

Minutes from Emery Town Council October 14, 2020

Members present: Amy Sundstrom, Pat Sundstrom, Lindsay Edwards, Mike Christensen, Sam Payne

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm; US pledge of allegiance recited.

Town resident, Guy Musser, approached the council asking permission to farm rye on some open land next to his property. The request was denied for reasons pertaining to problems caused by the disruption of native lands.

Minutes from September 16th, 2020 Town Council were reviewed. Pat made a motion to approve the minutes; Sam seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

The Open Invoice report was reviewed. Pat made a motion to approve payment all open/unpaid invoices; Lindsay seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

Mayor Amy Sundstrom distributed the final Audit Reports and Financial Statements produced by the Kimball & Roberts accounting firm.

The Mayor then submitted a proposal to **change the town's propane supplier** from Amerigas to Blackburn Propane. This switch will generate approximately \$10,000 in annual savings on the town's propane expense. Pat moved that the town switch suppliers to Blackburn Propane; Mike seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

In preparation for potential COVID-19 sanctions, and other unforeseen contingencies, Mayor Sundstrom suggested that the town create bylaws permitting **electronic town council meetings**. According to Utah State Law, electronic meetings are permitted only if: the municipal bylaws sanction them *and* if provisions are made to ensure ease of public access. Pat made a motion to prepare bylaw amendments allowing and governing electronic meetings so that they will be available for vote at the November, 2020 Town Council meeting (at which time there is already a public hearing scheduled). Sam seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

Rocky Mountain Power is currently offering substantial discounts and/or subsidies for the installation of **electric vehicle charging stations**. Mayor Sundstrom presented the possibility of installing such a station in town – perhaps at the old Pioneer Church. Lindsay volunteered to gather more information on the possibility from Mayor Danny VanWagoner of Castle Dale (as stations were recently installed in Castle Dale). The issue will be revisited once more information is gathered.

As many Emery residents have requested an **online option for credit card payments of utility bills**, bids from two online credit card gateway services were presented to the Town Council. After discussion, the council determined it needed more information before making a decision. Pat moved to have more information collected and to revisit the matter at the November, 2020 meeting. Sam seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

Bryan Christensen of Superior Security Services presented a bid to upgrade the current door lock/security protocols of Town Hall and the Fire Department to a **keycard access system**. Details of the bid were discussed and it was noted that updating the security of these buildings is prudent with regard to Pandemic Safety Precautions. Sam made a motion to accept the bid from Superior Security Services and proceed with the security update. Pat seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: abstained, Sam: aye

Council Member Sam Payne noted that Emery Town’s financial health is very strong and he suggested that the Council consider using some of the town’s considerable savings to make some capital improvements.

Council Member Lindsay Edwards reported no new news

Council Member Mike Christensen reported no new news

Council Member Pat Sundstrom reported that during the most recent CVSSD meeting, the towns of Castle Dale and Huntington were asked to trim a lot from their **capital improvement wish list** but that Emery’s submission was deemed ‘ok as it is.’ While there are no guarantees we’ll receive what we’ve asked for, Pat is hopeful that we’ll be granted the items on our wish list.

Mayor Amy Sundstrom mentioned that the Utah State Government is currently implementing a **“safer sidewalk” initiative** and that she would like to apply for their grant to acquire funds to install sidewalks along the South side of Main Street. If Emery Town receives this grant, we’ll be required to match 25% of the funding. The council discussed that this might be an excellent way to take Sam’s advice and invest some of the town’s savings into making Emery Town even better. Pat made a motion to approve Mayor Sundstrom writing the grant and committing a 25% funding match. Sam seconded. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Lindsay seconded it. Amy: aye, Pat: aye, Lindsay: aye, Mike: aye, Sam: aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Minutes approved: _____
date

Amy K. Sundstrom – Mayor

Liberty Mason – Municipal Recorder