

Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

March 17, 2025

Mayor DeBoer opened the Public Hearing at 6:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Justin Ferguson, Jeff Davis via phone, Leonard Woehler was absent.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Schar-A-Lee Smith, Sandra Smith, Connie Shipman, Michael Shipman, Mike Shirley, Dee Beley, Angela Selby, Jill Brown, Daryl Todd, Stan Todd, Gail Payne, Paul Whited, Justin Arlian, Anita Dore, Tom Sharp, Sarah Gregie, Tammy Kober, Lauren Dillon, Billi J Sims, Justin O'Connell, and Lee Andreas

Mayor DeBoer called for public comment on the proposed garbage rate increase.

Public Comment: Sarah Gregie wanted to know the background of the contract with Republic Services and why there is going to be such a large increase in rates. She stated that the city is the one that chose Republic Services and should have been looking at other options two years ago. Mayor DeBoer explained the contract negotiations that are going on between the city and Republic Services. Daryl Todd is against the increase and would like the city to pursue other options. She doesn't have complaints about the service. Stan Todd would like to see the city pursue other options. He asked if the city has looked at dump sites to avoid hauling charges. Justin Arlian explained the cost of the residential trash. He doesn't think that the cost is fair and we need to increase the rates for the residents and businesses. He stated that it wouldn't be such a dramatic increase if the Council had increased the trash rates each year. Tom Sharp asked if we are billed for recyclable materials and stated that he assumed once the recyclables are contaminated it is charged as trash. Jill Brown stated that they used to throw it in with the trash but now they have a large bin at the transfer site that you can put it in. Tammy Kober presented an information packet to the council to look at what it would cost to possibly have the city do their own garbage collection. Lauren Dillon asked if the city is still looking at a one-year contract. How much time do we have before we make a decision? Mike Shipman asked if the rate increases would help cover any future needs at the transfer site such as a fence. Schar-A-Lee Smith suggested that the city should look at grants to cover the expenses for us to do our own trash collection. Sandra Smith stated that for at least 6 weeks she observed the garbage truck going down her alley and they were picking up the totes by hand. For a company that netted \$2 billion in 2024 they ought to be able to keep their equipment running. Councilman Ferguson stated that we need to add the letter that was submitted by Mr. Harry Welch to the minutes.

Mayor DeBoer closed the public hearing at 6:51pm and opened the Regular City Council meeting.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Mayor DeBoer presented information on the sign variance request from Wade and Tiffany Satre for their new restaurant Twiggy's Delicatessen located at 104 McLeod Street. City Attorney Jim Lippert stated that there was one condition from the planning department regarding the lighting of the sign. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the Planning Board's recommendation for the sign variance for Twiggy's Delicatessen, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Mayor DeBoer read Resolution No. 1035: A Resolution of the City of Big Timber to Increase Rates for Garbage Collection Services. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to table Resolution No. 1035, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Mayor DeBoer read Resolution No. 1036: A Resolution of the City of Big Timber Adopting the 2024 Western Montana Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, Appendices, and Addendum BB. Cliff Brophy stated that Sweet Grass County and the City of Big Timber adopted this plan back in 2020. It allows us to apply for grants if a disaster were to occur. The addendum catches our plan up to date for another five years. He summarized what was in the plan. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution No. #1036, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Mayor DeBoer read Resolution No. 1037: A Resolution Acknowledging Payment of Special Assessment Upon Property Within the City of Big Timber, Montana. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1037, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried with Councilwoman Baird and Councilman Davis voting aye. Councilman Ferguson abstained from the vote.

Mayor DeBoer presented the lease agreement with Circle T Construction for office space while City Hall is being remodeled. Councilman Ferguson asked when the decision was made to use Circle T's office space. He asked if anyone else was given the option to lease space to the city. Mayor DeBoer stated that it has been discussed at multiple meetings. He stated that he had contacted two realtors and other businesses and could not find other office space. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the lease agreement for city offices during the city hall remodel, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried with Councilman Davis and Councilwoman Baird voting aye. Councilman Ferguson voted nay.

Mayor DeBoer stated that the City of Big Timber no longer qualified for the Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grant. Councilman Davis made a motion to reject the application for the Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grant for SCADA updates, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the council present.

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

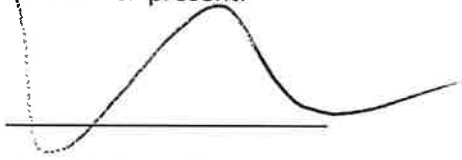
Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of February 2025, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Public Comment: None

Council Concerns: Councilman Ferguson asked if there was an opening date for the new delicatessen in town? Councilman Davis stated that he would like the City Council to discuss the snow plowing

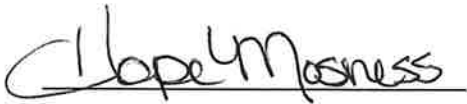
ordinance and look at lowering the number of inches that made it mandatory for plowing. It was agreed that the Council would discuss this in the Fall.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg DeBoer', written over a horizontal line.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hope Mosness', written over a horizontal line.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer