

Minutes of February 6, 2025, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 6, 2025, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, Boos, and Jenkins were present. Rob Surwill, animal control officer, and Loni Hanson, zoning administrator, were in attendance. The public works director, Dean Webb, was absent due to attending a training session in Billings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Claims were presented for payment and approved with a motion by Betty, seconded by Harold, passing 4-0.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports were started by Public Works. The report was given by the Clerk from Dean's notes. (1) She advised the council that the engineers working on the springs water project were temporarily on hold due to the President's shutdown of grant funding at this time. (2) She reported that Eric Hanson was assisting Dean with snow plowing. (3) She informed the council that part of the Repac property had been purchased by the Webbs. They would grant the streets and alleys to the Town so there would not be a further problem concerning those. The county has mandated a subdivision be done as was the same scenario for Repac before any sale of lots. WWC Engineers & surveyors hired by the Webbs will be in town to survey the property and designate the streets and alleys the same as they are laid out now. Red Lodge Surveying and Interstate Engineering both have done the Town's work; therefore, a different firm was hired to avoid a conflict of interest. To avoid any conflict of interest the clerk requested that a Town representative participate in all the discussions that concern the subdivision as she and Dean are representing themselves and can't represent the Town. The mayor, as Bearcreek's representative, will attend the pre-app meeting with the engineers, Carbon County Planning administrator, and the Webbs on the 18th. The clerk asked if the council wanted Loni as zoning administrator included in the discussions as had been suggested prior and the council felt if the mayor was present that would be good. Loni reported that she had nothing to report for zoning. Rob reported that he had 18 people apply for their animal licenses. That was a little better than last year. He had a report from Sherry Knowlton for a dog at large, but the dog couldn't be found.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business Resolution 2025-5 concerning a budget amendment for the SLIPA grant was presented. Betty moved to accept the Resolution. Paul seconded said motion which passed 4-0.

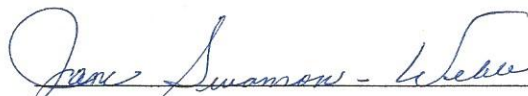
New business consisted of Danell requesting permission to leave the country for a week. The motion moved by Paul, seconded by Betty to grant Danell permission passed unanimously.

Clerk's items: (1) The clerk advised the council that the minutes had been taken from the post office again right after posting. (2) Dean and she had sat at a zoom meeting in the engineer's office in Red Lodge for 4 hours waiting to testify for grant dollars for phase 1 of the water project, when the meeting adjourned so no testimony was given. The lady from DNRC that called advised that something political was going down the pike, but she wasn't sure what. She later called and said that the legislators had decided not to fund the whole 20 million, but lowered the amount to 7+ million, meaning Bearcreek's project wouldn't be funded, therefore \$125,000 will need to be found elsewhere. (3) The blind in Town Hall had been installed Saturday and matches great. (4) Atty Lore had chosen not to bill the Town this month but wait until she had done further legal work.

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. Danell seconded the motion which passed 4-0.



Debbie Surwill, Mayor



Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk