

REGULAR MEETING

September 10, 2020

Present: Trustees: Christy Brady, Ted Locke, Mike Cooper, Dan McVey, Mayor Tyler Gibson

Absent: Trustee Maltbie, Trustee Howard

Guests: Kathy Self, Ellsworth Espeseth, Carl Harmon, Kelby Sikes, Jeremy West, Van Walker, Keith Davison
Holli Locke, Bernie Alvarez, and Dave Engel

Staff present: Merna McGinnis, Town Manager
Tammy Newman, Town Clerk
Katrina Martin, Police Chief
Margaret Dunham, Code Enforcement
Joan Day, Police Administrative Assistant
Keagan Gonzales, Police Officer
Don Steerman, Town Attorney

Item 1: Mayor Gibson called the Springfield Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Trustee Cooper, Trustee Locke, Trustee McVey, Mayor Gibson
Trustee Brady by phone.
Absent: Trustee Howard, Trustee Maltbie

Item 3: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 4: Prayer – Trustee Locke led the Board in prayer.

Item 5: Approve Minutes of the August 13, 2020 Board of Trustee’s Regular Meeting:

Trustee McVey made a motion to approve the August 13, 2020 minutes and seconded by Trustee Cooper.
Vote Yes – Brady, Cooper, McVey, Locke, Gibson
Vote No: none
Motion carried.

Item 6: Approve Bills

Trustee McVey asked for clarification on the Precision Auto batteries. Ms. McGinnis, Treasurer, stated the Electrical Department purchased two new batteries and one battery was adjusted.
Trustee Locke questioned the Miller Engineers payment for work at the landfill. Ms. McGinnis said it included assistance to finish the audit and they set up the landfill employee annual training which is taken online.
Ms. McGinnis, Treasurer, would like to pay bills to Steerman Law Offices and to Dixon Waller and Co now that the audit is completed. Chief Martin and Officer Gonzales training will be covered by a grant.

Trustee Brady made a motion to approve the bills and seconded by Trustee Locke.
Vote Yes: Cooper, Locke, McVey, Brady, Gibson
Vote No: none
Motion carried.

Item 7: Public Hearing-Rezoning SECH Case No. RZ-20-001

Mayor Gibson opened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.
Trustee Cooper asked if they would renovate or remove the current building? Dave Engel, SECHD CEO, stated that it is the intent to conduct dental business out of this building. The hospital is taking bids which may include a modular on the lot.
Closed public hearing at 6:11 p.m.
Chairperson Bernie Alvarez presented a report from the Planning and Zoning Commission who approved the case at the Tuesday, August 18, 2020 hearing to change zoning from R1 - Residential to C1-Commercial to enable service for a dental clinic. The Planning and Zoning Commission’s recommendation to the Board of Trustees is to accept the Rezoning.

Item 8: Ordinance 20-350-First Read

Trustee Brady made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 350 An Ordinance of the Town of Springfield, Colorado, to rezone SECHD properties located at 373 E 9th Ave., legally described as Lots 11 and 12, Block 14, Stewart Addition, Springfield, CO and seconded by Trustee Cooper.

Vote Yes: McVey, Brady, Cooper, Locke, Gibson

Vote No: none

Motion carried.

Item 9: Tree Board Updates-Ms. Kathy Self

Ms. Kathy Self gave an update on the Tree Board. On Arbor Day, October 5, 2020, we will honor Ms. McNeil's class of 2000 for their Christmas ornaments on the millennial tree. This millennial tree has been nurtured since that date and was planted earlier this year. We will honor 5 teachers on Arbor Day, and we will plant a few pansies around the memorial tree.

We have an \$8000 grant, free money for any homeowner that wishes to remove a tree that is in bad shape or dying. The grant will pay half of that removal. We will also pay half of the cost to have a tree planted in its place. Watering the planters on Main Street requires 200 gallons of water each trip. Winter watering will occur because there are small trees in the planters now.

Trees on Main Street make a place more inviting.

We will celebrate 30 years as a tree city next year for City Park. We would like to have signage explaining what the park is. We need to have some stumps removed, have a trash receptacle at the basketball court, repairs made to the sidewalk and a new sprinkler system installed.

Memorial Park needs the blue spruce tree on the corner trimmed before the Christmas lights go on. We have a flag pole, but no flag at the park. June 2021 we will celebrate 30 years of Memorial Park and a rededication of the park.

The containers on Main Street are a \$9000 project: \$300 each container, \$100 for FFA students to make the metal part, \$100 for the rubber made liner, \$100 for the plant material. FBLA has raised the money through 20 years of concessions.

We inform people when they have trees or bushes obstructing views on Main St or in variances that must be removed or trimmed.

Item 10: Landfill Discussion-Landfill Use

Harmon Town & Country Disposal, Plains Disposal, and Ellsworth Espeseth were present for the discussion.

Trustee Cooper commented that we have talked about the landfill and water for a long time and he challenged this Board of Trustees to take action. The time has come to make some decisions and get the landfill project in fast motion. The Board can create 1) a Landfill Enterprise Fund by the end of the year and 2) the fee schedule needs to be updated and adopted. We must determine revenues and expenditures. We need to structure the fee so the burden does not lie solely on the residents of Springfield. This is the Springfield Landfill, a benefit to the residents of the town, and a privilege to all other users. We must determine how to manage the billing for those outside the Town of Springfield. We will include the county and the other municipalities. We have two commercial haulers with whom we wish to work. It may be easier to charge the haulers a fee and let them distribute that to the customers than to charge each customer. We need to develop a list of users, possibly created by the gatekeepers. It is time to delegate and to take action.

