

Minutes of Sept. 3, 2026, Bearcreek Council Meeting & Public Hearing for Water Rate Increase

Mayor Surwill called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 3, 2026, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Boos, and Petersen were present. Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; Rob Surwill, animal control officer; and Dean Webb, public works director; were in attendance. Becky Kane, local resident, was in the audience.

. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Mayor opened the public hearing for comments from the public. The Mayor asked if there had been any written comments received. The clerk responded that none had been received. Becky Kane expressed frustration over the water basis as she doesn't use 4,000 gallons a month but gets charged the base rate. She thought there should be a charge for the amount used, not a base rate. Bobby explained that she was in the same situation. The public works director commented that the Town needs x amount of dollars to operate, therefore a base needed to be charged monthly. The Mayor remarked that she understood, but some towns had a higher water rate and there are only 65 water users, the more users the less the charges would be. Loni said Red Lodge base was 3,000 gallons. Becky thanked the council for the information. The Mayor advised that she was appreciative of Ms Kane attending. With no further discussion the Mayor closed the public hearing and opened the regular council meeting. The same parties that attended the public hearing were present at the meeting, except for Ms Kane.

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 Betty, seconded by Bobbie, 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 between 30,000 – 50,000 gallons a day. He reported that the water line construction Phase 1 was to start Sept. 21st and hopefully completed by the end of Oct. When they hit First Street it was going to be tough as the water line ran down the middle of the street and with parking on both sides of the street residents may have to move their vehicles for a couple of hours. Bobby commented that it wasn't a high traffic area. Loni had nothing to report for Zoning. Rob reported that all was fine with animal control.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business Bobbie moved to accept Resolution 2026-8, Increase of Water Rates. The motion seconded by Danell pass 3-0.

There was no new business.

The clerk didn't have any items to report.

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


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk