

Minutes of April 2, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., April 2, 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.

Danell 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 Danell, seconded by Paul, passing 4-0.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports were started by Dean, who advised the council that all was going well and the preliminary PER for Phase II of the Water improvement was on the laptop for the review of those present. Loni reported that she had been in contact with the new owners of the Jenkins property, who wished to build a wraparound deck, which would require a variance. Rob reported that he had 16 more animal license applications to come in, therefore he would be contacting the people by going door to door.


Under council concerns Bobbie asked if she would need permission to install an electric fence on her property to deter the deer. She advised that on the north side of the alley, she would weed eat so it does not interfere with Dean's mowing. The Mayor suggested Bobbie put up a sign on the fence that says electrified. The zoning administrator said that permission wasn't needed as an electric fence isn't a permanent structure, so it doesn't need a zoning permit.


Under unfinished business (1) Danell moved to accept Resolution 26-01, approving the environmental assessment as presented for Phase II of the Water System Improvements. Paul seconded the motion which carried 4-0. (2) The clerk advised if any of the council wished to view the PER for Phase II it was on the laptop sitting on the counter. Paul moved to accept Resolution 26-02 which accepted the PER for Phase II of the Water System Improvements. The motion seconded by Bobbie passed unanimously. The clerk read the email she had received concerning CDBG funding. CDBG has determined that Bearcreek doesn't qualify for funding as 51% of the people 62 years and older applies to projects where the sole benefit is to those 62 years and older. Since the Town's water improvement project benefits all households in the community this qualification standard does not apply and makes the Town ineligible for CDBG funding. If no other funding can be found, a water rate increase will be needed in 2028.

New Business (1) The clerk read the text received from Kim Bader resigning from the Board of Adjustments. Betty moved to accept Kim's resignation. Paul seconded the motion which passed 4-0. The clerk advised that she would post the vacancy in the post office and send in the water bills, but if anyone has suggestions, please let her know. Therese's term is up the end of May as well, so an appointment for both can be made at the May meeting for the 3-year terms. (2) The cemetery cleanup was discussed. Dean will still do the 2 mowings, but due to the number of volunteers lost to do the weed eating the clerk questioned what the council felt about seeing if the Belfry FFA kids could help. She advised that if the Belfry FFA kids could do it that would be great as they would be covered by the school's insurance and the Town wouldn't need to worry. Paul and the Mayor commented that they thought that would be great. If that fails, we will have to find Plan B.

Under clerk's items, the clerk advised that she had been checking into companies that will provide credit card services to the Town. She had a number of customers requesting it be offered. She didn't want the Town to have to pay for the services so was seeking a company that would charge user fees to the customer for the services. She should know more at the May meeting. With the water rate increase she felt that it would be a good service to offer. Paul agreed. She also requested permission to buy hoses and timers to water the park. It was agreed that she could do so. The Mayor asked if she could paint the planter and plant seeds. The council agreed.

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


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk