

**Town Council Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Paonia, Colorado**  
**February 25, 2014**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council held Tuesday, February 25, 2014 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Mayor Neal Schwieterman, Trustees Brian Ayers, Eric Goold, Ross King, and Sarah Sauter; Chief Scott Leon; Public Works Director Travis Loberg; Finance Officer Cindy Jones; Deputy Clerk Corinne Ferguson and Town Clerk Barbara Peterson. Trustee Amber Kleinman was absent.

Mayor Schwieterman determined a quorum was present and proceeded with the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Schwieterman suggested removing the Paonia Public Library – Annual Update from the agenda, as Ms. Stevenson is ill. Trustee King moved to approve the agenda as amended. Trustee Goold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

Mayor Schwieterman congratulated the Paonia Wrestling team for achieving the 2A State Championship for the third year in a row. Five (5) out of ten (10) wrestlers entering the finals took first place, with Jesse Reed taking his third state title. If Master Reed does it again next year, he will be one (1) of eighteen (18) wrestlers in state history to have accomplished that distinction.

The Town Manager Screening Committee has decided upon five (5) finalists for the Town Manager position. Gwendolyn Hallsmith of Montpelier, VT; Adam Martin of Tennille, GA; Barbara Peterson of Paonia, CO; R. Bruce Smith of Mesa, CO and Dennis Stark of Frederick, CO. A candidate informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. A whole day assessment allowing citizens to observe followed with a Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 6:30pm at Paonia Town Hall for public input. The Committee has completed an exhaustive search and has provided good candidates for consideration.

**Visitors**

Kathy Browning noted that the Delta County Independent covers three (3) Town Councils and when a change is made with a special meeting on a different night, it makes covering the special meeting very difficult. Ms. Browning asked that in the future, the Board considers keeping meetings on Tuesdays. Trustee Sauter responded that the special meeting was scheduled for Thursday due to candidate travel itineraries, but that Ms. Browning made a valid point.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

**Chamber of Commerce - Update**

Alexis Halbert was present. Ms. Halbert noted there are new Chamber Board members; the office shall remain in the Hive (132 Grand Avenue) as a part of the collaborative work space. The Chamber happily reports that the Friends of the Paradise Theatre have a signed lease and will continue operations as the Chamber transitions out of that role. The Creative District received \$10,000 from Colorado Tourism and the money will be used for focus on marketing for the valley. There will be a meeting on March 6, 2014 with all five (5) Delta County Chambers of Commerce. Upcoming endeavors include the rollout of a Paonia cookbook, a culinary guide to Paonia, food and wine events in the Roaring Fork valley in collaboration with Farm to Table to grow that piece of the economy. Geers and Beers may make a return and attention will be given to increasing membership services.

**Chamber of Commerce – Special Event Liquor License Request**

Alexis Halbert was present. The Chamber is requesting a special event liquor license on March 15, 16 and April 26, 2014 utilizing the Paradise Theatre, located at 215 Grand Avenue for fundraising events. Trustee King moved to approve the special event liquor license request as presented. Trustee Goold seconded. Chief Leon indicated no problems. Motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Flying Fork Café – Liquor License Renewal

No one was present to represent the Flying Fork Café. The Flying Fork Café is requesting a renewal of a hotel and restaurant liquor license for the property located at 101 Third Street. Chief Leon indicated no problems. Trustee King moved to approve the liquor license renewal as presented. Trustee Goold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Delta County Economic Development (DCED) – Broadband Grant Support Request

John Gavin presented information regarding broadband access in Delta County. Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is installing fiber optic cables to all the towns in Delta County. Cost allocations are based on population; making Paonia's contribution \$400, if the Town participates. Discussion resulted in a consensus that broadband will stimulate new and existing carriers, allowing more new businesses and will be a benefit to the schools. Chief Leon volunteered to have the \$400 come out of the Police Department budget, as a new officer has not been hired yet. Trustee Sauter moved to approve the \$400 cash match for the broadband grant application request. Trustee Ayers seconded. Mr. Gavin requested an appointee to serve on the planning and implementation committee. Trustee Goold volunteered and was so appointed. Motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Additional Business

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schwieterman had nothing to report.

Public Works: Director Loberg reported working on pothole patching, cleaning gutters, and repaired a water leak on Third Street. The engineer being utilized for the IMG water tank should have something to us by the end of the week. The Town's insurance carrier has denied the claim.

Police Report: Chief Leon submitted a written report. There has been an increase in thefts. Car rims have been taken from residents, gas was siphoned from U-Haul trucks and two (2) laptops were stolen from Radio Shack. Code Enforcement continues to send out violation letters. Safety drills start tomorrow at the schools. The department will be training in rescue control with the Hotchkiss Fire Department; engaging all emergency personnel and establishing roles. The hiring of an officer is on hold for evaluation purposes.

Finance Report: Trustee Ayers had nothing to report.

Parks Report: Trustee Goold reported the Parks Maintenance contract has been signed.

Public Safety Report: Trustee Goold reported conducting a survey a couple of weeks ago for his own information. The numbers are meaningless as 36 surveys were handed out with only 18 responses. 60% of those responses think five (5) officers are appropriate. With a 12% success rate of those surveyed, Trustee Goold feels the Town may not need that many officers. This questioning is not out of line. Once a Town Manager is in place, things may change. Mayor Schwieterman reminded Trustee Goold to submit results to the Clerk for archiving. Trustee Sauter agreed, saying that with austerity budgets, everything is on the table. Trustee Sauter cautioned the Board against "knee-jerk" decisions, and to move slowly and purposefully.

Street Report: Trustees King had nothing to report.

Water/Sewer Report: Trustees King had nothing to report.

Personnel Report: Trustee Sauter had nothing to report. Mayor Schwieterman checked Trustee availability for the special meeting on March 13, 2014. Trustees Sauter, Ayers, King and Goold all indicated availability.

Minutes:

Corrections noted. Trustee Goold moved to accept the minutes of January 29, 2014 as amended. Trustee Sauter seconded. During discussion, Trustee Goold remarked on the inaccuracies in The North Fork Merchant Herald articles. Motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Correction noted. Trustee Sauter moved to accept the minutes of February 11, 2014 as amended. Trustee Ayers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Disbursements:

Trustee Ayers moved to pay the bills through February 25, 2014. Trustee Goold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Town Clerk, Barbara Peterson

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Mayor, Neal Schwieterman