

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING  
HELD ON MAY 5, 2026**

The May 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 and Mark DeRudder. Others present were Rensey, Sophia, Mille, Lainey and Chosen Webb, John Jordan, Mark Huller, Scott Griswold, Dana Zier, Dylan Sedlacek, Cole Mettes, Steve Fendler, Red Lodge Mayor Dave Westwood, Attorney Ray Kuntz, Chief Mike Buechler, Chief of Police Jordan Webb, Judge Bert Kraft, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. None was offered. Jordan Webb was sworn in as Chief of Police.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. Mayor Shultz read an email from the Bank of Bridger stating that the bank is reducing the CD rate.

Next on the agenda was the committee reports. Dana Zier offered information regarding the Jennings Mahr cabin.

Next was the airport board agreement. Councilman DeRudder informed the council that the airport agreement is still undetermined. Historically, there has been a joint airport agreement between Carbon County, City of Red Lodge and the Town of Bridger. The City of Red Lodge has been working on a new agreement for several years. The airport board is proposing that Bridger have a separate agreement for just the Town of Bridger and Red Lodge can seek their own agreement. Dave Westwood, Mayor of Red Lodge was present and made comments regarding the joint airport agreement. He summarized the changes that the Red Lodge council has requested to the old agreement.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the petition to annex the Town of Bridger into the Clarks Fork Rural Fire District #2. A brief description of the process was presented by Clerk Sweet and Attorney Kuntz. Some discussion was had regarding the process and the timeline for the annexation. A motion to approve the annexation was made by Councilman Carson, seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye and Councilman DeRudder – aye. A work session with the fire department and the council will be held on June 2, 2026 to finalize the details.

The next agenda item was approval of a quote from a new work comp carrier for the fiscal year 2026-2027. A motion to approve the quote from the Montana State Fund was made by Councilwoman Kallevig, seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye and Councilman DeRudder – aye.

Next was the reappointment of the Town Attorney. Ray Kuntz has been the Town attorney for six years. He is reappointed every two years. A motion to reappoint Ray Kuntz as the Town Attorney was made by Councilman DeRudder, seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye and Councilman DeRudder – aye.

The next agenda item was discussion / decision regarding the old town hall. Clerk Sweet needed information regarding the building for the engineers scheduled to do the assessment on the building. Discussion was had regarding the building materials used at the time it was built and what year each piece was built. Clerk Sweet will pass along the information gathered to the engineers and Beartooth RC&D.

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 and Councilman DeRudder – aye. Minutes included were April 7, 2026 regular meeting. Claim checks #35789 to #35825. Electronic checks #-97869 to #-97863 for April. Payroll electronic checks #-84370 to #-84333 for April.

Attorney Kuntz updated the council on items he is working on.

Judge Kraft presented his stats for April.

Library Director Zentner was not present.

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

Chief Buechler presented his stats for the month of April.

Clerk Sweet had nothing to report.

Mayor and Town Council: Councilman Carson reported a tree by the old town hall looks like we might need to remove it. There was also discussion regarding living in RVs around town.


There being no further business Councilwoman Kallevig motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, and Councilman Asbury – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.



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Cliff Shultz Mayor

Attest:



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Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk