

FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON JULY 12, 2022

The July 12, 2022 regular meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at the Fromberg Town Hall in Fromberg Montana. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tim Nottingham at 7:00 pm. Council members present were Nate Caton, Dave Stapleton, Bill Gruel and James Lister. Others officials present were, Jay Carter with the Public Works Department and the Fromberg town clerk, Lacey Breeding. Others present were Sheriff Ben Lebrun, Elton Kirtley, Cheryl Cox, Josh Haney, Monic Haney, Tammy Taylor, Cyrill Hergenrider, Tami Lynn, Niki Elliot, Marge Taylor, April Ogden, Dennis Teichroew, Tina Foust and Phil Dehann.

First on the agenda was a report for the month of June 2022 given by Sheriff Ben Lebrun. Lebrun gave a run-down of calls that were dealt with during the previous month. Discussion was had about fraud issues in the area.

Next on the agenda was public comment. Josh Haney asked why the water rates are so high for the Town of Fromberg. Discussion was had with an explanation given regarding the towns water loans the stipulations that go with it. Next, Elton Kirtley advised that the trees located on 3<sup>rd</sup> street are becoming a hazard and need to be dealt with. Mayor Nottingham assured him that the issue on the list for public works to be dealt with. Next, Josh Haney asked for the town's plan for any FEMA Money that is received. Clerk Breeding gave a run down of how FEMA operates and what the money can be used for. She explained it is on a reimbursement basis. Dennis Teichroew then asked how the drinking water is going to be protected moving forward. Discussion was had on FEMA's role in planning and options for mitigation. Josh Haney then asked who is responsible for the railroad crossing. Councilman Caton explained that the Railroad is responsible and that the town has been trying to get them to fix it for years.

Next on the agenda was the approval of minutes for all meetings held in the month of June 2022. Councilman Caton made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on June 14, 2022. Councilman Stapleton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to

approve minutes for the meeting held on June 15, 2022. Councilman Caton seconded and the minutes were approved with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on June 16, 2022. Councilman Caton seconded and the minutes were approved with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye. Councilman Stapleton made the motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held June 21, 2022. Councilman Gruel seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, aye. The minutes for the meeting held June 29, 2022 were tabled for the next regular council meeting as Clerk Breeding had not finalized them yet.

Next was the approval of claims for the months of May 2022 and June 2022. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to approve the claims for May 2022. Councilman Caton seconded the motion and the motion was carried with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to approve the claims for the month of June 2022. Councilman Caton made a second and the claims were approved with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye.

Next on the agenda was the approval of payroll for the month of June 2022. Councilman Caton made a motion to approve the payroll and Councilman Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion was carried with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye.

The new business items were lead with a topic of evaluation of water charges for the flood victims in town limits. Discussion was had on why flood victims should get a discount on their water bills for the upcoming billings cycle. Discussion was had on what the discount rate should be and it was decided by the council to give every resident on the east side of town the inactive rate for the upcoming billing.

Next was an update from Jay Carter in Public Works regarding the boil order status for the town's drinking water. Carter stated that there should be new test results by the

coming Friday. Cyrill Hergenrider had also gotten similar information from DEQ that she provided.

Next Mayor Nottingham stated that after all the work put in throughout the flood emergency and still ongoing that he felt the Town employees should be awarded a raise. He stated the in his opinion both remaining employees had gone above and beyond their job descriptions for the town and its residents. Nottingham suggested a \$2.00 an hour raise for each employee. Josh Haney also commented that he felt a \$2.00 raise should be the minimum for the employees. Councilman Caton voiced that he did not want to see either employee stolen by a different company. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to award the town employees a \$2.00 in effect of the back date of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Councilmen Lister made a second and the motion was carried with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Caton, -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye.

Attorney Moen was not present as planned. Mayor Nottingham informed the council of an opportunity to for the council to take a government class that provides new and old government details. Discussion was had and it was agreed to sign up for the class.

Next was a topic of flood issues open for discussion. Tina Foust who had been asked to take on the role as the disaster/relief coordinator for the town during the flood, gave updates on new information and resources. She also informed everyone that the relief station had been moved to the Methodist Church in Fromberg. She provided updates on volunteers, donations and meal plans. Lastly, she explained the forming of a foundation for flood victims that would be facilitated by a group of women from surrounding areas. Josh Haney warned about FEMA fraud and what to watch for. Marge Taylor then asked if there was any plan to put the old ditch down East River Street back into effect. Discussion was had on options.

Next Jay Carter gave updates on flood debris, and damages around the east side of town. He also informed us of what items are priority to be dealt with first.

During the Council discussion item Councilman Caton suggested we do a something to show the town's appreciation for the volunteers and help during this trialing period. Cyrill Hergenrider suggested we do a BBQ during Fromberg days. Mayor Nottingham then made a statement regarding the discontent in

town over the Fromberg School and the relocating of the relief station. Nottingham advised that we need to focus on the positives and all the hard-work that has been put out.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Stapleton and seconded by Councilman Gruel. The motion to adjourn was carried out with the next meeting set to be August 09, 2022 and votes as follows: Councilman Caton, -aye, Councilman Stapleton, -aye, Councilman Gruel -aye and Councilman Lister, -aye.


The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.



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TIM NOTTINGHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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LACEY BREEDING, CLERK