

FOWLER TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
200 MAIN ST
DATE: February 8, 2010
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Ray Wards led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mayor Wards, Trustees Christensen, Hitchcock, Hobby, and Stites. Trustees McKown and Baldwin were absent. Also attending were Administrator Wayne Snider and Treasurer Twana Klinkerman.

Public Comment. None

Changes to the Agenda. Item A under new business was removed (Bill Mitchell – Term Limits).

Approval of January 25, 2010 minutes. Trustee Hobby moved and Trustee Stites seconded approving the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Mayor's Report. Mayor thanked everyone for coming in and voicing their opinions. He stated that he appreciates the input. With all the interest, he feels we will have a good amount of people running for office.

Committee/Board Reports. None.

Administrator's Report. Administrator Wayne Snider reported that everything is moving pretty well with the sewer project and waterline. We have meeting with CDOT Tuesday. Beyond that, he will probably go to Denver to meet with bridge group to speed things up. Wayne also stated that we have stayed under budget on the projects.

Trustee McKown arrived.

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

USDA Grant for Park School. Wayne stated that he would like to have the Trustees permission to go ahead with a grant application for \$100,000. The grant application will be finished this week. We hope to hear something in April. Trustee Stites moved to allow Wayne to move forward on USDA Grant for \$100,000 for Park School. The motion seconded by Trustee Hobby. All voted yes except Trustee Christensen, who voted no.

Liquor License renewal for Fowler Liquor Store. Trustee McKown moved and Trustee Stites seconded approval of the liquor license. Trustee Hitchcock asked about the process. He would like have a check list instead of copies of items included in Board packets. Klinkerman stated that it would be done this way in the future. Liquor License was approved unanimously.

Sewer Tap for Jerry Jensen. Jerry Jensen has requested a sewer tap. Trustee Hitchcock motioned and Trustee Christensen seconded approving the sewer tap. Stites asked if he would pay the standard fee. Snider stated that he would. Stites felt that the Council needs more information regarding what happens at Utility Board meetings. Hobby stated that the process is that items such as this come to Utility Board then are placed on the Council agenda.

Vibrant Solar Agreement. Hitchcock stated that this is the Contract that was reviewed at the last Council meeting. There were contingencies that the attorney approve and the Utility Board approve. The rebate rates were locked in before Black Hills changed their rebate program. (It went from \$.11 to \$.055.) The Utility Board approved it. Trustee Hitchcock moved we approve the final Contract and Trustee McKown seconded the motion. Attorney Hyatt stated that he had made changes and the company was willing to adopt those changes. The Council voted unanimously to approve as amended.

USDA Grant for solar project at Golf Course. Administrator Snider stated that this is a grant for roughly \$75,000 then the rebate will pay for the entire system. This will cover 119% of the Golf Course's utility costs. We will own it. It will be backed up by a diesel generator. Administrator Snider then said that it would only be \$50,000. Trustee McKown moved to accept/go ahead with the grant at \$50,000. Trustee Hitchcock seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant for feasibility study at the lagoons. We have been funded by DOLA for \$4,000 and the Colorado Water Resources Power Development Authority is \$10,000 for a total of \$14,000. Trustee McKown moved to approve and go ahead with this at \$14,000. Trustee Stites seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Request to use Rodeo Grounds on May 29th. Administrator Snider stated that the Rodeo Board has approved this request. Since we own the property, they brought it to Council just for information.

Trustee Remuneration. Trustee McKown stated that he has been doing a lot of research regarding towns the size of ours. He stated that he understands that we are under a wage freeze. However, he stated that without a Chief of Police, we are going to be under budget. McKown made a motion to instruct the attorney to write an ordinance to raise trustee and mayor fees to \$50 per month. Trustee Hobby seconded the motion. Trustee Hitchcock stated that the lack of having a Chief of Police, the wage freeze, and looking competitively at what we can pay a Chief, he hates to see us dip into our police budget. He advised we give careful consideration before giving Trustee wages. Trustee McKown talked about the cost to Trustees to be Council members, for computer, supplies, etc.

Trustee Christensen stated that he is concerned that people will think he is looking for money as he is unemployed. Trustee McKown addressed this concern as well. Trustee Christensen asked what Rocky Ford does. Attorney Hyatt stated that their fee is nominal as well. Trustees McKown and Hobby voted in favor. Trustees Stites, Hitchcock, and Christensen voted no. The motion failed.

Request to use Gerard Park for Missouri Day on July 10. Trustee Stites moved to allow the Missouri Day Committee to use the park for their annual celebration. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hitchcock. Administrator Snider said it would be set up the same as last year, with booths in the street. Motion passed unanimously.

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District letter. Trustee Hitchcock stated that this letter is an invitation to community/public leaders to the conservation board rural authority. He and Wayne have attended several of the meetings as they've put this group together. They are putting a meeting together to educate. It is to take the smaller water companies through the valley as one group so that they can apply for the same grants that other water groups can participate in. It gives them some lobby ability as a private group. There are a lot of assets involved in it. It will keep them more evenly keeled with the water project. Hitchcock thinks it is a great project. They will be able to help smaller municipalities to tie in for compliance. He did state that he didn't feel that the Town of Fowler would benefit as there are no small water companies to tie in with. This would be roughly \$25,000 year. He stated that the Utility Board didn't feel it was a cost benefit for us. He did feel we need to promote their program and be behind them though. He encouraged anyone on the Council to attend the meeting. McKown asked if this had anything to do with the Conduit. Hitchcock said it will eventually for the small water companies.

Council did not go into executive session.

Police Chief. Police salary budgets were discussed. Klinkerman stated that we budgeted about \$80,000 for police wages. Snider passed out an analysis of Chief salaries for various communities. Hyatt stated he didn't feel that the sheet was correct as it did not include a complete salary range. He stated that Rocky Ford's was not correct. Snider stated that this was from CML. Hyatt stated that it probably included the fringes. Snider stated that for not to exceed \$3,000 Rich Schur would help us with the hiring process, including psych evals, etc.

Hitchcock moved to hire Rich Schur to set up and conduct hiring of police chief. Hobby seconded. Trustees Christensen, Hitchcock, Hobby, and Stites voted yes. Trustee McKown voted no.

Trustee Stites asked if \$35,000 was a reasonable figure. Mayor Wards asked if the requirements for a Denver officer would knock a local person out of the competition.

Trustees Christensen and Hobby suggest a good chief, a full-time officer and one or two part-time officers. Trustee Hobby feels that we would have lots of options for part-time

officers. Trustee Hitchcock suggested a range of \$30 - \$35. He suggested we bring Rich Schur in and get his advice of what we need. Trustee Christensen asked if this range was to include benefits. Mayor Wards asked if any of the applications were getting ready to retire.

Wayne stated that Rich Schur may feel it is not worth it to go out there and look for the salary range we are talking about. Snider is supposed to meet with him tomorrow, contingent on weather.

Trustee Stites stated that she doesn't want the police chief making more than the Town Manager. Trustee McKown stated that we can't afford \$45 - \$50,000.

Adjournment. Trustee Hitchcock and Trustee McKown seconded to adjourn. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Ray Wards, Mayor

Shawn Pagnotta, Town Clerk