

Minutes of January 8, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Due to the New Year Holiday falling on the regular meeting night of the Town of Bearcreek Council, the meeting was changed to January 8, 2026.

Prior to the meeting, the clerk swore in council members, Cristan, Hogan and Petersen.

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., January 8, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, Boos, and Petersen were present. Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; Rob Surwill, animal control officer; and Dean Webb, public works director were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Under correspondence a card was read from the Red Lodge Rangers 4-H club for allowing them the use of the hall for their "Breakfast with the Grinch". It was accompanied by a \$75.00 donation.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports were started by Dean, who advised the council that all was going well. Loni had nothing to report for zoning. Rob reported that he had two non-domesticated incidents. Outside of town there was a pickup pulled over by the side of the road and an Eagle standing there. When Rob approached the guy had just gotten into his pickup, so Rob stopped and the Eagle didn't seem to have any injuries. Rob called Matt Heaton of FWP, and he said this happens sometimes after they gorge themselves and can't fly. Matt advised he would check on it. His other incident was a repeat call from a lady about trapping racoons on her property. He advised he didn't do that but provided her with a lot of literature to help prevent this from happening again and offered to pick up some stuff for her in Billings. He also advised that a lot of animal license applications were coming in.

Under council concerns Bobbie mentioned that she seen an animal that morning that sort of looked like a coyote but was dark motley colored. It seemed fearful and ran up past Danelle's house. She was concerned it could be rabid. The other incident wasn't in Bearcreek, but she reported she walks her dog up Brophy Road and, in the barrow-ditch was a dead dog like an Australia Shepherd and then right next to it was a dead coyote. She mentioned it was really disturbing to her as she is lover of all animals. Then when she went back past there was a dead fox.

Under unfinished business the clerk had passed out the budget for the council's review on the Phase 1 Water System improvement and read aloud the duties approval for the grant process. Paul moved to approve both with Danell seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul was appointed council chair by a motion made by Danell, seconded by Betty. The motion passed 4-0.

The clerk advised that the hall would be used on Saturday, January 10th for a wedding.

With no further business Betty moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bobbie passed unanimously.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk