

Minutes of the Dec. 5, 2024, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, 2024. Council members Cristan, Hogan and Jenkins were present. Rob Surwill, animal control officer; Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; and Dean Webb, public works director were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Harold moved to accept the minutes, the financial report, and the budget vs. actual report. Paul seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Claims were presented for payment and approved with a motion by Betty, seconded by Harold, passing 3-0.

Under correspondence the following were read - a thank you note from Cy & Beverly Murfitt; a letter from Governor Gianforte advising a \$40,000.00 grant to complete the preliminary engineering report had been awarded; and an email from Atty Dennison Butler concerning fees charged.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports – Dean reported that the water leak in Bearcreek Alley and 2nd St. was fixed. He advised that the chlorine pump will need some repairs as the residual is up and down. He informed the council that a new water and sewer hookup was being dug for Eli Marquette on 204 First St. Loni reported that the lot east of Shanks had a structure erected which resembled an outhouse and was dug over a hole therefore she had contacted the sanitarian and was advised that pit privies weren't allowed in the county. She wrote the owner a letter stating such and he responded that it wasn't a pit privy, but a covering over the hole where he was going to burn weeds and then cover the hole to avoid injury. There are wheels on it so that it maybe moved back and forth. He disagreed with her that it was a structure. No zoning permit application had been received, no water/sewer hookup fees paid prior to construction, no variance for setbacks, nor a variance for having an accessory building without a main building, therefore she was going to contact him again advising him of the noncompliance. The council agreed that she should follow through with him even if the structure that looks like an outhouse, isn't an outhouse, but is still in violation of other zoning conditions. Rob reported that he had been asked to live trap a raccoon, which isn't in his scope of responsibility, so he will add in his letter. He advised all else to be quiet. He will get the reminder letter for animal licenses to the clerk so that they may be mailed out.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business Paul moved to approve the Hall rental contract changes as presented. Harold seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Under new business (1) Paul moved to appoint Megan Prindiville as the Town's representative to the Carbon County Historical Preservation Commission for a 2-year term. Harold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (2) Paul moved to appoint Dean to another term on the Carbon County Planning Board. Harold seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. (3) Dean advised the council that a prospective buyer of some of Steve Repac's property would like to extend the water main, which will save the Town money when phase 2 of the proposed water project is done. He also inquired if the Town would still honor the agreement with Repac to pay for the corner markers of the streets and alleys. The council agreed to honor the agreement.

The mayor called for an executive session to discuss litigation. The meeting was reopened to the public.

Clerk's items: (1) The Town attorney had advised that she will be working in Bozeman 2 days a week which conflicts with the town meetings, so she advised she could probably only serve us in the capacity of signing documents and letters. The council was okay with that for the present, but felt the clerk should check on an hourly rate. (2) The clerk advised that Energy Labs had sent a letter advising of an increase in fees. The monthly chlorination testing had increased \$10.00. (3) The clerk had received a call about the reimbursement of the blind. Those attending the function were going to share the cost and asked for another couple of weeks to pool their money. Request was granted. (4) The clerk reminded everyone about the Women's Club potluck.

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Paul, passed unanimously.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk