

Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

December 15, 2025

Mayor DeBoer opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Jeff Davis, Justin Ferguson, and Leonard Woehler.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Jim Lippert, City Attorney, City Judge Jessie Connolly, Monica DeCock, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, and Norene Brown, Animal Control Officer

Public: Lee Andreas, Crystal Eldridge from Great West Engineering, Mark Stephens, AJ Lorenzen, Anita Dore, Mark Norem, Denise Winjum, Debi Hammond, Justin Arlian, Linda Brunckhorst, Jason R Ferguson, Yumiko Ferguson, and Michael Shirley

Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Ryan Coffman was not able to attend the meeting. Mayor DeBoer stated that the information on the Republic Services rate increase is in the packet. The rate will increase 4.5% per their contract and will be effective January 1, 2026.

Mayor DeBoer presented the Memorandum of Understanding to increase the county weight credit from \$120 per ton to \$140 per ton. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the First Amendment to Municipal Materials Management and Lease Agreement, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer told the council that when transfer site rates were increased, they did not increase rates for when the scale is frozen. This would update those rates to reflect the increase in transfer site fees that was previously passed. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the transfer site frozen scale rates, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Crystal Eldridge from Great West Engineering presented the Capital Improvements Plan for the City of Big Timber. Mayor DeBoer read Resolution #1051: A Resolution to adopt the City of Big Timber 2025 Capital Improvements Plan. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve Resolution #1051: A Resolution to adopt the City of Big Timber 2025 Capital Improvements Plan, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer explained that the city did not need to approve anyone for the Airport Board. We currently have the two members needed from the city on the board.

Mayor DeBoer appointed Lee Andreas and Heath Nation to serve on the Board of Adjustments. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve Lee Andreas and Heath Nation for a three-year term for the Board of Adjustments, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer appointed Norene Brown and Mark Curry to serve on the City/County Planning Board. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve Norene Brown and Mark Curry to the City/County Planning Board, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried with Councilmembers Baird, Ferguson and Woehler voting aye. Councilman Davis voted nay.

Mayor DeBoer presented Kelli Brewer to serve on the Tree Board for another term. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve Kelli Brewer for the Tree Board, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer presented the recommendation to award the City Hall demolition project to Bomber Mountain Demo out of Ranchester, Wyoming. They were the low bidder at \$40,450. Jim Lippert stated that unless the Council can put forth facts to reject the lowest bid, then the Council needed to approve the lowest bidder. He added that he looked in to Bomber Mountain Demo and didn't see anything that would be detrimental to the city. ^{As a result of Jim's explanation,} Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve Bomber Mountain Demo to demo the City Hall, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert presented the contract for the City Hall demolition project. Jim explained that he put in a start date of January 30, 2025, with work to be completed by March 31, 2025. The Council asked Jim to add an additional paragraph concerning the additional asbestos testing that will need to be done. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the contract for city hall demolition as amended, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer presented the options for a new City Hall. Councilman Woehler stated that the county is looking at making changes to the County Courthouse building. Judge Connolly stated that today the commissioners decided to no longer pursue those changes and is now looking at building a new building behind the courthouse and is willing to talk with the city about being part of it. The County will have a public hearing in January to start getting input about the project. Councilman Woehler would still like to see a new City Hall building downtown and feels it is important to look towards the future. He would like the city to let the idea of combining with the county to build a new building play out a little bit and see if the city and county can work together and build something special. Councilman Davis made a motion to untangle the City Hall discussion. Motion did not receive a second.

Mayor DeBoer stated there were two options for an interim animal control location. One was to rent a space from Jeremy Roberts for \$500 month. The other is to rent a space from Susan McAdams who has agreed to do it rent free provided the city pay for any additional water or heat used. Public Comment: Mark Stephens said by using the old vet clinic, the deputies could have access to take dogs down there and wouldn't have to call Norene during the night and it would save on her overtime. AJ Lorenzen asked how many animals Norene has had to house at once. Councilman Davis made a motion to use the McAdams building for temporary animal control, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by Councilmen Davis, Ferguson, and Woehler voting aye. Councilwoman Baird voted nay.

City Clerk/Treasurer, Hope Mosness asked the Council for approval to destroy the records listed on the RM88 #16 form. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve RM88 #16 form, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of November, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Woehler asked Deputy Ferguson what the Sheriff's Department used the training money they receive from the city for. Deputy Ferguson explained that a lot of the training is done through the

state by the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. They also go to other certified trainings in Billings and Bozeman that are put on by MELA as well. There are also specialized trainings they attend sometimes that are out of state such as the weed trainings they do for the schools.

Public Comment: Mark Stephens asked if the council has a plan for the city hall building. He asked when they are making their considerations for City Hall that the Council members remember that Mark Norem at one time sued the city, the mayor, and all but one councilmember over Dornix Park. Mark Norem replied that he has never sued the city. Mark Stephens stated that Mark Norem's name is on the list and that the city lost weeks of wages dealing with the lawsuit and it was a waste of time. Councilman Ferguson added that the consent agreement for Dornix Park came as a result of this lawsuit. Mark Norem asked why he was being singled out about this. Mark Stephens responded that he is worried about Mark Norem suing the city again if something doesn't go right if they purchase his building. Mark Curry thanked the council for their work on the city hall and doesn't think they get paid enough. He thinks that city hall is important, but doesn't think it should be at the top of the list. He feels that bringing revenue to the city is more important. He feels money should be spent to fix the roads. He thinks French drains along McLeod St would be a great idea. He also thinks we need a sign that says Big Timber to bring people into town. Mark Stephens stated that the Senior Pantry asked to use the City Hall temporarily and ended up staying there for 14 years. He added that while it is a great organization, the city is not responsible to house them. AJ Lorenzen asked if anyone has looked at the garage doors at the transfer site. He stated that if the doors don't close the garbage flies out. Linda Brunckhorst asked if the city can sand the city streets. AJ Lorenzen added that the sanding priorities should be more than just sanding the intersections.

Council Concerns: Councilman Woehler stated there is a large pothole as you turn right at The Fort and go down 5th Avenue.

Mayor DeBoer thanked the Council for their work and appreciated all that they have done. He thanked the public for their input. He encouraged them to talk with their councilman about issues they see. He congratulated Justin Ferguson on being elected mayor. He thanked city employees, Judge Connolly, and Jim Lippert for all they do to keep the city running. He thanked Monica and Hope for their work.

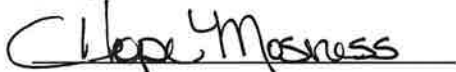
Judge Jessie Connolly swore in the newly elected officials: Justin Ferguson – Mayor, Leonard Woehler – Councilman Ward 1, and Mike Duval – Councilman Ward 2.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm seconded by Councilman ^{Ferguson}. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.



Greg DeBoer, Mayor
Justin Ferguson

ATTEST:



Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer