

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF DRIGGS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

Pursuant to adjournment of the City Council meeting held January 3, 2012, and the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met **Tuesday, January 17, 2012**, at 7:15 p.m. A roll call was taken and present were council members: Greer Jones, Colin Dye, and Ralph Mossman, Mayor Daniel Powers, City Attorney Stephen Zollinger, Planning and Zoning Administrator Doug Self, and Public Works Director Jared Gunderson. Mayor Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES TO REVIEW

Council Members reviewed the minutes from the previous City Council Meeting dated January 3, 2012.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2012 City Council Meeting. Council Member Dye seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**EMS SERVICES & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – BRET CAMPBELL,
TETON COUNTY FIRE CHIEF**

Bret Campbell was not present at the meeting. Information will be discussed at a future meeting if necessary.

**TETON REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (TRPTA)
UPDATE – LYNN SEYMOUR**

Lynn Seymour presented information to the Council. She wanted to give an update as to what was taking place within the authority and request a letter of support for public transportation in the city of Driggs to be submitted with a grant application.

Ms. Seymour stated that historically, “Medicaid revenue had paid for everything.” However, that was not the case anymore and funds were tighter. Some buses were replaced and all are now ADA accessible. The authority was in the process of getting ramps to handle 1,000 pounds instead of 800 pounds. She reminded the Council that services were provided daily and that anyone could ride including students, children, seniors and the general public.

Ms. Seymour provided a profit and loss statement from 2011. She stated that operating costs for the valley was approximately \$100,000 including preventative maintenance, which was taken care of within Driggs.

Ms. Seymour concluded her presentation with a request that a City Council Member be on the TRPTA Board to replace a member who recently left, stating it was possible to participate by telephone, not requiring travel to the meetings.

FALL RIVER ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – ORDINANCE #331 – SECOND READING

Mayor Powers stated there were no changes and no public comments had been received.

Council Member Dye made a motion to consider Ordinance #331 as second read. Council Member Mossman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

SEWER RATES DISCUSSION

Mayor Powers explained that the city would like to move from a flat fee for all sewer users to a fee based on the impact that each user has on the capacity of the system. This would be expressed in ERU's (Equivalent Residential Unit), which for a single-family home would be equal to 1. He stated the staff had assessed the city's customers based on their impact to the system.

Mayor Powers stated that the new redistribution of fees would result in a decrease of sewer fees for the single family home from \$31.50 to \$22.50, but an increase in costs for multi-unit apartments and commercial users. He explained that the single family homes have been supplementing the multi-unit apartments and commercial users. He further stated that for example, Power Valley residents were paying \$47.25 each month for 43 units while others were paying \$47.25 per unit.

Mayor Powers explained the system and stated that when the total cost to run the system was reviewed, approximately 65% was for capacity and 35% was for operating the system.

Mr. Self explained how the ERU's were determined stating it was a universal way to measure. He further explained that the ERU numbers were for peak use, which may not relate to the true usage of schools and churches. Restaurants were another concern as most were not providing 3 meals a day to the community.

Mayor Powers questioned if the concept was something the Council wanted to move forward with. Mr. Self also suggested that another way to determine the cost would be to multiply the ERU by 2/3, since that is roughly the capacity cost and base the 1/3 on the actual or average use. This would be more appropriate for churches and schools that have different peak usages because the facilities are empty during certain times, Mr. Self stated.

Mayor Powers reminded the Council that the goal of this project was to be "revenue neutral to ensure fairness across the board." Stephen Zollner felt the theory was a standard that was fair to everyone.

Mr. Self felt there was more data to gather and wanted to review usage in other months as well, to ensure it was including the correct data.

Council Member Mossman was concerned restaurants that are already struggling would be hurt by the increase in sewer rates. Discussion of how to better determine the usage for restaurants began.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Jared Gunderson spoke to the Council. He stated that pipes had frozen on Little Avenue, mainly because water was not being run in the buildings or had been turned off completely at other locations on the line. He stated all businesses had been connected elsewhere, except for Key Bank. He further explained the activities of the Public Works Department.

Mayor Powers thanked the Public Works Department for their help during the Snow Fest, particularly Henry McCracken and Patrick Burke.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

Doug Self stated Teton County approved the Conditional Use Permit for Grand Teton Vodka. The applicant would need to go back to the Driggs Design Review Advisory Committee for building design. However, they should be able to pull a building permit by March.

Mr. Self gave an update on the Economic Development Committee, the Lighting Committee and the Parks Committee. He stated Brady Johnson had presented the Parks Committee with a business plan for the climbing wall and would probably ask for funds from the city in the future. Mr. Self further stated that the city needed to build a timeline for the north end of the building to see what uses would be appropriate and where each would fit. The Council agreed that a climbing wall would be an asset to the Community Center. The Parks Committee also started pursuing other assets in outdoor recreation, mostly an outdoor pool. Mr. Self stated that it could be affordable if there was an increase in resort tax.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Powers reported on the Snow Fest stating all of the events were a success. He stated there were 1,200 votes for the snow sculptures and the Snow Ball raised enough funds to support itself, with the exception of the stage that was made.

The city would work with TVTAP (Teton Valley Trails and Pathways), VARD (Valley Advocates for Responsible Development), and the Teton Regional Land Trust on a planning grant which would allow planning for greenbelts in the area.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dye made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jones seconded the above motion. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

ATTEST:

Kreslyn Schuehler, Deputy City Clerk

Daniel J. Powers, Mayor