

Mayor Surwill called the Bearcreek council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. April 6, 2023, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Jenkins, Boos-Bader and Hogan were present. Rob Surwill, Animal Control Officer; Juliane Lore, Town Attorney; Loni Hanson, Zoning Administrator; and Dean Webb, Public Works Director were in attendance. Audience present were Cy & Beverly Murfitt, Mike Horton, Kyle McKinney and LuDon DeVille.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Jenkins moved to accept the March minutes, financial reports, and budget vs actual reports as presented. Council member Hogan seconded the motion which carried 4-0.

There was no correspondence.

The Mayor gave the floor to Juliane Lore, the town's attorney, who spoke briefly on the purpose of a council meeting, the rules of participation at the meeting, and the importance of following procedure.

Kyle McKinney, Roberts, gave a presentation on the Salute to Veterans. She advised that the Roberts group was going to the state to have highway 212 loop designated as Veterans Loop. She advised right now that Bearcreek was included with the Belfry Veterans, but it would be nice to have Bearcreek separate in their own entity. The display is done twice a year- at Memorial Day and Veterans Day for two weeks. She mentioned it is a nice way to honor the Veterans. She advised that the Belfry FFA was extending their project into Clark, Wy. A project was started in Turner, Mt. after seeing the ones in Carbon County, so the project is extending more. She explained the procedure needed to display the crosses and dog tags. She offered assistance from Roberts, the Town of Fromberg, and Red Lodge if the community should need it. She entertained questions from the council. Council member Jenkins requested the cost. Kyle advised that it was \$30.00 sponsorship fee. If a veteran had dog tags and then passed it would be replaced with a cross free of charge. The dog tags would be presented to the family. She mentioned that there were companies or individuals that would sponsor them although it takes personal manpower to seek them out. There are forms that need to be filled out for participation, but it is a one-time donation. Council member Hogan asked how many at this time are there for Bearcreek. Kyle responded she was under the impression that there were 5. Paul asked if they were already made. The clerk answered that they were made, and Belfry FFA was displaying them with the Belfry group for now but when time allowed, they would be bringing them up to Bearcreek to display. Paul asked if there were more to be displayed and if they should need sponsorship, the clerk reminded the council they would be discussing this topic under "New Business".

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head reports was started with Dean who reported everything was going fine, except for the leak that still hasn't been found. In a week or two, weather allowing, he will start pot holing to find it. Loni advised that she had issued 3 permits in the last couple of months therefore when the weather gets nicer there will be some action. Rob said 38% of the animal owners had animal licenses, which leaves 12 or 13 left to apply. He advised he will be sending out another letter following the same steps as last year. Juliane advised that she would let the Judge know so he can block out some time if needed for any citations issued within the 60 days.

Under council concerns Paul advised he felt volunteerism for the Veterans Salute will be a big concern as they have trouble getting volunteers to do the cemetery clean up.

Under unfinished business Betty moved to go into an executive session so that an update on the litigation be given. Harold seconded the motion which passed 4-0. The public was asked to leave.

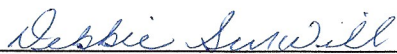
The meeting was opened back up to the public.

The council proceeded on to New Business. (1) Paul advised that he could get some guys to help with the cemetery cleanup, so it will be done by volunteers again this year. The date was set for Saturday, May 13, to start between 8:30-9:00 a.m. meeting at the cemetery. (2) The clerk presented the Republic Services contract. She had inquired from an out-of-town resident how much they paid a


year, which figured out to be \$825.78 for the past year. Our taxpayers are paying \$450.00 per year, and it may have to rise to \$455.00 per year, but we are getting a favorable discount. Betty moved to accept the contract for 2023-2024 with Republic Services. Harold seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (3) A discussion was held concerning the Veterans Salute which are the crosses and dog tags displayed in honor of our veterans. The clerk read an email that she had received from the Belfry FFA concerning the placement of the Bearcreek veterans stating that they had in mind getting the memorials placed in Bearcreek by next Veteran's Day. The email went on to explain that it was a process to build them and the concrete holders as well as get things in the ground. They would place the current Bearcreek Veterans among the others along the Belfry Highway for Memorial Day. The Mayor advised the council that the State owns the Park therefore permission would need to be obtained from the State whereas the Belfry FFA has been granted permission from the State to use the highway right-of-way. The clerk concurred stating that the Town leases the park from the state on a 100-year lease therefore the Town has it insured. She had visited with the Town MMIA agent, and he had advised not to allow the display in the public park. He quoted one incident that he had thought of. It's a public park, therefore anyone may enter in it, whether sober or drunk, and if one impales themselves on one of the crosses the town would be liable. They could be placed in the State right-of-way just below the Park, which the Belfry FFA already has gotten permission from the State to use. The Mayor asked if they would keep the crosses and dog tags in Belfry and the clerk responded that was her understanding as they hadn't asked for storage in Bearcreek. They will bring them up to display and take them down for storage. Council member Hogan advised that he would sponsor some if needed, but he didn't have time to assist with the project. Juliane pointed out another point beside the liability to the Town. A non-profit organization would need to be set up to collect the money for the crosses and dog tags. Community participation was another factor discussed. Paul moved to allow the Belfry FFA to continue to be in charge of the Veterans Salute for Bearcreek with whatever assistance the Town of Bearcreek can provide. Harold seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Under clerks items (1) the clerk gave the council the address of the Town of Bearcreek's webpage, which is up and running, "townofbearcreekmt.com." Paul asked if all the ordinances were posted and Jane responded, "yes"; approved minutes, our Water Consumer report, agendas, and other items. (2) Thanks to Juliane, Humble Network installed internet free in the Town Hall. Dean had to drill a 32" hole in the wall to make it happen and put a shelf up for the router, but it's a "go" (3) The clerk apprised the council that someone took the minutes out of the post office. They are supposed to be left until the new agenda is posted so she is going to put a sign on them "not to take, for reading only".

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Danell passed unanimously.



Debbie Surwill, Mayor



Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk