

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 4, 2017**

The April 4, 2017 meeting of the Bridger Town Council was held at 108 South D Street in Bridger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was brought to order by Mayor Shultz at 7:00 pm. Council members present were George "Butch" Wilm, Shala Cullum and Mark DeRudder. Others present were: Doug Asbury, Mike Birrer, Melva Lightburn, Chris and Joan Miller, Betty Scheetz, Clayton Foust, Library Director Krystal Zentner Judge Bert Kraft, Attorney Hope Freeman, Police Chief Mike Buechler, Public Works Director Tim Goldsberry and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The first item on the agenda was public comment on the agenda. There was no public comment from the gallery.

The next order of business was to appoint a council member to fill Randy Novakovich's seat. Mayor Shultz asked for each candidate to speak to the council about why they wanted to be on the council. Doug Asbury Spoke first followed by Mike Birrer and lastly, we heard from Chris Miller. Next the Mayor spoke about future opportunities that will arise for the candidates that are not chosen. There was some discussion amongst the council regarding what good candidates we have available, the direction the council wants to go, the background of some of the candidates and the fact that this is a very tough decision. After the discussion, Councilwoman Cullum motioned to appoint Chris Miller to the council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilm. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye and Councilman DeRudder – aye. New council member Chris Miller was sworn in by Clerk Sweet.

Next on the agenda was appoint a council president. There was discussion regarding the longest standing member of the council being a good choice for the president. After that Councilman DeRudder motioned to nominate Councilman Wilm as the new council president. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the March meeting. Councilwoman Cullum motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

The next item of business was the approval of claims. The department heads answered questions regarding claims. Councilman DeRudder moved to approve claims. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilm. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

Next was committee reports. Melva Lightburn was present for the Parks and Recreation Committee. She inquired about the light at the skating rink and the lights at the pool. The skating rink light can be upgraded but at the expense of the Town not Northwestern Energy.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. There was no correspondence to be read.

Zoning applications were the next order of business. The first application was from Tom Ragan for a garage. Mayor Shultz read the application and the council looked at the plans that were included. Some discussion was had about the plans and the setbacks for that part of Town. Councilwoman Cullum motioned to approve the application, seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye. Next was an application from Clayton Foust for a deck, fence and garage. Mayor Shultz read the application and the council looked at the map that was included. Some discussion was had regarding the garage being outside the setbacks for that area. Mr. Foust stated that he had spoken to most of his neighbors and they did not mind the garage being outside the setbacks. Councilman Wilm motioned to approve the application, seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye. The third application for consideration was from Doug and Dorothy Asbury. Mayor Shultz read the application and the council looked at the map that was included. Councilman DeRudder motioned to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Miller. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye. The fourth application was from Dan'l Donges for a fence. Mayor Shultz read the application. Police Chief Buechler informed the council that there is a neighbor dispute over the tree located on the property line where this fence will be placed. Attorney Freeman advised the council that they are only approving what is on the application thus any decisions about cutting down the tree or how to go around it would

be up to the homeowner's. Councilwoman Cullum motioned to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Miller. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

The next item was the crow's nest at the rodeo grounds. Clerk Sweet informed the council that the fees for the structural engineer would be approximately \$1,000.00 and the fee for Mr. McDowell to draft the plans would be approximately \$1,500.00. The motion was made by Councilman DeRudder to go ahead and have Mr. McDowell draft the plans and get the structural engineers approval. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

Next was the lease with R and M Logistics. Attorney Freeman had drafted a one year lease with some address changes. Councilman DeRudder motioned to accept the lease. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

Next was the Airport Board Agreement. There was discussion regarding the portions of the lease that should or should not be changed and the list of Merrill Pfeifer's suggestions. Attorney Freeman advised the council to accept Merrill's suggestions on Items 3, 4 and 5 but to leave Item 8 as is. She also suggested the Town draft their own lease agreements for the hangers on the property. Councilwoman Cullum motioned to accept the lease with the suggestions made by Attorney Freeman, to change the language regarding lease agreements for hangers, to change Items 3, 4 and 5, and leave Item 8 as is. The motion was seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

The next item was Resolution #195: Library Pay Scale. Library Director Zentner asked the council to table this matter until the June meeting so that she could consult with her library board one last time before the council votes on the pay scale. Councilman Wilm motioned to table the item until the June meeting. Councilwoman Cullum seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye.

Public comment on items not on the agenda was next. Mayor Shultz explained the recent plans for the factory building and informed everyone that our application for the Economic Development Grant to do a feasibility study on the factory building was rejected. Councilman Miller suggested that we speak to universities with architect programs about doing a feasibility study as it would likely be at a lower cost to the Town. Library Director Zentner knew of a program in Bozeman called Community Design Center. Councilwoman Cullum will call Sue Taylor and see what she thinks.

Attorney Freeman had nothing to report.

Judge Kraft presented his reports and stats for March.

Library Director Zentner asked Clerk Sweet to explain how the claim for the library roof progressing. Clerk Sweet explained what M.M.I.A. had said about the roof. We now need to find contractors to submit bids.


PWD Goldsberry informed the council that he pumped out the pool and was able to access the crack in the corner. He presented several options for how to proceed. The council would like him to call a pool company to give us an estimate and time line on repairs and then we can make decisions from there. We may need to caulk it for this season and have repairs done in the fall.

Chief Buechler presented the council with stats for the month of March.

Clerk Sweet asked the council for some guidance on the employee group health benefits. She would like to offer a menu of plan options instead of just one choice. She assured the council that she can keep the Town's cost per employee the same as previous years. The council thought that would be advantageous to offer employees more choice in their healthcare plan. Clerk Sweet said they would have their choice of plans starting in July 2017 with open enrollment in May and June 2017.

Mayor Shultz had nothing to report.

There being no further business Councilman DeRudder motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Miller – aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.



Cliff Shultz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk