

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON JULY 8, 2025**

The July 8, 2025 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 DeRudder. Other council members present were Ryan Carson, Shala Cullum, Cliff Shultz and Doug Asbury. Others present were Lonna Weiss, Shirley Schwend, Dana Zier, Angela Kallevig, Wendy Bratsky, Johnny Price, Assistant Public Works Director Dale Bemis, Brittany and Tyler Anthony, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich, Attorney Ray Kuntz, Judge Bert Kraft, Library Director Krystal Zentner, Chief Mike Buechler, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. Lonna Weiss thanked the public works crew for all their work on the new welcome to Bridger monument in the Jim Bridger Park.

The next item was correspondence. No correspondence.

Next on the agenda was the committee reports. Angela Kallevig gave an update on for the planning board. Dana Zier gave a report for the historic preservation commission board. She spoke at length regarding the old town hall building.

Special Events Applications were next on the agenda. There was only one application from the Jim Bridger Days committee for the annual celebration on July 18-20, 2025. Mayor DeRudder reviewed the application. A motion to approve the application and waiving the two meetings ahead requirement was made by Councilman Shultz, seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Resolution #290 to adopt a wage scale for the library. Library Director Zentner explained the wage scale. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Shultz, seconded by Councilwoman Cullum. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Resolution #292 to adopt the 2024 Eastern Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan was next on the agenda. Clerk Sweet explained that the wrong title had been used on Resolution #291. This resolution will correct that error. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilwoman Cullum seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Next on the agenda was investment of the certificate of deposit money at the Bank of Bridger. Discussion was had regarding the new rate of 4% and other rates that may be available. Clerk Sweet will update again when / if the rate changes.

Discussion regarding the old town hall was next on the agenda. Clerk Sweet had spoken to a company that does asbestos testing. They provided a rough quote of \$2,800 to \$3,800. Much discussion was had regarding the building, other buildings in Town, square footage needed for town services, building codes for commercial versus residential. Councilwoman Cullum made a motion to complete the asbestos testing on the old town hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shultz. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye.

Next was discussion regarding a new town hall. All items regarding a new town hall were discussed during the discussion regarding the old town hall.

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. Department heads answered questions regarding the claims. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Cullum and seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye. The items included were minutes from 05-06-25 and 06-06-2025 regular meetings. Claim checks #35281 to #35328 and electronic checks #-97955 to #-97946 for May. Also claim checks #35358 to #35388 and electronic checks #-97945 to -97936 for June. Payroll checks #35279 to #35280 and #35283 to #35285 and electronic checks #-84766 to #-84739 for May. Also payroll checks #35286 to #35289 and #35329 to 35346 and electronic checks #-84738 to #-84705 for June.

Attorney Kuntz was not present.

Judge Kraft presented his reports for the month of June and informed the council if they want any other items added to the court monthly report, just let him know.

Library Director Zentner reported on the summer reading program.

Public Works Director Novakovich updated the council regarding projects he is working on.

Chief Buechler presented his stats for the month of June.

Clerk Sweet reported on the hiring of the assistant clerk, court clerk, and custodian position. Judge Kraft and Clerk Sweet are very happy with her performance so far!

Mayor and Town Council: nothing to report.

There being no further business Councilwoman Cullum motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Asbury. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman Shultz – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Attest:



Mark DeRudder, Mayor



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk