

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP OF THE TOWN OF SINCLAIR, WYOMING HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE SINCLAIR TOWN HALL BUILDING.

SINCLAIR COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Cullen Meeks, Council members Forest Ortiz, Michelle Serres, David Robinson, and Brennan Dunlap.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Becky Slater, Assistant Treasurer Izabela Tysver, Maintenance Department Supervisor Chris Haldorson, Maintenance Employee Alex Munoz, Police Chief Jeff Sanders, and Town Attorney Mike Roberts.

RESIDENTS: Leigh Nation.

Mayor Meeks called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Meeks stated that the topic of this meeting will be to discuss the snow removal for the upcoming winter season for the town.

Maintenance Department Supervisor Chris Haldorson stated what he has done in the past. One employee would start on the east end and another on the west end of the town plowing curb to curb. With the normal winter Haldorson would have plowed all the streets in the entire town by noon. After that they would go through the town and plow in case if there were cars who left for a day. Once everything is cleaned, they would work on snow fences on 9th and 10th street. The start time would be at 5:00-6:00 a.m., sometimes even at 7:00 a.m. However, starting earlier before people start their day and before the north-east wind kicks in is preferably, as that wind can create huge drifts.

Mayor Meeks mentioned that the priority streets such as the streets used for the school bus need to be taken care first. Haldorson mentioned that generally Jefferson, 10th street, 9th street and 7th street get hit by the wind the hardest by drifting. After streets are all cleaned up, they would keep cleaning if any car was moved. He emphasized how important it is to clean streets from curb to curb not to leave much behind because that can cause tremendous problems all year. The snow blower would work well on bigger streets, but on smaller streets may not be a good idea as the properties can get damaged by rocks and branches being thrown by it. The snow blower would be the best used on South 9th street going to the old highway, Jefferson and 10th street helping to push back drifts.

Haldorson mentioned that residents may not like the snow being pushed back on their driveways, but the town has narrow streets and that is going to be the case anyways. He mentioned that they tried to help senior and disabled residents. Mayor Meeks mentioned that he is concerned about elderly residents who are unable to take care of the snow and have no help at all. However, there are elderly residents who have help and/or are capable of taking care of the snow in their properties are asked to do so. Haldorson mention that in the past they would take backhoe and help clean their driveways. Mayor Meeks stated that there will be a list generated with names on it to know who to help.

Mayor Meeks acknowledged Leigh Nation for showing up. Mayor hoped that more residents would show up and give the town some ideas. Mayor Meeks asked Nation if she has anything to add. Nation emphasized that she was impressed by the work being done last winter. She had one question if there is a possibility of considering some kind of place to park trailers and other toys for residents who do not have place to put their stuff. Mayor stated that the town does not own that much property. The refinery would be the one to ask but they are not in favor of providing

storage place for people. Police Chief Jeff Sanders mentioned that this is not the town's responsibility. It is citizens responsibility to figure out what they want to do with it, especially during winter season. Mayor Meeks mentioned that there are a lot of storage places in Rawlins that can be utilized.

Sanders mentioned that the big units being parked on the streets were the major issue the last winter. Mayor Meeks said that this was one of the reasons to schedule this workshop. Mayor Meeks mentioned that there might be a time that the town would need to prohibit parking such units on the streets, but he would not like to do it right now. He would like residents to work with the Council and get these units off the streets for the winter. In the past, there was a time when a resolution was drafted for removal of such vehicles from the streets from November through April but was never approved. And now there is more trailers and big units on the streets than at that time.

Haldorson mentioned that him and Munoz drove around the town after 8:00 am, when people left to work and school, and counted 84 vehicles and 40 trailers left. In the past, campers were not allowed on the streets, but trailers were. It was hard to plow, but they worked around it always staying a couple of feet away from vehicle. Sanders shared that there was an ordinance stating that campers and motorhomes only were not allowed to park on the street for longer than 72 hours. It did not include any other big units.

Mayor Meeks thought to create some kind of letter or bulletin to residents asking for feedback. The suggestion is to remove vehicles and big units from the streets for the winter season. Resident Nation suggested to send out a letter to residents to get people to talk to the town and Council.

Haldorson mentioned that residents complain when the snow is being pushed back to their driveways. But the town does not have system in place to remove the snow on spot and that is very costly. Also, bringing a backhoe to remove snow is not a great idea because a lot of curb stops get destroyed. Residents' responsibility is to take care of that snow on their property.

Mayor Meeks stated that the town got a lot of compliments about the plowing last year. However, he would like to make things better. And the best of it would be to get residents involved. This workshop's discussion is about all sorts of big vehicle units, trailers, boat trailers, campers, motorhomes, etc. The idea to remove them from November through April from the streets would be the best.

Maintenance Employee Alex Munoz stated that from Fire Department and emergency point of view the three trucks that Sinclair FD owns have a very good ability to go through very heavy snow and snow drifts. Councilmember Dunlap shared the example from his life's experience living in a small community where the snow removal times and dates were being posted on the street posts. In other cities such as Casper such vehicles left on the street are being towed. However, as Mayor Meeks stated, he would not want to implement such things in this town.

The idea to ask people to remove vehicles and big units from the streets for winter season is what the town would like to start with. And work with that moving forward.

Sanders brought up another issue for winter season, snow removal and accumulation spots around the town. He mentioned that last year that was not set up and become the last-minute making decision issue. Maybe having such places being set up in place will be something to discuss too. Haldorson mentioned that he would like to use the old propane dump truck to move

snow around. Councilmember Dunlap mentioned that he would like this truck to be parked outside the workshop for safety. Mayor meeks shared that if there is a need, all the snow can be pushed to the empty lots owned by the refinery. They did allow the town to do that last year. The town does not need to haul the snow away.

Clerk/Treasurer Becky Slater asked about the bulletin. One would be sent out by end of September asking residents about removing their vehicles and big units for winter season. And another one will be sent once the snow starts sticking to the ground.

Haldorson asked the Council how they want the maintenance employees to work with snow removal, by being called only, or go whenever it is bad. Councilmembers and Mayor agreed for them to just go and not wait to be called.

Mike Roberts suggested that it would be good to enact the resolution for these implementations. Roberts will make a draft of this resolution.

Mayor Meeks adjourned workshop at 6:47 p.m.

Cullen Meeks, Mayor
TOWN OF SINCLAIR

ATTEST: CLERK/TREASURER