

Minutes of July 2, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting & Public Hearing for '26-'27 Preliminary Budget

Mayor Surwill called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m., July 2, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, and Petersen were present. Council member Boos was absent. Rob Surwill, animal control officer; and Dean Webb, public works director, were in attendance. Loni Hanson, zoning administrator, was absent.

There was no public comment written or oral received for the '26-27 budget. The Mayor closed the public hearing and opened the regular council meeting. The same parties that attended the public hearing were present for the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Paull 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.

Under correspondence a letter advising of approval for the drinking water revolving fund loan program commitment agreement was read; a letter from the DOC, re: Montana Coal Endowment Program Application Submission stated that based on the review, staff determined our project was eligible for ranking and review, which will be completed at a later date; a letter from Geographic information system, Patrick Benson, GIS coordinator of Carbon County reaching out to our municipality to discuss drafting a Memorandum of Understanding or interlocal agreement covering the county's addressing services for Bearcreek at no cost was read. A MOU template was provided to the council members for their review.

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 40,000 gallons a day. He was searching for the leak in the vicinity of 592 Highway 308. The circuit rider from Montana Rural Water brought a listening device, but with so many sources of water in that location it couldn't be determined where the leak was. Dean advised he would have to pothole the area and see if it could be found. The new mower is working great. Rob had nothing to report on for animal control. The clerk presented the zoning report. Loni had issued a permit to Earl Craig for a fence. She had fielded a lot of inquiries about lots in Bearcreek, but no zoning permits had been applied for.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business the council and Mayor were asked for input on the preliminary budget. The clerk advised that she had attended a meeting with the engineers, lending agencies, DEQ, and the bond counsel. DEQ had approved the plan, the commitment for the loan and forgiveness loan had been given; the ads were placed for the bids and should be received by August 4th. Interstate would advise the Town at their August meeting of the contractor selected.

New Business: All the subcontractors' contracts were offered and accepted by the subcontractors. A motion made by Bobbie, seconded by Paul, renewed the contracts for another year. (2) A special meeting date of August 13, 2026, was chosen for the Bond Resolution meeting for the loan on Phase 1 of the Water Project.

There were no clerk's items.

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


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk