

COUNCIL MINUTES
September 4, 2008

The Monte Vista City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, 4 Chico Camino, Monte Vista, CO.

Call to Order

Mayor Don Schall called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Gabe Duran led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present Councilor Gabe Duran, Councilor Art Medina, Councilor William Spicer, Councilor Rose Wilson, and Mayor Don Schall. Record to indicate a quorum was present.

Others present City Attorney Eugene Farish, City Manager Don Van Wormer, Chief of Police Jim Gallegos, City Clerk Lucille Duran, Public Works Director Randy Martinez, Community Development Director Alisha Reis, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Earls, a member of the press, and guests.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilor Medina made a motion, and Councilor Duran seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda. Consent agenda consisted only of approval of August 21, 2008 council minutes, and approval of expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.

Proclamations, Communications, and Appointments

Councilor Medina made a motion, and Councilor Wilson seconded, to appoint D. Jay Almquist, and Hugh Webb to the Board of Adjustments. Terms are through December 31, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments/Special Presentations

Mike Wisdom with San Luis Valley Development Resources Group presented to council the San Luis Valley Targeted Industry Study. We have conducted a Target Industry Study for the San Luis Valley Region of Colorado. What we have done is gone through a process of the organizations and listed the priorities. We recognize that more work needs to be done to identify, assess and prioritize the longer list of development opportunities. Mike Wisdom talked about the enterprise zone. Any city, county, or special district within the enterprise zone is authorized to negotiate with individual taxpayers who have new businesses an incentive payment, a refund of local sales taxes on purchases. Council thanked him for coming.

Commission Reports/Recommendations

Sonic Drive-In, 1820 Grand Avenue – There was further discussion on the proposed condition of demolition requirement. Councilor Medina made a motion, and Councilor Duran seconded, to give Sonic Drive-In as much time as they need to sell the existing Sonic Drive-In building and that they must not violate the city's nuisance regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Eugene Farish read Ordinance No. 806 on second reading. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 755 Adopting the "Model Traffic Code for Colorado" and providing for the Regulation of "Off Highway Vehicles" within the City of Monte Vista, Colorado. Councilor Medina made a motion, and Councilor Wilson seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 806 on second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts/Agreements/Leases

Snow Control Operations Policy. Randy Martinez – I have given you the snow removal costs for 2007 and 2008. 2007's total is \$29,060.42, and 2008 total is \$65,395.08. It doubled our costs to haul off snow in the residential areas one time. I believe, by changing the current policy, we can increase levels of service and keep the costs the same as 2007. The benefits of plowing the snow to the sides would keep all the streets from getting snow packed; and by keeping the asphalt exposed, it would help with the water lines not freezing. We would plow when we get 6" or more of snow. The map I gave you shows the yellow areas that will be plowed to the middle, and the blue areas that will no longer be plowed to the middle. Councilor Medina - The only question that I have is where it says it is illegal to shovel the snow back onto the road. For the elderly people, there is no way they can move the snow from their driveways. They discussed that there were people willing to help out. Consensus of the council is to try it and see what happens. Councilor Duran made a motion, and Councilor Wilson seconded, to approve the Snow Control Operations Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

City Manager – The county commissioner's quarterly meeting will be on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. We will notify you where it will be. Need to appoint a representative to the CML Policy Committee. Councilor Medina will continue on this committee. Handed out to City Council "Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Challenges to Colorado Municipalities" written by Kevin Bommer, a staff member at CML. I received an email from the South Fork Vision Council. They want the City of Monte Vista to write a letter of support to Senator Salazar for their SLV application for South Fork Town Center Project. Okay with council for City Manager to write letter. Well, while I was on vacation, we had a safety threat scenario. We need to look at increased security here at City Hall.

Staff

Alisha Reis – Gave the council an updated quarterly report. There was increased activity in both new construction and alterations over the previous summer. Values of the projects were up 63 percent. Code enforcement is now under the Community Development Department. Steve was hired in May and began working on animal and nuisance complaints. Code Enforcement Official Steve Earl – We have a lot of weeds in town. We need to publicize more in the paper to let people know. Discussed what to do with people that are warned once, they mow them, and then they come back; so, we are constantly going out there every time. What should we do? Should we warn them only once, warn them again or just cite them? Consensus of the council is one warning, anything after that is a violation and cite them. Discussed the Ditch Company is not cleaning the weeds on the ditches. To bring this up at the County Commissioners meeting. Councilor Spicer would like a report every month from Alisha.

Jim Gallegos – For Councilor Spicer, the alarm for the city is in the process of being fixed now.

City Attorney

Eugene Farish - On the codification, I will be sending that out next week to the codifier. Let me know as soon as possible if you have anything.

Council

Councilor Duran – Updated the council on the meeting with the school on the bond issue they are putting on the November ballot.

Councilor Wilson – I attended the URA meeting. They want to know what is going on with the bricks on the corners of Adams St. We had an airport meeting. The airport will be getting a grant from the FAA in the amount of \$473,000. The South Fork library is having some problems. Carol Lee Dugan is helping them.

Councilor Medina – What about the sand in the water at the airport. Alisha – We are looking into that now.

Councilor Spicer – Jim, on the liquor violation, have they paid their fine? Lucille – Yes they have; their fine was over \$2,000. On the Planning and Zoning by-laws, we need something in them to remove someone from the Board that has not attended the meetings. We also need something in the sign ordinance, a policy or something, for message signs.

Recess/Adjournment of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Donald Schall, Mayor
Lucille Duran, City Clerk
Approved 9/18/08