

REGULAR MEETING THE TOWN OF WINNETT HELD May 14th, 2025

THOSE PRESENT– Leo Tarplee – Acting Mayor (Dave absent)

Brad Olson, Tom Tiarks, and Levi Johnson - Council

Josh Schreiner - Director of Public Works

Savannah Moore – Clerk & Treasurer

Kathleen Johnson – Snowy Mtn Development Appointee

Bill Cassell – Guest

- I. Call Meeting to Order:** Leo called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Review and Adopt Agenda – No revisions.
- II. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Minutes:
 - Tom made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 9th, Levi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Claims:
 - Brad made a motion to approve the May claims, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comment –**
 - a. Welcome Visitors – Opportunity to allow public comment on any public matter not otherwise on the agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency. MCA-2-3-103
 - Kathleen requested more gravel on her road; Bill suggested Josh visit with Ray about getting millings from the County
- IV. Communications**
 - a. Reminder about the Cheers to Volunteers event the council is invited to at the PCCC next week.
- V. Reports**
 - a. Pool
 - New Staff Approval – Levi made a motion to hire Aliyah Lopez as a lifeguard and Aubrey Grant as an attendant, Brad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Tom made a motion to give the returning attendants a .25 cent increase above minimum wage to match the returning lifeguards .25 yearly raise, Levi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Discussion is had on the Town covering the costs of the CPR/Lifeguard Certificates – Levi made a motion to pay for the cost of the certificates, Brad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Snowy Mountain Development Appointee – Kathleen Johnson
 - A meeting will be held in Roundup on June 26th, let Kathleen know who is attending to let Snowy Mountain know in advance.
 - c. Conservation District Appointee, Urban Supervisors – Absent, nothing to report.
 - d. Sheriff Department - Absent, nothing to report.
 - e. Fire Department – Absent, nothing to report.
 - f. Public Works – Josh Schreiner
 - Gravel – Cat Creek pit is still shut down by DEQ; Casino Creek is \$700.00 for a delivered load of ¾ inch crush road mix from Lewistown. Discussion is had on gravel. Tom made a motion to purchase 10 loads (assuming the

first load looks and works good) of gravel from casino creek, Levi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- Potholes – Hardrives quote \$5,500.00 for 1 ton of durapatch. Discussion is had on potholes.
- Levi made a motion to purchase one pallet of cold patch from Normont for Josh to fill holes with, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Tom made a motion to hire Hardrives for 1 ton of durapatching, discussion is had, Levi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Park – Josh put new sprinkler heads on at the park and the spray does seem to be improved. SAS aerated and fertilized, Josh put down grass seed in bare patches, sprinklers are on at the park and city hall
- Discussion is had on who will be maintaining the park – Josh will talk to Heidi and see if she would like to maintain and beautify the park and City Hall yard again this summer.
- Upper Well – is leaking out of the top cap. Singley thinks the upper well may have a plugged drain; he gave Josh suggestions to be able to run without the issue; a rough estimate for a repair is \$5,750.00 (it is not a dire fix and still in good working condition).
- Jeff Matthews – Josh talked to Dan about Jeff's pickup being parked in the street; he doesn't see a problem with it and will not be pursuing change. If this parking were to cause any kind of incident, the Town will not be held liable.

g. Clerk – Savannah Moore

- The council received the revenue to actual budget report, expenditure to actual budget report, and cash reports in their packets, as well as bank statements for 1st Bank & STIP for previous month.
- TTS has a check that hasn't been cashed since 2023 – Savannah will reach out and see if they need a new check reissued as suggested by the council.
- Brad, Tom, and Dave's terms will be ending this year; the deadline to file is June 16th.
- Jeff Matthews and Riley Hughes are on the delinquent report for this month; 30 day notice letters have been mailed to both. Lurene is still working on paying hers down consistently.
- The ending checking account balance for April was \$141,963.65.

h. Council:

- Leo: Reporting under Mayor agenda item.
- Brad: Nothing to report.
- Levi: Nothing to report.
- Tom: Nothing to report.

i. Mayor – Leo

- Concern and frustration has been expressed in regards to Emily Olson piling belongings up against park (and Levi's) fence outside of her property line as well as animals rubbing up and jumping on the fence.
- Savannah will work directly with Dan on delivering a notice and what can be done for this issue.