Mr. Steerman, Town Attorney, said you can make a self-supporting enterprise fund rather than a fully supported entity, and run on fees as the primary income if that is how you choose to do so. Then design and appoint a board to run the enterprise, give them direction, and then let them run with it. Mr. Steerman will research the enterprise system.

Mayor Gibson asked the staff to contact individuals and entities it may affect and to set a meeting date for a study session soon.

Ms. McGinnis explained the quote of \$21,670 for 4 bull litter fences to help contain the fly away trash. Set them up around the working area to see if it helps. This is an alternative to the tarps discussed at a prior meeting. Consensus is that we do not need to spend this money.

Mr. Ellsworth Espeseth is encouraged by the discussion that just took place. Our landfill is filling up at a rapid pace and we need to take action. Thank you for your thorough overview of the situation.

Item 11 Resolution No. 20-16, Southeast Colorado All-Hazards Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Trustee Locke made a motion to approve Plan and seconded by Trustee Cooper.

Vote Yes: McVey, Brady, Cooper, Locke, Mayor Gibson

Vote No: none

Motion carried.

Item 12 Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items

Jeremy West and Van Walker spoke about the Springfield School District, Bond measure 4A. The elementary is 71 years old. We were awarded the BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) Grant in the amount of \$34 million, if they can pass a \$5.99 million bond this November. Because of COVID19 – this may not be available in the future. So may be a one-time chance.

We can help by being informed, visit their website build4springfield.org, check the Facebook page, and social media. Go on community walks and share the information. Donate to the campaign. Please vote!
Community Town Hall, Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6pm. Virtual or in person.

Keith Davison received another uncertified account bill on a statement of account in Springfield that he does not have. Trustee McVey responded to Mr. Davison if he owned the property, that he and all vacant property owners must maintain them. Mr. Davison complained about Code enforcement and parking in town.

Item 13 General Business

A. Insurance Bids from Hail Damage in 2020 -City Shop Roof, this is the second year and we have received payment. Ms. McGinnis, Town Manager, checked with Hayden Roofing in Eads who does not do spray foam roof. Mike Ingle checked with Nick from Farha Roofing coming Wednesday to give bid. Trustee Brady asked if we could look at a different material for the roof. Trustee McVey suggested building a pitched roof.

B. CIRSA 2021 Preliminary Contribution Quotations-Budget Preparation-Workers Comp & Prop/Casualty
Trustee Cooper made a motion to approve CIRSA and seconded by Trustee Locke. Motion passed.

Item 14 Administrative Reports

Town Manager/Treasurer

Ms. McGinnis asked if you must follow certain regulations for WPA buildings? If on the historical register. Staff has been working on 2021 budgets.

Employee health insurance will increase 1.9%. The lowest increase Ms. McGinnis has ever seen for health insurance. Dental and Vision will take a 3% increase. CEBT cannot compete with what we have. Employees are happy with their HSA plans. Mike Ingle, Water/Wastewater Supervisor budgeted in 2020 for a new pickup to replace the 2001 Ford which is having issues with the motor. He is comparing GMC and Ford single cab 4x4 long bed pickups. He will continue to get bids on 4 wheel drive and 2 wheel drive pickups.

Mayor Gibson knows someone interested as a journeyman/ lineman for our electrical position that asked for \$110,000 salary. We budgeted \$100,000 with benefits.

Ms. McGinnis reported sales tax was \$57,447.00 up \$10,000.00 from last month.

Town Clerk

Ms. Newman stated that she had a gentleman call today regarding the house the town owns and his interest in purchasing the property. Ms. Newman will let the individual know we will not sell the property at this time.

Town Attorney

Mr. Steerman, Town Attorney, discussed the letters on Code Enforcement which were forwarded to Margaret Dunham, Code Enforcement Officer. He discovered an issue with the new Municipal Code and fees on building permits. The 2006 IBC, which was adopted by the Town of Springfield, requires a building inspector to inspect certain type of buildings at each stage of construction. We must have a contract with a contractor/inspector to do building inspections. We have adopted the Property Maintenance Code and the obligations required but not the penalties by that code, ie: we adopted the standards but not the enforcement mechanism. We must re-adopt the building permit fees schedule and decide how to implement them. We will speak with the current plans' inspector at the October Board of Trustee meeting.

Police Department

Chief Martin provided the monthly police report. Chief Martin stated that Joan Day has taken over the Municipal Court Clerk position. Chief Martin, Officer Gonzales, and Joan Day went with deputies from the Sheriff's Department to Prowers County to participate in behind the wheel driver training. They experienced a driving course similar to the academy.

Trustee Locke stated he would like to see more junk vehicles tagged. Joan Day will get access to DOR – Department of Revenue, to assist with the paperwork for proper registration and ownership of the vehicles.

Item 15 Mayor and Trustee Reports

Trustee Locke asked about the Water and Sewer Master Plan Study. Town Manager Ms. McGinnis said that she and Water Supervisor Mike Ingle met with the engineers in August and they are finalizing the study. Trustee Cooper informed the new trustees that we inventoried and inspected all of the water wells. In the near future we will be required to treat our water. We will tie all of the wells together in a water treatment plant.

Trustee McVey asked about the unpaid clean up bills.

Mayor Gibson read a thank you card from the Reid family and a thank you from Darrin and Annette Deen.

Mayor Gibson read a letter from Wayne and Patty Ballard regarding the RV permit. Trustee Locke stated he would like for them to provide a list of property owners that are hooked up to utilities.

Item 16 Adjournment

Trustee McVey made a motion and seconded by Trustee Locke to adjourn at 8:41pm. Motion carried.