

TOWN OF HOOPER
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2024

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of Hooper was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Tommy Dentler.

Mayor: Tommy Dentler

Trustees present: Jan Smith, Mimi Dolan, Amber Najera, Sandy Bond.

Attorney: Ben Pacyga

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Motion to approve consent agenda made by Trustee Sandy Bond . Second, Trustee Amber Najera . Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PRESENTATION

- Jade Communications/Zac Reaves – Mr. Reaves addressed questions about the Internet Parental Settings for inappropriate content and if it is full proof. He told the board that nothing is full proof but that the director of Boys and Girls Club has tested the protection and has not been able to break through. Another question was how long the contract is for, between the town and Jade Communications and if the town is renting the security cameras. There is no contract with Jade Communications for their services and the cameras are not rented with a monthly fee. It is all part of the package designed for the Town of Hooper. If the equipment was to be vandalized it would be replaced and the cost would be the town's and then the town would file a police report to submit to the insurance company for reimbursement of the cost of replacing the equipment. If the equipment fails or if new equipment comes out, the upgrade does not have any additional fees as well. There was further discussion on extending the Wi-Fi to the park for public use. The matter is an item on the agenda for further discussion.
- Commissioner Lori Laske – Commissioner Laske reported that the county has been working on the budget for 2025 and that they have 1.8 million dollars less revenue for the upcoming year. The preliminary budget has been issued and included in the budget is \$5,000 dollars from the Conservation Trust Fund for the town of Hooper to use for the town park. The budget will not be approved until December 15th. She reported that there had been a bomb scare at the district court house and that they had to evacuate and close the court house for the day. The Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives from Pueblo was called in and the device was located and it was not an explosive device. She further reported that with the upcoming election that there is an additional ballot drop box located at Adams State University Campus and all the drop boxes are equipped with security cameras.

CLERK'S REPORT

- See Attachment
- Motion to accept the clerk's report made by Trustee Amber Najera . Second, Trustee Mimi Dolan . Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Park Projects and Grant Updates – Mayor Dentler asked about the progress on the current project in the park. Trustee Smith reported that it may be a couple more weeks before the well house will be built. The pump and pressure tank have to be installed and the hole filled in prior to building the well house.

- Town Hall Security Cameras – Mayor Dentler reminded the board of the time and research spent on finding security cameras for the town hall and park. There was discussion on the town buying and owning the cameras. This would be up to the town to pay for replacement of cameras if they are broken or vandalized and as things are upgraded the money that would have to be spent to upgrade vs. Jade replacing and upgrading equipment as needed without any additional fees. There was further discussion of buying and owning the equipment or utilizing Jade Communications equipment. A motion was made by Trustee Smith to table the matter until the November meeting to look in to the cost of and purchasing our own cameras and utilizing the phone and internet service with Jade Communications. Second, Trustee Dolan. The vote was 2 Yes, Trustee Smith and Trustee Dolan and 2 No, Trustee Najera and Trustee Bond. Mayor Dentler cast the tie breaking vote as No and the matter was not tabled. A motion was made by Trustee Najera to have Jade Communications for the phone and internet service and use of their security cameras. Second, Trustee Bond. Vote, 3 Yes, Trustees Najera, Bond and Dolan and 1 No, Trustee Smith. Motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Smith for no guest access to the Wi-Fi in the town park. Second, Trustee Dolan. Motion carried.
- Municipal Court Ordinance Draft and RFP for Municipal Judge – Attorney Pacyga and the town board explored the options for a Town of Hooper Municipal Court and hiring a judge at prior meetings and a work session. The attorney drafted an Administrative Citation Process for the boards consideration. He noted that the process would consist of a Designated Enforcement Officer that would issue a citation explaining the basis of the violation being implied. At this point the person receiving the citation would have the opportunity to protest the bases of the citation within 14 days of the issue date and if the protest is not filed in that time frame, they waive their right to protest it. If it is protested it would be heard by the Designated Town Hearing Officer. The hearing officer would then consider the evidence. The process is not like a regular trial and the rules of evidence need not apply, it is an informal process. The hearing officer would decide if the citation is justified or not. If it is decided it is justified the person would then have the opportunity to appeal it to the Alamosa District Court. A motion was made by Trustee Bond to table the matter until the regular November board meeting. Second, Trustee Dolan. Motion carried. The mayor asked the board to review the information to be prepared at the November meeting.
- Park Maintenance Position Opening – Future plans for the park include having an arboretum of indigenous plants. Once the plants are in, the maintaining of the them should be a fairly low maintenance process. Considerations for the hiring of a park maintenance person are having knowledge of plants native to this area as well as knowledge of and certification in chemical application, along with the already established job duties. There was discussion on requiring the employee already be certified before hire or the town paying for the training. Further information is needed to make a decision on the requirements for the park maintenance position. A motion was made by Trustee Bond to table the matter until the November board meeting. Second, Trustee Najera. Motion carried.
- 2025 Budget Draft – The board members received a copy of the 2025 budget with updated numbers from the last meeting. There were no additional changes suggested. The public hearing and adoption of the 2025 budget is scheduled for December 4th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hooper Town Hall.
- Spending Balance of ARP Funds – The balance of the ARP Funds has to be spent or designated by December 31, 2024. The board discussed possibilities over that last several months and agreed to price and pursue possibly installing an ADA compliant ramp at the front of the building. Resident Larry Garner is going to research the ADA requirements and price ramps. A motion was made by Trustee Bond to schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m. to review the information on the ramp and possibly vote to spend the funds and purchase a ramp. Second, Trustee Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Traffic Code - Attorney Pacyga reported the Colorado Model Traffic Code was updated this year. The town will need to adopt an updated version of the code. The process is very similar to when the town adopted building codes. A Public Hearing is required with notice of the public hearing published 15 and 8 days prior. It would be convenient to have the public hearing at the December meeting along with the Public Hearing for the 2025 budget. A motion was made by Trustee Bond to set the Model Traffic Code Public Hearing for December 4th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Second, Trustee Dolan. Motion carried.
- Holiday Party – Mayor Dentler informed the board that he, his wife Katie and the town clerk have planned the holiday party. He asked that if the board members have any suggestions or ideas to contribute to let the clerk know. A new 6 ft. tree was donated to the town as well as a \$50 Walmart gift card for a homemade cookie contest. He asked the board members to maybe wear holiday shirts or holiday colors as they are hosting the party. He asked that the board provide food and beverages this year and not just the holiday goodies we invite the town’s people to bring and share. The clerk and some of the ladies in town will do the cooking and decorating. A motion was made by Trustee Bond to allow the town clerk to spend up to \$500 for the holiday party. Second, Trustee Najera. The vote was 3 Yes, Trustee Bond, Najera and Smith and 1 No, Trustee Dolan. Motion carried.
- Holiday Decorating Contest – The holiday decorating contest will be Friday, December 13th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Smith for the prizes to be 1st place \$200, 2nd place \$150, and 3rd place \$100. Second, Trustee Bond. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS

- N/A

ATTORNEY REPORT

- Attorney Pacyga – N/A

OTHER COMMENTS

- N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- N/A

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- N/A

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made by Trustee Dolan to adjourn the meeting. Second, Trustee Smith . Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

LeAnn Ledbetter
Town Clerk

