

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting  
Amalga Town Hall  
November 9, 2011**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

Council Members: John Clark, Paul Hansen, Scott Gittins (Rick Fannesbeck, absent)

Others Attending: Morris Hansen, April Turner, Doug Hansen, Zac Hansen, TJ Thain, John Kunz, Deputy Douglas from the Sheriff's Department, Steve Krebs from Questar Gas Company.

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

Paul Hansen made a motion to accept minutes from the October 12 council meeting. The motion was seconded by John Clark and all voted in favor.

**Public Comments**

Deputy Douglas from the sheriff's department noted no unusual activity from the last month to report. He has been patrolling for impaired drivers in the town. Deputy Douglas will discuss the number of citations that have been issued in the town at the next town council meeting. The council discussed concerns about speeding cars early in the morning before the shifts begin at Schreiber Foods.

**Questar Gas Company – Earthquake Response Procedures**

Steve Krebs from Questar Gas Company discussed safety issues related to natural gas. Natural gas is lighter than air so it will rise to the top of a room inside a building. The gas could be ignited by anything that could cause a spark. He discussed the need for water heaters to be strapped down for safety in case of an earthquake. This is to keep them from becoming disconnected from water and gas lines during an earthquake. Steve Krebs discussed turning off gas meters. The turn-off valves on some meters can become difficult to turn over time. He noted that if a gas line breaks below the meter and the gas is burning, it is best to let the gas keep burning to keep it from pooling and creating potentially explosive conditions. Council members discussed sending a copy of a natural gas safety pamphlet to town residents in a future utility bill.

**Town Council Christmas Party**

The town council Christmas party will be Friday, December 7:00 pm.

**Council Member Reports**

John Clark reviewed a previous council discussion about compensating the planning and zoning committee. State law allows committee members to be reimbursed for their time and expenses.

John has a copy of the Logan City overnight parking ordinance. This may provide guidance to the council as a parking ordinance for the town park is prepared.

John reviewed some items under consideration by the Planning and Zoning Committee. April Turner applied for a change to the town zoning ordinance that requires 100 feet between a residence and a barn. The planning and zoning committee has approved the request to change the ordinance. A public hearing will need to be held before the town council can consider this matter.

John noted that the town annexation map will need to be updated to modify an area that has already been annexed by Trenton.

Also, the town needs to approve a new zoning map. The map needs to be updated to reflect zoning changes that have been adopted since the last map was approved. The planning and zoning

committee is working on language to identify wetlands in the town zoning ordinances. Some committee members do not want to use the term “wetlands” in order to avoid any potential government regulation of these areas. John felt that the federal government will not be concerned about what language is used in the town zoning ordinances. Governments will use other criteria to identify areas considered as “wetlands.” The Town’s definition will only serve town zoning purposes.

The planning and zoning committee has also recommended a depth of 294.5 feet for the residential-agriculture zone.

These four issues will be heard at the next public hearing for land use issues. This will most likely be held in January.

John reported that Josh Hanks had provided some instruction on updating the town website. Lee Ann Barton will put the town web address on the utility bills. Brent Munk had found some information about water rights in Cache Valley that were for sale. The council discussed the need for the town to consider purchasing additional water rights in the future. Purchased rights could be transferred to the town’s point of use.

John noted that the water rate schedule included with the town utility bills needs one additional rate tier – the last tier for use over ten million gallons per month. Scott will discuss this with Lee Ann.

Paul noted that Eric has been working to winterize the park. Paul replaced some ballasts on lights in the town hall. The Smithfield Fire Department parked a van in the town hall garage. Paul installed “No Overnight Parking” signs in the town park. However, there is still a car that parks there overnight. The town’s enforcement is limited without a parking ordinance. The council will revisit this matter if it becomes a problem.

Paul reported that new park benches and garbage cans have been delivered and assembled. Installation has been delayed due to the cold weather. Paul purchased a shredder for the town hall office.

Rick Fannesbeck was absent.

Scott Gittins reported that the new utility billing software has been installed. Scott reviewed town procedures for collecting past due utility accounts. He discussed needing to make sure that contracts for payments on delinquent accounts are in place rather than letting the pressure off account holders if they make one payment. Scott will contact account- holders with large balances who have received a 48 hour shut off notice. David will shut off the water if they don’t respond after this contact. The council discussed the need for the town to follow its procedures and follow through on each step of the collection process.

Scott will work with Lee Ann to follow up on past due accounts.

### **November 2011 Municipal Election**

Preliminary results of the municipal election show that Scott Gittins and Grant Koford won four year terms on the town council and John Clark won a two year term on the town council. The town council will meet on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm to canvas the election results.

The council reviewed town disbursements for November. John Clark made a motion to approve the disbursements. Paul Hansen seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

*Amalga Town 2011 1109*