VI. Old Business

a. Chlorinator Shed Project

- Chamberlin Construction is still a minimum of 2-3 weeks out; his bid was for \$4,160.00
- Eric Ritter bid siding at \$900.00 for steel and \$25/hour at approximately 3 days of work – The council is interested in Eric doing the job but would like a set amount for the bid before moving forward.
- b. Old City Hall Renovation and Repair – No new updates.
- c. MT Main St Program
 - Charsi submitted the application to join, no further updates.
- d. Park Improvement Project
 - Josh is still waiting for a bid on the concrete removal and new concrete.
- e. Back – Up Operator (water and wastewater)
 - Bill passed his water and wastewater test – Tom made a motion to hire Bill at Ralph's current hourly wage, Brad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Discussion is had on getting Ralph a thank you gift for his years of service. Brad made a motion to gift Ralph a \$350 visa gift card, a card, and a nice custom cup for his years of service, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Levi mentioned gifting Mary a custom cup for her years of service as well, discussion is had and there is no objection to gifting Mary a personalized cup as well.

VII. New Business

- a. Morrison-Maierle –
 - There will be \$206,415 remaining in contingency for the wastewater project; of that \$129,240 is part of the loan. The options are to add on to the project to spend the rest of the money (the grant money will be spent no matter what) or have a smaller loan amount. A loan will still be necessary to complete the project even with the remaining contingency.
 - Discussion is had – the council is not interested in adding on to the wastewater project with the exception of purchasing (not installing) extra blowers – Savannah will find out if this can be done within the project.
 - Liquidated damages of \$750/day May 2nd – May 6th Engineering & RPR \$3,214.50; a part was stuck at the Canadian border making it unable for them to complete their work by May 1st. Discussion is had – COP has been great to work with and super helpful so with that in mind Levi made a motion to wave liquidated damages fee, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - The project is substantially complete; they are waiting for the permanent stairs for the UV building to arrive, temporary stairs are in place now.
- b. Stahly Engineering – No new updates.
- c. Ordinance Book Review
 - Discussion is had on having a yearly fee schedule, keeping all fees individual per ordinance, or just using the general penalty fee for all ordinances – The council thinks a yearly fee schedule would be the most efficient with a yearly review. Savannah will work on starting the process for that change for the June meeting.
- d. Employee Wages FY 2025-26 (COLA increases)

- The state rate cost of living allowance for 2025 is 2.5% - Savannah thinks this is a high enough percentage to keep wages on track and never getting too close to minimum wage.
- Heidi would like to be able to contribute to PERS with her custodian position; this would cost the Town around \$20.00 per month to have her enrolled.
- Discussion is had.
- Levi made a motion to give all regular (year round) employees a 3.5% cost of living wage increase, discussion is had, Brad seconds the motion and it passes 3-1. Levi - aye, Tom - nay (2.5% is high enough for a cola increase), Brad - aye, Leo - aye.
- Levi made a motion to enroll Heidi as a PERS member through the Town, Brad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Items for Next Agenda

IX. Adjourn Meeting 6:35 PM.

- a. Levi made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 PM, Brad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

X 

David Harris
Mayor

X 

Savannah Moore
Town Clerk & Treasurer

Claims Paid:

#2989	Rural Development	\$845.00
#2990	Mid Rivers	\$241.86
#2991	Morrison Maierle	\$25,166.71
#2992	Jones Law Firm	\$390.00
#2993	Fisher's Technology	\$38.82
#2994	Aqua Tech Lab	\$25.00
#2995	John Deere Financial	\$75.74
#2996	Black Mountain Software	\$9,970.20
#2997	Energy Labs	\$423.00
#2998	Hawkins	\$524.06
#2999	City Service Valcon	\$880.73
#3000	MRWS	\$250.00
#3001	Fergus Electric	\$2,478.20
#3002	FNBO	\$454.73
#3003	Winnett Volunteer Fire Dept	\$1,000.00
#3004	Utilities Underground Locate	\$7.00
#3005	DEQ	\$70.00
#3006	John Deere Financial	\$248.85
#3007	COP	\$439,723.07
#3008	Dept of Revenue	\$4,441.65