

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Jensen called the Afton Town Council Work Session to order at 6:07 p.m. via Zoom.

Council Member Brown was absent, and Council Member Wilkes was excused at the beginning of the meeting; he joined at 6:46 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AGENDA

A. E-bikes in the Parks

The council reviewed requests and addressed enforcement challenges related to e-bikes and electric motorcycles in parks. The discussion focused on clarifying the ordinances, distinguishing between pedal-assist e-bikes and throttle-operated bikes and e-motorcycles, and addressing safety and liability issues at the BMX track. Additionally, concerns about consistency with bans on other motorized vehicles and safety on Main Street were raised.

There was a consensus that e-motorcycles and throttle-operated bikes should be prohibited in parks to maintain consistency and safety. The council decided to move forward with drafting a clearer ordinance that specifies which devices are permitted and prohibited, as well as restrictions for the BMX track.

B. Park Culverts

a. Engineer Suggestions Culvert Safety/Changes

Due to a serious incident and recent flooding, the council addressed several issues, including debris accumulation from windstorms, collapsing culverts, and child safety risks. They discussed both interim and long-term solutions, as well as the town's liability and engagement with the ditch company.

There was strong support for installing sloped, engineered trash racks as a quick interim measure. For longer-term solutions, the council considered exploring box culverts and widening channels to align with the Park Master Plan.

While an immediate permanent solution was deferred, the installation of sloped, engineered trash racks was deemed the most feasible and favored option. The town will coordinate with the ditch company to propose solutions for the park segment, clean the right-of-way, and implement safety improvements that meet water delivery needs.

C. Star Valley Medical EMS - Trevor Meritt

SV Medical EMS has canceled their attendance at the work session and has requested to be added to the agenda for the July Council Meeting.

Mayor Jensen updated the Council on a meeting held with the mayors of Alpine, Thayne, Star Valley Ranch, and Afton. The meeting aimed to draft a letter for publication that provides clear information to residents and gets ahead of any statements from the Star Valley Medical Group. The letter recognizes that municipalities are seeking information currently lacking, which is essential for towns to make informed decisions regarding EMS support.

The Council discussed the request from the Star Valley Health EMS provider for approximately \$220,000 in annual funding from the towns. Council members expressed concerns about transparency, audited financials, staffing costs (including 48-hour shifts, overtime, and a paramedic-heavy model), and spending practices. The Council intends to review detailed financial and operational data, consider a third-party audit, gauge public sentiment through a survey, and explore options for in-kind support, such as facilities.

No funding will be allocated until the hospital submits comprehensive and detailed financial and operational information, including the most recent annual audit. Additionally, the Council plans to invite Mr. Dan Ordena, the Chief Executive Officer, to the upcoming work session for direct inquiries.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.