

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Town of Medicine Bow Beautification Workshop
August 16, 2010

OPENING: Mayor Colman called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Members present were Mayor Colman, and Councilmembers Colman, Chace, and Kahl. Also present was Deputy Town Clerk/Treasurer Benefield and several members of the public including Sister Marie Martin, Steve and Dawnestelle Gisi, Jr. Clark, Wally Burnett, and Debra Barton.

BUSINESS: Discussion on Town Beautification—Mayor Colman said the business of the meeting was to discuss what they could do to work together to get town beautification. Councilmember Colman said she had talked with Cindy Wallace who said she had found some grants for beautification, and that she and Pat Robbins would help develop a five year plan. Cindy Wallace said that over a five year period the Town could go for grants over that time. Councilmember Chace said that Vernon Scott and JB's were on board for paving. She asked if anyone could do anything about the Catholic Church on the west side of town. It was noted that the doors were open at the back of the church, a window was broken, and the weeds needed to be cut down. Councilmember suggested that if the owners did not want the church they could sell it. Mayor Colman said the Town could possibly acquire it and turn it into a visitor center. Councilmember Chace said if the owners wanted it they should fix it up.

Councilmember Chace said the Town did not have to use eminent domain. She said the ordinances had to be enforced, and that if people who owned property in the Town that lived elsewhere had to maintain their property might be willing to sell the property, especially the person who owned the old Conoco station. Mayor Colman said the best plan was not to target the residents living here but to hit those people hard with the nuisance ordinance. He said if they were hit hard the residents who live here would take notice and comply. Sister Marie Martin said you could enforce the nuisance ordinance but a better way might be to reconsider the building fees that must now be paid to construct buildings. She said there were many people who would like to build something but would not because of the fees, and asked if the Council would reconsider the building fees if someone wanted to build something decent. Mayor Colman said the Town could do that. Mayor Colman said many people thought the building fees were exorbitant, but mentioned that Medicine Bow's fees were cheaper than anyone else's. Sister Marie Martin said many people here do not have the money required. Mayor Colman said people have the right to do the remodeling that they want. He said as long as the square footage isn't changed, no permit was required. Sister Marie Martin said people should be allowed to expand if they want to. Mayor Colman said he agreed, but the problem the Town was running into was some people were able to do the work by the building codes and some were not. Sister Marie said some people felt they were being persecuted because their property wasn't worth very much to begin with. Mayor Colman said it was expensive to get a building inspector to Medicine Bow to make sure codes were being followed and that expense had to be covered. Councilmember Chace said Utilities Commissioner George was supposed to become a licensed inspector and that if not, Roger Cowen was interested in doing it.

Councilmember Kahl said she had obtained a courtesy letter from the City of Cheyenne, and also a violation letter. She said the letter stated that if the owner did not cut the weeds the Town would do it and bill them for it, and then if the bill was not paid, the attorney would put a lien on the property. Mayor Colman said the problem they ran into was if the bill was less than \$300 it cost more to get the lien than what they would collect. Councilmember Kahl suggested that the Town bill the owner \$80 per hour to mow properties. Mayor Colman said one town used the Fire Department to mow because tall weeds were a fire hazard and the money was given to the Fire Department. Fire Chief Colman said you have to consider the amount and quality of the mowers the Town has. Councilmember Kahl asked if the Town had to do it or was the Fire Department allowed to do it. Mayor Colman said the Fire Department could do it and the money would go to the Fire Department. Councilmember Chace said when the Nuisance Ordinance was passed she wrote a letter and gave a time limit to the people who were using her lot for storage. Mayor Colman suggested using honey first before snapping the trap. He said most people don't want to give up their cars because they might be worth something. He suggested sending a letter first and set aside a time to do a Craig's List workshop where the Town would help people take pictures, show clear title, and advertise the vehicles on Craig's List. He said the scrap dealer in Greely was paying large amounts even for dead cars. He said if the Town did that people could say they tried everything they could before putting a lien on the property.

Councilmember Chace said she did not believe the Council could tell people they did not have the right to own stuff. She said that people should put a fence up and hide it. She said the person that owned the building that the school uses for a bus barn should fix it up and paint it. Councilmember Colman said some people buy property at tax sales and do not have a clue as to the condition they are in.

Councilmember Chace said Gary Smith, the person who presented a business proposal to the Town on August 9, wanted the frontage on Routes 487 and 30 paved. She said the real estate value would triple. It was suggested looking into a truck parking lot so people would not park them in Town. Councilmember Chace suggested the area east of the museum. She said the reason Gary Smith wanted the approaches paved was because Medicine Bow would be on his product and people could use Google Earth to look at Medicine Bow and they would see the condition of the Town. Mayor Colman said Medicine Bow was the only community with a large enough building for Gary Smith's business, and also there were grants available for Gary Smith to use. Councilmember Colman said one of the reasons the Town had not paved the streets before was because the Town could not maintain them. Councilmember Chace said if there were enough businesses and people in the Town they could.

At this point the recording of the meeting was defective and unusable. The outcome was that beautification ideas would be emailed to the Town Clerk no later than noon on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 and a meeting would be held Friday, August 20, 2010 at 7pm in Council Chambers to discuss and consolidate the ideas into a 5 year plan to send to Gary Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

BY: _____
Kevin Colman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Karen R. Heath