

MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2024 TOWN OF BEARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING

In the absence of the Mayor, Council chair Boos called the Bearcreek council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., May 2, 2024 in the Town Hall. Council members present were Cristan, Boos, and Jenkins. The public works director, Dean Webb; and zoning administrator, Loni Hanson were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Jenkins moved to accept the minutes, financial reports, and budget vs actual reports as presented. Council member Cristan seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Council member Jenkins moved to approve the claims as presented. Council member Cristan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dean started Dept. Head reports advising the council that all was going well with the sewer and water, although he hadn't been able to get to the springs yet with all the moisture. He had filled in some potholes in the streets. Loni reported that she had issued Paul Hogan a zoning permit to place a lean to against his big building on Main Street. She had written letters as requested by council to Travis Landers and Brock Niccum concerning their residing in their travel trailers. Brock's letter also mentioned being in violation of the section concerning rubbish as he was using straw bales for skirting. Travis's letter contained the violation of dumping gray water out on the street as being in violation of state code. He had advised Loni that the lady who does portable dog grooming dumps her gray water out all the time, therefore Loni requested he advise her that it was illegal and please not to do so anymore in the Town of Bearcreek. Jane gave Rob's report for animal control. 2 letters had gone to residents who were allowing their chickens free range. The ordinance allows for chickens, but they must be contained at all times, therefore they may be fined if it continues.

There were no council concerns.

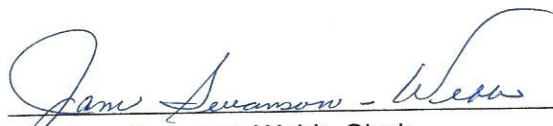
Under unfinished business (1) John Coutu's term on the board of adjustments expired 5-31-24, therefore the clerk had inquired if he wanted to serve another term and he said he would be willing. Council member Cristan moved to appoint John to another term on the board. The motion seconded by council member Jenkins, passed 3-0. (2) It was decided that the cemetery clean up date would be Sat., May 18 and if the weather didn't cooperate it would allow for another week before Memorial Day. Meeting time would be 10:00 a.m. at the cemetery.

Under new business the Resolution authorizing the applications for grants to the Montana Coal Endowment, Dept. of Natural Resources, and the Montana Drinking Water Revolving Fund was read. Council member Cristan moved to adopt the Resolution. Council member Jenkins seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

The clerk started clerk's items by advising the council that the Mayor, the attorney, and herself would be attending a free administrative workshop in Laurel on May 11. (2) The weed letters had been mailed if anyone reached out to the council (3) The Joliet School would be having a field trip to the Bearcreek Cemetery on May 13th and the hall would be also open for them to use the facilities (4) Dean would be attending the spring water school in Billings to get his certification May 14-16; (5) Angela and Ryan from Rural Development, Lowell and Gina from Interstate Engineering and Dean will be going to the springs on May 22nd as the upper spring will need repairs, required by DEQ. Rural Development representatives wish to check out the site before any approval of the grant application to complete these repairs.

With no further business, council member Cristan moved to adjourn. Council member Jenkins seconded the motion which passed unanimously.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk