entirety: Amazon Capital, $399.96; Arizona Machinery, $81,922.46; Black Hills Energy, $2,046.10; Border States, $1,050.40; Caselle, $618.00; CenturyLink, $991.94; Charlie’s Repair, $404.98; Gregory, Rhea, $70.00; Guernsey Gazette, $851.76; Guernsey Sunrise Public School, $100.00; Guernsey Super Foods, $48.56; Hoff, Cheryl, $10.00; Howshar Hardware, $144.27; Itron, $4,444.00; JP Cooke, $83.08; John Bunning Transfer, $17,700.00; Manning, Emma, $23.51; Mobius, $45.00; Mosley, Sarah, $400.00; NFPA, $175.00; O’Reilly’s Automotive, $101.94; Platte County Chamber; $2,845.00; Rec Corp, $280.76; Sunny Bunny Easter Eggs, $288.00; TDS, $16,352.33; Trafficalm, $11,927.80; USPS, $274.01; Verizon, $496.85; Wheatland REA, $62.25; Wyoming State Fireman’s Assoc., $75.00; WYRULEC, $ 2,324.49; Y2 Consultants, $24,614.70; Total Invoices, $168,192.01; Payroll, $43,498.26; Taxes/Benefits, $15,878.75. TOTAL CLAIMS: $227,569.02.

**FOOD PANTRY LEASE:** WHEREAS, the Town is amending the lease to include the dimensions currently being used by the food pantry and said land is described as follows:

**Amended dimensions are for 81 W. Whalen Street, at the NE corner of Town Hall Shop – 24’ by 37’ -2”; = 892 square feet.**

**To include the exterior 8’ by 11’; =88 square feet to the North of the building’s exterior.**

Excluding the Generator. CW Wells moved to approve, seconded by CM Augustyn. The motion carried.

**PENSION AGREEMENT WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM:** The Town agreement from 1981 stated that Part time employees would be enrolled in the Wyoming Retirement System. Employees that are classified Part time and work over 25 hours a week is the Pension Agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Shawna Reichert spoke as a resident to clear up a conflict-of-interest claim brought on by CW Wells and Shawna would like to move passed that and join forces for the betterment of our town and leave personal vendettas out of Town business. Brad and Stacia Cook along with Tammy Hohnholt spoke on houses in their neighborhoods and the eye sore they’ve become. Brad brought pictures of Ordinance violations and demands these issues be addressed immediately. Stacia brought up specific concerns such as open fire/flames on the neighboring property and it was addressed with a Police Officer and nothing was done. Stacia was told to call 911. The massive trees that are dead on the property will cause serious damage to multiple homes if they come down and one has already fallen causing damage to the home and taken out power lines causing the property to be unlivable. Something has to be done, cops need to drive by and the ordinances need to be followed. CM Michaels commented there’s a definitive problem and it needs addressed. Stacia Cook says it hasn’t been addressed and that’s why they are here tonight. Tammy Hohnholt said it’s all or nothing. Clean up the Town, be fair to all residents and follow the ordinances. CW Wells mentioned that when Chuck Porter goes and talks to the residents, he should have a good assessment on whether or not they need help complying with the ordinances. CM Augustyn mentioned it’s not a quick process.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS:** Shawna Reichert spoke on behalf of the Lodging tax board and showed the new Platte County Tourism billboard logos. The Logos and tag lines are to capture people’s attention, they align with what the State is putting out. The old Oregon Trail game plays a role in the upcoming marketing for travel season. Platte County Chamber of Commerce had their annual Ag Banquet where the Ag Business of the year award went to Mill Iron. The Chamber has been adding new members and were focusing on small businesses as legislative sessions continue. CW Wells asked Shawna Reichert what percent of her wages are paid by the lodging tax board? Shawna says zero. CW Wells also wanted to know what amount of money that the Lodging Board brings in helps support the Chamber. Those figures are available to the public at anytime on the Platte County website. Shawna is not involved in the MOU regarding those funds.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** Jeff Thomas spoke on local houses in the area that are huge fire hazards and will eventually need addressed. Team building training took place last month. Jeff has two questions for Council. Jeff wants as many fire members as he can get to take the first responder course located in Glendo. Council requested that he brings all information to the next meeting for a final decision. CM Michaels asks what certificate will successful participants receive if they take the training course? The certificate is right below an EMT B and would greatly benefit the Town. The Second question is regarding Ice rescue gear that the fire hall is budgeted for. Would Council approve to purchase 2 for a little more than the price of one? CM Michaels wanted to know what MOU the Town fire department has with the State Park in the matter? There’s mutual aid with the county and state parks. Council requested Jeff to come in and speak with Hillary on the budget and discuss the gear. Pro-Tem Mayor Harris asked if there is a reason Jeff can’t put no parking signs on the Fire Hall doors? There’s no reason except that Jeff is trying to find available signage. Pro-Tem Mayor Harris wants Jeff to follow up on the seals for the doors and the lean-to building. Jeff says that’s another thing that was supposed to be on Chuck’s desk, but he will follow up. M. Fronapfel with Public Works says everything is going good just working on waterline breaks. Public Works has been trying to work on Electrical issues as there’s been glitches happening and they can’t find it. They added ramps and handrails to the cemetery building. They will be getting electrical ran to the cemetery building and to the Town Hall for the handicap door that’s going to be installed. Slowly working on streetlights, several need to be taken down as they are burned up, and we are trying to find a new supplier. CM Michaels brought up WMPA’s future plans for demand billing with programmable meters. Does it make sense for Guernsey to upgrade the system? Mike says that’s on our 4-year plan starting with water meters. Mike mentioned the Crosswalk signs are up and working and the Chief will get with the SRO. H. Dawson was in contact with the school superintendent, Lisa Weigel, who informed her that she would get it out to the School Board and they can encourage parents and kids to start using Nebraska street to cross. Chief Harrison returned from training with DCI that was instructed by the FBI. This was to report to the National database system, and we were not in compliance. The Town Police Department is now in compliance with Wyoming State Statute and DCI. Chief follows up on a question from Council from a few meetings ago regarding current arrest numbers for the municipality this year. Chief states the Court cases have gone down and this is because they are taking their criminal cases to the County Court now since we don’t have a contract with the Sheriff’s Office to use the Jail. Traffic tickets come here and our statistics show that we average 30-35 hours of traffic enforcement every 2 weeks. We do not have a lot of traffic violations. CM Michaels says your visibility makes a difference. Lucindy Rollins Road needs to be monitored as big rigs are pushing the 20-mph speed limit on that road. Chief says we’ve reduced our crime by 35% and our closure on cases either arresting someone or solving the case is at 92%. Responding to what the citizens were saying, yes, we do have a problem with people here that do have mental health issues and it is very difficult with the resources available in the State. Volunteers of America have stepped in to assist the police department with an individual experiencing mental health issues. CM Michaels mentioned that just because an individual is acting strange it doesn’t mean you can arrest them. Chief says if they are a danger to themselves or others we can take them into protective custody. Chief mentioned the academy classes have started and they are doing online classes now.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT:** CM Augustyn spoke with an individual looking to purchase some of our old railroad equipment we have on property, specifically the Switch. Condolences for the Delgado, Apodaca and Freouf families for their losses.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Town Hall will be closed on February 19th for President’s Day. Next Council meeting will take place February 20, 2024. Easter Egg hunt coming up March 30th 2024.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** CW Wells motioned to enter executive session after a short break. Seconded by CM Michaels. The motion carried. Returned to regular session with no decision made.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Pro-TemMayor Harris asked for a motion to adjourn. CM Augustyn motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by CM Michaels. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attest:

Dale Harris, Pro-Tem Mayor

Hillary Dawson, Clerk/Treasurer