

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2026**

The January 5, 2026, 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 Ryan Carson, Angela Kallevig, Mark DeRudder and Tyler Anthony. Others present were Lonna "Peach" Weiss, Cheryl McCarten, Cole Mettes, Steven and Sarah Fendler, Mark Huller, Dillon Thomas, Scott Griswold, Rick and Deb Newton, Annie Halland, Dana Zier, Doug VanVulkenburgh, Tony Clark, Judge Bert Kraft, Library Director Krystal Zentner, Attorney Ray Kuntz, Chief Mike Buechler, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. Peach Weiss thanked the Public Works crew for their hard work on the campground upgrades. She also inquired as to how that project was being funded.

Electing a council president was next on the agenda. Councilman Carson made a motion to appoint Mark DeRudder as the council president. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye, and Councilman Anthony – aye.

Decision on council board position for the Ambulance Board was next on the agenda. The Ambulance Board bylaws require that two council members serve on the board. Councilman DeRudder was previously on the board and would like to continue. Councilman Anthony also volunteered. Clerk Sweet will inform the Ambulance Board of the changes.

The next item was correspondence. No correspondence.

Next on the agenda was the committee reports. Annie Halland spoke for the historic preservation commission. She would like to step down from this board. She will get a letter of resignation to Clerk Sweet. Dana Zier is willing to finish Annie's term. Clerk Sweet will put that new appointment on the agenda for February.

Next on the agenda was the Clarks Fork Rural Fire District #2. Several Rural Fire Board members were present to discuss with the council the potential of annexation of the Town of Bridger into the rural fire district. Steve Fendler gave a history of how the two separate, but collaborative fire departments came to be what they are today. Steven Fendler went on to explain how the petition and approval process would happen if they continue forward with this process. They plan to have six public meetings to inform the public and get signatures for the petition.

The next agenda item was discussion / decision regarding the old town hall. Public Works Director Novakovich has researched what it would cost to put a new roof on the old town shop located at 206 S C St. Some discussion was had regarding the cost versus a new structure. Public Works Director Novakovich will move forward with replacing the roof so the structure can be usable again.

Next was discussion regarding a new town hall. There were no new updates.

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Kallevig and seconded by Councilman Carson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye, and Councilman Anthony – aye. Minutes included were December 9, 2025 regular meeting. Claim checks #35646 to #35677. Electronic checks #-97901 to #-97894 for December. Payroll checks #35603 and #35639 to #35644 and electronic checks #-84530 to #-84498 for December.

Attorney Kuntz had nothing new to report.

Judge Kraft presented his stats for the month of December.

Library Director Zentner has nothing to report.

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

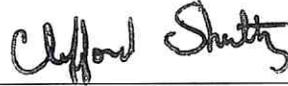
Chief Buechler presented his stats for the month of December.

Clerk Sweet informed the council that the audit is happening this week, and she will need someone for an exit interview on Thursday.

Mayor and Town Council: Councilman Carson reported that a gutter is falling off the Library building.

At 8:20p the council will go into closed session to discuss litigation strategy. Closed session was ended at 8:46pm. No decision was needed as the closed session was informational only.

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, and Councilman Asbury – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.



Cliff Shultz Mayor

Attest:



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk