

Minutes of June 4, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., June 4, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, and Petersen were present. Council member Boos was absent. 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 Bobbie, passing 3-0

The clerk read a letter from the Bureau of Reclamation advising the Town that there were 174 eligible applications for the WaterSmart Grant and only 31 were funded. The Town of Bearcreek wasn't one of the 31.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports were started by Dean, who advised the council that all was going well. Water usage was up, which was to be expected for this time of year. Lonnie reported that she didn't have anything to report. Rob reported he was collecting animal applications from those who were new to the Town, and he hadn't been aware that they were pet owners.

Council concerns: Bobbie questioned why Bearcreek's application didn't get accepted for the Water Smart Grant. The clerk explained that the 31 recipients' applications were rated higher by the review board.

Under unfinished business the clerk reported that Tyler of Interstate had advised her that he and DEQ had a confrontation concerning the valving system of the Town and he had gotten the reviewer to see his point, so felt that we should still be on track to go to bid in July for Phase 1.

New Business (1) Resolution 26-04 had been passed out for the council's review concerning line-item transfers. Paul moved to adopt the Resolution. Betty seconded the motion which passed 3-0. (2) The clerk had furnished each of the council members with a preliminary budget review requesting any input. All revenues haven't been received so the preliminary budget in July will vary some. Dean requested that a new Walker commercial lawnmower be purchased as he has had trouble with the current one for several years. He had taken it in and spent almost \$1,000.00 and it still wasn't running. He could run it for an hour, and it would quit and be down for 2 hours for cooling and then he would be lucky if it ran again. Paul said he knew that Dean had had trouble with the town mower for several years. Dean had found one at Meadow Green in Billings for a cash price of \$23,900.00. They had wanted \$25,900.00 but would come \$2,000.00 for cash. If financed, it would cost \$552.00 a month for payments for 48 years and would end up costing the town over \$26,500.00. A sole person would have to guarantee the loan. The clerk also advised that any loan could jeopardize the applications for grants and loans for the water projects. She had reviewed the financial aspect of the purchase and advised that there was \$17,067.32 in the street capital fund that could be utilized; \$2000.00 out of general for the delinquent private lots mowed; \$1,000.00 out of sewer for mowing the sewer ponds; \$1,000.00 out of water for mowing around the water storage tank and building; and the rest could be taken from the street operating fund. This would come from the '25-'26 budget and the cash was available. Betty said if we need it, do it. Paul was in agreement and moved to allow Dean to purchase the mower. Betty seconded the motion which passed unanimously. In the discussion Dean mentioned that Meadow Green would take the old one on consignment and try to sell it for the Town if that's what the council wished. Paul asked if we could wait on that decision as he felt it may be a good idea to keep the old one for back up. It could be revisited at a later date.

Under clerk's items: (1) The clerk advised that she had a Teams meeting that morning with Senator Sheehy's financial office and Interstate Engineering concerning the Congressional Directed Spending grant for 2027 supported by Senator Sheehy. Senator Sheehy has been invited to tour the Town's water system and has accepted. This should happen later this summer or early fall. (2) The credit card program has been utilized by several already and all worked well. (3) She questioned the Mayor and council if the July 2 meeting date would be okay due to the holiday. All agreed that it was fine.

Paul requested permission to leave the state for a week. Betty moved to grant him permission. Bobbie seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

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


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk