

**Minutes of the Amalga Town Council Meeting
Amalga Town Hall
May 25, 20101**

Attending:

Mayor: David Wood

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

Others Attending: Morris Hansen,

Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

The oath of office was administered to Scott Gittins, who was appointed by the council to fill the remaining term of David William.

Planning and Zoning Committee

John Clark noted that there are some open positions on the Planning and Zoning Committee to be filled. Clayton Showell has resigned from the committee. Shawn Hansen would also like to be replaced. John read from a list of individuals who could be considered for the open positions. The names included: Lance Gates, Maria Gates, Keith Hansen, Grant Koford, Chansey McKendrick, Roger Smith, Michael Marks, Joel Jeppson, Jake Walker, Bill Nyberg, Bart Rindlisbacher, Kelly Naegle, and Herb Weston.

The council reviewed these individuals and selected Keith Hansen, Grant Koford, Chansey McKendrick, Joel Jeppson, and Mark Cowley. David Wood will contact these individuals to see if any would be willing serve on the Planning and Zoning Committee.

The Planning and Zoning Committee has changed its meeting schedule from the third Wednesday to the first Wednesday of the month. This will allow any business before the committee to be considered by the town council on the following Wednesday, rather than having to wait until the next month for a town council meeting.

Questar Gas Company Franchise Agreement

The town's franchise agreement with the gas company will expire this summer after 50 years. The gas company has proposed a new franchise agreement for the town to consider. The agreement is for an initial term of 20 years with two 15 year extensions for a total of 50 years. The agreement will allow Questar Gas to provide natural gas service to the town.

A motion to adopt the ordinance granting a franchise to Questar Gas Company was made by Rick Fannesbeck. The motion was seconded by Scott Gittins. All council members voted in favor of adopting the ordinance.

Past-Due Utility Accounts

The council discussed several utility accounts that are past due. Rick Fannesbeck mailed certified letters to Fairbanks and Mendelkows about their accounts being past due. Rick has talked with both and they have agreed to make a payment on their accounts within 10 days. If they do not make a payment Rick will send shut off notices to them.

The council discussed needing to remind those with past due accounts that there is also a \$100 fee to turn the water back on if it is disconnected because of non-payment. The council also discussed adding interest to past due accounts. The council also discussed the need to prepare written payment plans with past due account holders before agreeing to keep water service connected to past due account holders.

Scott Gittins will work with Lee Ann to review the town's utility accounts.

The council discussed utility bills being mailed out late in the month. Scott will discuss this with Lee Ann. Scott suggested getting billings done on a more uniform schedule. David suggested meeting with the meter readers to ask them to get their readings completed and turned in on time.

The council discussed getting utility bills out by the first week on the month (by the 10th) and setting a date of the month when utility bills would be due. Scott Gittins made a motion to set a uniform billing cycle for the town. The billing cycle will end on the last day of the month, the utility bill will be sent by the 10 of the subsequent month, and payment is due by the 25th of said subsequent month. This motion was seconded by Rick Fønnesbeck. All council members voted in favor of this action.

The council discussed the need to keep billing information confidential. This information is part of the public record if discussed at council meetings. Discussed ways to review these delinquent accounts and manage the collection of the accounts.

Paul Hansen reviewed policies for managing the utility accounts in the water utility ordinance. The council discussed getting a copy of these policies regarding management of utility accounts to Scott Gittins. David, Scott, and Lee Ann will meet to see that these policies being followed.

Council Member Reports

John Clark reported on the May 18th Planning and Zoning Committee meeting. Building requests from Shane Perkins, Mark Cowley, and Tad Bingham were approved by the committee. The committee also approved an annexation policy for the town. This now needs to be presented for public input at a public hearing. Following that hearing, the plan will be considered by the town council. John will e-mail a copy of the proposed ordinance to council members to review.

The Planning and Zoning Committee has been working on a proposed ordinance that would require those who would like to develop and build on property in the town transfer water rights to the town before they would be allowed to build. The proposal has been given to the town attorney for his review and comment. David would also like a copy of the proposal to review. The proposal would help the town secure additional water rights in order to meet increased demand from growth occurring in the town.

John noted that the Planning and Zoning Committee is reviewing the town zoning map and will update areas that are designated as wetlands.

Paul Hansen reported that two of the old poplar trees were removed from the park and some others were trimmed. The bill for this work is \$3,500. Paul plans to plant another tree where the old ones were removed. Another one of the old trees will need to be removed next year.

Paul discussed an Amalga Ward activity held at the town park recently. This involved shooting shotguns but the park had been reserved for a birthday party. Paul was concerned that the ward check to see if the park scheduled before they plan to use it for activities.

Rick Fønnesbeck reported that water test results had been submitted to the state and have passed state requirements. He also discussed a leaking water line at Joel Jeppson's home. This line will need to be replaced. Rick will coordinate this work with Shane Perkins.

The contractors working on the water project with Trenton need to finish their work by the end of May. Some of the work could take until the first part of June to complete. The new pump in the well still needs work and the telemetry system isn't working yet.

Scott Gittins will work with Rick Fannesbeck and Lee Ann to get up to speed on the utility billing for the town. Scott would also like a copy of the budget.

David Wood reported that Lagoon tickets are available to council members.

The council reviewed the town disbursements for May. Paul Hansen made a motion to approve the disbursements. Rick Fannesbeck seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approving the disbursements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Hansen. The motion was seconded by Rick Fannesbeck and all voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.