

October 2, 2023

The Bonanza Common Council held a regular meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023. Mayor Betty Tyree called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm.

ROLL CALL

City officials, citizens, and members present were:

Mayor: Betty Tyree

Treasurer: Cheri Stewart

Recorder: Bryn Neese

Councilors: Don Nelson, Mary Schiefelbein, Ashlie Pence, Nancy Ibarra

Citizens: Lonnie Carter, Ashley Trushell, Mike Broaddus, Klamath County Commissioner Dave Henslee and Klamath County Commissioner Derrick DeGroot

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes – Regular & Financial Reports / Bank Statements and Reconciliations

Councilor Nelson motioned to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Schiefelbein seconds. Motion carried.

REPORTS

a. Sewer Report

Aaron Neese submitted sewer report for September, and Bryn Neese presented it. Councilor Schiefelbein motioned to accept the sewer report, Councilor Pence seconded. Motion carried.

b. Code Enforcement Report

There was no code enforcement report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

a. NONE

PLANNING:

a. NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Open Council Position Appointment

Ashley Trushell introduced herself. She described her background and her involvement in Bonanza. She explained her motivation for wanting to serve on Town Council. Councilor Schiefelbein motioned to appoint Ashley Trushell to Town Council. Councilor Pence seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Tyree swore Ashley in.

b. Hersey Building Update

Materials for the building have been delivered. Building plans are outdated. Cheri has an appointment with an engineer to get updated plans. Then permits will be updated. Labels on building pieces have worn off, so assembly may take longer than anticipated.

c. Drainage Project Update

The Carroll Avenue drainage project was awarded to Morello Construction. They hope to have it completed by December.

d. Ballot Box

Klamath County will be installing a ballot box at Town Hall in March or April 2024, in time for the 2024 primaries.

e. ODOT meeting update

Mayor Tyree and Cheri Stewart met with ODOT representative, Tracy Seidel regarding excessive speeding in Bonanza and residents' concerns and suggestions; upcoming ADA ramp installation, ODOT boundary and signage, and the corner of Hwy 70 & E. Langell Valley debris. Mayor Tyree discusses with Mr. Seidel some of the residents' suggestions such as speed bumps, 4-way stops, stop signs, crosswalks, and other options. Mr. Seidel took notes during the meeting and will take back to ODOT. He will get back to us as soon as he hears back from each department, although he did warn that some of the suggestions may not be feasible on a state highway.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Highway 70 Transfer to County

This may happen at some point in the future, but it is not in the works for any time soon. Town of Bonanza will be notified when discussion of the matter comes up so we can present our concerns. The council is concerned if Highway 70 transfers to county that we will lose state highway patrol.

b. Code Enforcement

Mayor Tyree asked the Commissioners for help with county code enforcement. They agreed to help and asked us to e-mail specific concerns to them. Councilor Pence made a motion to forward code enforcement concerns to Commissioners DeGroot and Henslee. Councilor Schiefelbein seconded. Motion carried.

c. Law Enforcement

The Town of Bonanza is suffering a law enforcement shortage with limited Sheriff coverage and no contract with Merrill or Malin. This has led to an increase in local crime and speeding. Residents have suggested starting a Neighborhood Watch Program. Commissioner Henslee stated that Neighborhood Watch groups are only successful when police can and will respond to the watch. If a town such as Bonanza does not have any patrol or response from the police, a Neighborhood Watch would be worthless. The Klamath County Sheriff is shorthanded. Klamath County Commissioner Dave Henslee has suggested restructuring current law enforcement but has met with resistance to the idea from the Sheriff's office. Commissioner DeGroot & Commissioner Henslee are working on a creative solution to many rural cities' problem with lack of law enforcement & increase of public safety concerns. Commissioner DeGroot is working on a new law enforcement model which would allow the Sheriff's office to specifically patrol and allocate all resources to the rural areas, leaving Klamath County to the State and City of Klamath Falls. This model would be based on the total area to be covered or patrolled. Commissioner Henslee has met with both the state and city and both entities show their support of the new model and reconfiguration of law enforcement. The new model would allow Klamath County and other small rural areas such as Bonanza to collaborate and combine budgets to pay for Bonanza-specific deputies (up to two). These deputies would be both Klamath County Sheriff deputies and Bonanza deputies. They would wear Bonanza deputy patches, drive Bonanza patrol cars, live in Bonanza, etc. Commissioner Henslee and Commissioner DeGroot would like to see this new model take effect within the next 15 months. Commissioner Henslee discusses incentives for law enforcement personnel including housing incentives. The Bonanza Council asked the commissioners how they could help with this initiative. The Commissioners suggest the Town of Bonanza send letters to the Commissioners with their concerns, attend Commissioner meetings to voice support, set up a town hall meeting or listening session with the County Commissioners and media in Bonanza, and create a patrol boundary map showing abutting patrol boundaries with other towns and cities. Councilor Pence motioned to have a listening session; Councilor Schiefelbein seconded. The motion carried. Cheri will coordinate with the Commissioners on a date, reserve the school gym, create a survey card for residents, advertise on Facebook and create door tags.

d. Eclipse Preparation

Commissioner Henslee expects visitors to Klamath County from October 10 through the 15 for eclipse viewing. He is anticipating up to 60,000 visitors to the County during that time. NASA cameras will be at Running Y to record the event. Friday night there will be a meteor shower viewing. He urges local citizens to plan ahead to have plenty of supplies such as groceries, pet food, medications, fuel etc. Cell towers and card machines may not be functioning well if they are overloaded, so plan to have cash on hand during that time for any necessary purchases. There may

be power outages due to overload. Have alternate heat sources on hand. Traffic is expected to be very heavy on Highway 140 and Highway 70. Make sure to have protective eclipse glasses to watch the eclipse.

e. FireServe Franchise Transfer to Stimulus Tech

Stimulus Tech has purchased FireServe. The high speed internet coverage area may increase under the new ownership. Councilor Nelson motioned to accept the ownership transfer to Stimulus Tech. Councilor Pence seconded, motion carried.

f. Christmas Lights Contest

This year's Christmas lights contest prizes will mirror last year's. First prize residential will receive \$500, second prize residential will receive \$300. First prize commercial entry will receive \$200.

g. Proposed Stop Sign

Cheri Stewart proposed adding a stop sign on the corner of 4th Street and Mission St. as part of a Safe Walk to School initiative. Councilor Schiefelbein motioned to install a stop sign at the intersection, Councilor Ibarra seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Tyree suggested a "4 – way stop ahead" sign be installed as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilor Nelson asked the Town Council to consider donating to the Farm and Wildlife Conservancy. The group needs funding to help protest the proposed installation of a large solar storage facility on local farmland. They would like the solar facility to be installed on less productive land. Councilor Schiefelbein motioned to approve a Town donation of \$500. Councilor Pence seconded. Motion carried.

Councilor Schiefelbein commented that the new stop signs look good.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pence motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Councilor Ibarra seconded. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 6, at 6:30 pm.

Betty Tyree
Betty Tyree, Mayor

November 6, 2023
Date

Bryn Neese
Bryn Neese, Town Recorder

November 6, 2023
Date