

Town of Empire
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Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023 ~ 6:30 pm

In Person and Remote Meeting using the Zoom Platform.

1. Called Meeting to Order

Mayor Wendy Koch called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The meeting was held in person and through Zoom.

2. Roll Call – The Empire Board of Trustees requires a simple majority of four trustees present at the meeting for a quorum.

Present: Mayor Wendy Koch, Mayor Pro-Tem Linda Robertson, Trustee Denise Tennant, Trustee Lorrain Singmaster, and Trustee Randy Horning. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Jeannette Piel, Police Chief Andrew Lorenz, and Attorneys Brandon Dittman and Wilson Scarbeary attending virtually on Zoom.

Absent: Trustee Susan Owen and Trustee Jacob Belcher.

A quorum was present at the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

TRUSTEE LINDA ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JUNE 20, 2023, TRUSTEE HORNING SECONDED THE MOTION, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

The Agenda was approved

4. Approval of Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes July Regular Meeting

TRUSTEE TENNANT MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE JULY 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES, TRUSTEE LINDA ROBERTSON PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, FOUR WERE IN FAVOR, TRUSTEE SINGMASTER ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

5. Resolutions:

a. Resolution 23-06: Intergovernmental Agreement for Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Between the Town of Empire, Colorado, and Clear Creek County, Colorado

i. IGA with Empire and Clear Creek County Sheriff – Chief Lorenz and the Board discussed the arrangement with the County, requesting statistics. The Agreement is important for our police to work with other municipalities for coverage and sharing of resources.

TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-06: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EMPIRE, COLORADO, APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TRUSTEE SINGMASTER PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

Resolution 23-06 was adopted and is effective immediately.

6. Convene as Liquor Licensing Board:

TRUSTEE SINGMASTER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN AS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CONVENE AS THE LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD, MAYOR PRO-TEM ROBERTSON PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

a. Renewal for Umiya, Phillips 66

- i. Report from Chief Lorenz - no violations or issues have been reported in the past.
- ii. Report from Clerk Piel - up to date with all town invoices.

Public Hearing was open and closed with no comment.

TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSE FOR UMIYA, PHILLIPS 66, TRUSTEE SINGMASTER PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

The Events Liquor License for Umiya, Phillips 66 has been approved.

b. Special Events Liquor License Devil on the Divide, on Saturday, September 9th.

- i. Report from Chief Lorenz - no violations or issues have been reported in the past.
- ii. Report from Clerk Piel - up to date with all invoices.

TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE FOR DEVIL ON THE DIVIDE, TRUSTEE SINGMASTER PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

The Special Events Liquor License for Devil on the Divide trail run has been approved.

TRUSTEE HORNING MOTIONED TO ADJOURN AS THE LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TRUSTEE TENNANT PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

The Board adjourned as the Liquor Licensing Board and reconvened as the Board of Trustees.

7. Reports:

a. Mayor: (CCEDC, CDOT, CCFA)

Colorado Department Of Transportation (CDOT): US 40 traffic will now be rerouted on weekdays along with I70 after some rocks blasted on I70 ended up on US40.

Clear Creek Fire Authority (CCFA): Mayor Koch has a request for the Board Members to attend a 7 PM Thursday meeting with the CCFA at the County Commissioners Room in Georgetown.

b. Police:

- i. Stats from Police Department – Chief Andrew Lorenz provided general crime statistics for the past month, including weapons offenses, property damage, and agency assists in Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties (graph attached.) Chief Lorenz also explained situations that won't show up as crime on statistics, but that still require the police (and sometimes even public works) to respond. Example: today's garbage truck fire. Also, saw a new student at the bus stop and he knew school hadn't started so he made sure the child was safely reunited with his parents.
 - ii. BEAR alert: A bear has broken into a house and is huge. CALL DISPATCH if you see the bear so DOW can follow up on previous reports and KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. Prevent throwing trash out in the middle of the night, and be aware of where you are storing food etc. More information will be in the next newsletter.
- c. Events:
 - i. Friends of Clear Creek Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up. August 19th, 8-10 am.
 - ii. Devil on the Divide. September 9th. Finish line is in Empire, the community is welcome.
- d. Admin:
 - i. Contact the clerk for any information you cannot find on the website.
 - ii. The Clear Creek County community is asked to complete a survey about the Clear Creek Fire Authority.
- e. Planning Commission:
 - i. All Planning Commission meetings are in-person with remote access.
 - ii. The next Regular Planning Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

8. Public Comment: Public comment is limited to 5 minutes per person. The Board does not respond to questions during this time. For operational questions, please email the clerk.

Frank Mauracher: Will stay after to get answers from a previous meeting. Asked that with the I70/US40 construction starting next year, what are the plans for the overburden dirt and millings? If it goes to the ball park can we work with the state so they level out the rough streets in town, especially work on main street going north and south. Asked who you call about junk in town? (Was given a non-emergency town police form to fill out, also available on the website.)

9. Board of Trustees Training Program

Lisa Kunze, Town Projects Assistant, provided an overview of future training workshops focusing on municipal code and the relationships between the Master Plan and municipal code and gave a brief history of current staff's efforts to organize and find important documents and create a historical archival process. The next training workshop was set for September 5th, 2023.

10. New Business from Board of Trustee Members

Update on Town Park Survey, which already has an over 10% response rate and will close on August 31 with results presented next meeting.

11. Moment of Appreciation

Clerk Piel asked participants to share what they appreciate, love, and miss when they're gone from Empire:

- *the smell of sage and pine
- *the same lightning bolt woke us all up in the middle of the night
- *community spirit and the way the town comes together to help each other
- *small town!
- *we know our neighbors, value this greatly
- *watching the snowfall in the winter and then thaw in the river in the summer
- *all the town staff, officials and volunteers; can't put a price on liking where you work
- *can always learn from the tourists
- *likes taking visitors to cemetery because it's so interesting; a tombstone says 'shot by'
- *park is rated 4.8 stars out of 5 on google! Is known as a hidden gem.

12. The Next Board of Trustees Training Workshop is Tuesday, September 5th, 2023.

13. The Next Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is Tuesday, September 19th, 2023, at 6:30 pm. In-person with remote access.

14. Adjourned Meeting

TRUSTEE HORNING MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, TRUSTEE TENNANT SECONDED THE MOTION, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

(Mayor Wendy Koch)

(Town Clerk Jeannette Piel)