

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

The February 7, 2023 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 called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Shultz. Other council members present were Dustin Taylor, Shala Cullum, Mark DeRudder and Doug Asbury. Others present were Carbon County DES Coordinator Cyrina Allen, Dylan Sedlacek, Jesse Bassett, Ben Walker, Carbon County Commissioner Scott Miller, Denise Rivette, Sargent Codi Peters, Judge Bert Kraft, Library Director Krystal Zentner, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich, Chief Mike Buechler, and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The first item on the agenda was public comment. DES Coordinator Cyrina Allen mentioned training that will be held in Billings in April regarding the regional hazard mitigation planning. She also asked that the Town be willing to start a stockpile of flood mitigation items such as shovels, sandbag items.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the January regular meeting. A motion to approve the corrected meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Cullum seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

The next item of business was the approval of claims. The department heads answered questions regarding the claims. Councilwoman Cullum made a motion to approve the claims including check #34069 to #34096. Also, electronic checks #-98167 to #-98162. The motion was seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Next on the agenda was the Payroll Summary. Councilwoman Cullum motioned to approve the payroll summary including check #34035 and #34066 to #34067. Also, electronic checks #-85838 to #-85805. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Committee reports were the next item on the agenda. No committee reports were offered.

The next item for discussion was the possible sale of some Town property. Jesse Bassett and Ben Walker were present from Tri County Telephone (TCT). TCT would be interested in purchasing a piece of property from the Town. Mayor Shultz started the discussion by explaining how a municipality would go about selling a property per Montana code. Mr. Waller explained that TCT needs a building to be a central location for their fiber optic cables. TCT preference would be to buy but they would consider a long-term lease. Discussion was had regarding a lease would simplify the situation. Clerk Sweet will talk to the town attorney and the topic will be on the agenda for March.

The next on the agenda was the renewal of several lease agreements. Discussion was had regarding what the percentage increase should be for rent this year. A motion to approve all four lease agreements with a 3% increase was made by Councilwoman Cullum, seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

The next item on the agenda was Sand Creek Canal Project. DES Coordinator Cyrina Allen explained that the Town could decide on which project we want to move forward. Once we are committed to move forward, we can work out the details of a MOU with Mr. Sedlacek to detail how his funding will fit into the project and what he will gain from the project. Councilman DeRudder made a motion to pursue option 3.3 from the Tetra Tech Proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

The next item on the agenda was a raise on the credit limit for the Library Director's credit card. Library Director Zentner explained that they will need to continue to order from Amazon but they have discontinued their current business program. To continue to order, she will need to use her Town credit card. In order to do that, she will need the limit raised on her card to \$2,000. A motion to approve the credit limit raise was made by Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Attorney Kuntz was not present.

Judge Kraft presented the stats for the month of January.

Library Director Zentner had nothing additional to report.

Public Works Director Novakovich reported on projects they are working on.

Chief Buechler presented his stats for the month of January.

Clerk Sweet explained some changes that may need to be made to the employee personnel policy. This may require a special meeting as the changes, if any, need to be made by March 1, 2023.

Mayor and Town Council reported that free food delivery will be February 23, 2023.

There being no further business, Councilman DeRudder motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Clifford Shultz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk