

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

The March 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 Kari Buechler, Justin Olden, Annie Halland, Ben Walker, Denise Rivette, Sargent Codi Peters, Judge Bert Kraft, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich, Chief Mike Buechler, and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The first item on the agenda was public comment. No public comment was offered.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the February regular meeting. A motion to approve the corrected meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Cullum 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 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 #34100 to #34133. Also, electronic checks #-98161 to #-98155. 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 #34068 and #34097 to #34098. Also, electronic checks #-85804 to #-85772. Councilman Asbury 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. Annie Halland was present from the Historic Preservation Commission Board. She updated the council regarding the purpose of the historic preservation commission board. They are an advisory board for the historical needs of the county.

The next item on the agenda was a decision regarding construction debris being burned on town property. Kari Buechler from Millennium Construction was present to explain the project to the council. She answered questions from the council regarding the permit process from DEQ and how the burning would occur. Mayor Shultz asked Town Attorney Kuntz to explain the indemnification agreement, which he did. A motion was made by Councilman Taylor to allow the burning of a construction debris pile by Millennium Construction so long as an indemnification agreement is signed, and the Town is listed as an additional insured on the insurance policy for the project. The motion was 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 for discussion was the possible sale of some Town property. Ben Walker was present from Tri County Telephone (TCT). He explained to the council that since a sale would be an unpredictable situation, TCT would be interested in a long-term lease instead. Mayor Shultz asked Clerk Sweet and Attorney Kuntz get the details and to draft a lease agreement for the next meeting.

The next two items listed on the agenda, Sand Creek Canal project and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update, were inadvertently placed on the agenda. Neither topic was discussed.

The next item was the property renewal for our insurance for Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority, the Town's insurance provider. Clerk Sweet reviewed the property, vehicle and mobile equipment lists. She pointed out the changes made by the department heads for the upcoming fiscal year. A motion to approve the schedule as presented was made by Councilman Asbury, seconded by Councilwomen Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Taylor – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Attorney Kuntz had nothing further to report.

Judge Kraft presented the stats for the month of February.

Library Director Zentner was not present.

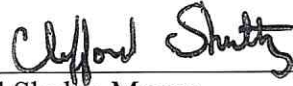
Public Works Director Novakovich reported that the bridge on Fairlane will be repaired April 4, 2023 and the road will be shut down several weeks in advance to get ready for the repair.

Chief Buechler presented his stats for the month of February.

Clerk Sweet had nothing to report.

Mayor and Town Council: Councilman DeRudder asked that the outside lights at the factory building be re-installed. It is difficult to see at night.

There being no further business, Councilman DeRudder motioned to adjourn. 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. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.



Clifford Shultz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk