

Minutes of August 6, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting & Public Hearing for '26-'27 Budget

Mayor Surwill called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 6, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, and Petersen were present. Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; Rob Surwill, animal control officer; and Dean Webb, public works director, were in attendance. Cyrina Allen, Carbon County Emergency Manager/Carbon County Public Health Officer was in the audience.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public comment written or oral received for the '26-27 budget. The clerk reported that the taxable value had increased for this year, therefore the mill was worth more resulting in a decrease of 37 mills. The clerk advised there would be an increase in garbage fees due to Republic Service's rate increase. She had called several rural residents to see what their charges were, and it is almost double what the town residents are paying. The clerk mentioned that some of the quotes for the financial review, that's required by the State to have every 3 years, have come in between \$4,000.00-\$8,000.00. This amount comes out of the general finances. 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.

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 3-0.

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. Water usage was up to 45,000 gallons a day. Loni reported that she had again fielded questions, but no permits had been requested. Rob advised that the last 2 delinquent animal licensing tickets were taken care of.

There were no council concerns.

Paul moved to pass the Budget resolution for the fiscal year '26-'27. The motion seconded by Bobbie was passed by a 3-0 vote.

The clerk presented the council with the bid tabulation sheet provided by Interstate Engineering. There were 5 bids received at the bid opening, which Dean had attended. The lowest bid of \$1,094,551.00, received from Askin Const. LLC was higher than the \$972,210.00 estimated by the engineering firm. This resulted in a meeting with representatives from DNRC, Interstate, Bond Counsel, DEQ, and the clerk. Everyone saw this leaving the town with 2 options – go through with phase 1 as planned, which could result in an estimated \$12 a month water rate increase; or par down the job and eliminate 1st street at this time which may bring the bid down to around \$880,000.00. It was pointed out that the contractor had the Town at its mercy as he bid for the whole job and he could increase the cost due to a change order. It could also delay the time of completion. If the contractor stayed at \$880,000 it could result in a \$8.00 water rate increase. Some of the other items the group brought to the town's attention - if you wait there is no guarantee there will be available money when the work needs to be done. It could result in a higher interest rate as it is 2.5% now. DNRC agreed to split the additional amount in half between grant and loan the same as before. DNRC agreed to allow a 30-yr loan instead of the 20-yr loan helping lower the payment amount. It was pointed out that the cost of the project on 1st Street if postponed would come in higher as the bid now was higher than expected due to the increased cost of pipe and availability. If the town waits, additional engineering fees, advertising, bond counsel and other fees will be incurred. This was input by all agencies to help the council make a decision. If the whole project is scraped all the money granted to this point will need to be refunded. The clerk ran through the meeting notes for the Mayor and council advising them they must decide at tonight's council meeting as the contractors were told the bid would be awarded by the end of the following week. A letter from the Town must be submitted to DEQ accepting the bid. DEQ is asking for the letter by the 1st of next week, before they approve the bid to be awarded. Paul moved to follow through with the whole Phase 1 project, which would entail an approximate \$12 increase. The motion was seconded by Bobbie. During discussion a message from Danell was read saying to go through with the whole project. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Cyrina Allen of Carbon County Emergency discussed the Hyper-Reach available free to all towns and cities in Carbon County. She reminded the council that the clerk had enclosed the info in the July water bills. She encouraged all to sign up for the service as the Town can use it for any emergency or water shortage, etc. She advised that she still has her eyes open for grants and all funding available for Bearcreek.

Under clerk's items the clerk reminded everyone of the Aug. 13, 2026, special meeting. She also revisited the website accessibility to meetings that is being mandated by the State, advising she had received a cost estimate of \$2,000.00-\$2,500.00. That would include equipment and set up.

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


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk

THE TOWN OF BEARCREEK COUNCIL'S SPECIAL MEETING AUG. 13, 2026

Mayor Surwill called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on August 13, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan and Petersen were present. Council member Boos joined the meeting by phone. Dean Webb, public works director and the clerk were in attendance. Nathan Bilyeu and Grace Berner of Jackson, Murdo and Grant PC, the bond counsel attorneys were in the audience.

The Mayor advised all the purpose of the special meeting was to review Resolutions 2026-6 (Bond Resolution) and Resolution 2026-7 (Intent to increase water rates) and to approve or disapprove the passage of both.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Mayor introduced Nathan Bilyeu and Grace Berner and turned the meeting over to them to make the council aware of the Resolutions content. Nathan started with the Bond Resolution explaining the state's involvement with the funding with the revolving loan program. The Town will have series A bonds which will be a forgiveness loan if the project is completed and Series B bonds which will need to be paid back like a promissory note. The total amount of \$1,344,000.00 will be split in half for each series. The interest rate will 2.5% for a 30-year term. The money given for the loan forgiveness comes from a federal grant which has a lot of requirements. The Resolution outlines the requirements and provides definitions causing it to be a 70-page document. Nathan went over the Resolution, hitting a lot of the highlights. In closing he brought the council's attention to the fact that all money must be used for the construction of the project only. Upon finishing his narrative, he asked if anyone had questions. Having received no questions, Nathan proceeded to the Intent to Raise the Water Rates Resolution. He explained because the bids came in higher than anticipated there was the need for an increase to meet the additional cost. The clerk had provided the council with a copy of the amended budget as prepared by Interstate reflecting the higher project cost. Nathan provided a rate analysis and how the amount of the increase was arrived at by the increased cost projection. He advised the council they must pass a Resolution of Intent with the amount showing of the increase, direct the clerk to advertise the intent in the paper and mail copies to the water users of a public hearing, which will be held Sept 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Mayor questioned what EDU meant on the rate analysis. He responded it means equivalent dwelling unit. If water users ask to have a vote, remind them that if it goes to a public vote, the statute allows for a deficiency levy which basically means the delinquency of other users will be assessed to all, so not a really good idea to go to public vote. Paul questioned if the contractors knew the amount of the grant/loan. Nathan replied that yes, they do but to go above what they bid, they must request a change order. That change order must be approved by the engineers before it can be done. Paul responded that our engineers do watch out for us. The clerk added that she had to give the engineers kudos as when we went out to bid any changes requested by the contractors were ran through Dean to get his opinion before the engineers allowed it or not. Paul said that's good because he knows Dean understands the money situation.

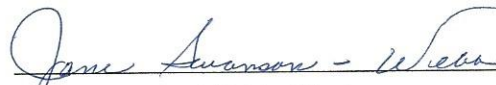
With no further questions the Mayor asked for a motion on Resolution 2026-6 relating to the revenue bonds. Paul moved to pass the Bond Resolution. Bobbie seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion on Resolution 2026-7, the intent to raise water rates. Paul moved to pass the Intent Resolution. The motion was seconded by Bobbie and passed 4-0.

With no further business Bobbie moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Betty and passed unanimously.



Debbie Surwill, Mayor



Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk