

Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

May 19, 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, Justin Ferguson, Jeff Davis and Leonard Woehler

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney (via phone)

Public: Kenneth Rockeman, Lee Andreas, Crystal Eldridge and Chad Hanson both from Great West Engineering, Justin Arlian, Page Dringman, and Ryan Coffman from Republic Services.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Woehler led a discussion on city street conditions and pothole repairs. He stated that the roads are becoming worse, and we need to fix them. He would like to see them patched properly. He would also like us to make residents aware that we will not repave certain streets until the infrastructure underneath has been replaced. Kris stated we have six blocks that will need to be paved this next fiscal year. Public Comment: Ken Rockeman discussed how the potholes should be repaired. He also stated that the city needs to purchase a durapatcher and then we need to chip seal streets as well.

Page Dringman asked the Council for approval to close the alley part way behind the library for Fiber Fest and Rock the Flock on May 30-31, 2025, to allow food trucks to park along the back of Sheepherder Square. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the alley closure for May 30-31, 2025, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Chad Hanson from Great West Engineering presented information about the need for a second water storage tank and to answer any questions the council may have about the project. Council members had questions about the need for a second storage tank, how the flow and volume works, how the new tank will feed into the city transmission lines, how the project is being funded, and what the grant administration costs are for. Chad Hanson said most of the extra tank is for fire flow or when the water treatment plant or first tank goes offline. Although both tanks will tie into the transmission main, if one has a problem, you can isolate it and still use the other tank to supply water to the city. Councilman Davis asked for examples of other cities our size that have multiple water storage tanks. Chad said Red Lodge, Miles City, Glendive, and Ekalaka have multiple tanks. He also stated that the City of Laurel is looking at a second tank. Chad also explained that the costs in the amendment are included in the overall cost of the project which is \$3,290,000. Councilman Davis says he feels we do not need a second tank as we are already meeting the city's water flow demands. Mayor DeBoer stated that the council has been looking at a second storage tank for 20 years and feels it is important for the future of the city.

Councilman Ferguson stated that although the current storage tank we have will meet the city's demands, we must look at emergency situations and the second tank will supply increased storage to give us time to meet the maximum water demands during these emergency situations. Councilman Woehler agreed. Public Comment: Justin Arlian says we have been out of water twice and to get a \$3 million project that only costs the city \$65,000 makes sense. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to untable Amendment No. 2 to Task Order No. 24, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council. Councilwoman Baird then made a motion to approve Amendment No. 2 to Task Order No. 24, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried with Councilmembers Baird, Ferguson and Woehler voting aye. Councilman Davis voted nay. Chad Hanson will have Tyler and Crystal create a model of the second storage tank to show what the second tank with scenarios will look like. He will give the model to Kris who will then share it with the Council.

Mayor DeBoer presented the final version of the Republic Services Contract. City Attorney Jim Lippert is concerned about the effective date of the contract being January 1, 2025, and that Republic Services will come back and collect the difference in the rates from January 1, 2025 until now. He would like the contract to state that the 2025 rates will be effective June 1, 2025. Public Comment: Justin Arlian asked if the transfer site doors will be repaired. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the Republic Services contract as amended stating in 7.1 with a starting date of June 1, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer did the second reading of Ordinance #496 – Amendment to City Ward Boundaries. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance #496, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer presented information on purchasing a DuraPatcher machine to use to patch potholes on city streets. Kris presented the information in the packet to purchase a 2008 model. The cost will be split with Sweet Grass County, and they will share the piece of equipment. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to reject the purchase of the hot box with trailer, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer asked the Council to approve the installation of a streetlight at 5th Avenue and McLeod Street. Kris stated there would be no cost involved as there was one already installed there, and they would just be replacing it. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the reinstallation of a streetlight, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

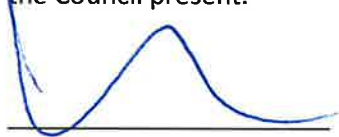
Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of April 2025, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment: None

Council Concerns: Councilman Davis asked about the person living next to the transfer site that was willing to put up a fence around the site to help keep the trash from blowing everywhere. Mayor DeBoer replied that the city would pay upfront, but Zane would replace the boards as needed at no cost. Mayor DeBoer will have the cost and timeline ready for the next City Council meeting. Councilman Ferguson stated that he still has concerns about elections and wonders if we need to add a detail to City Code 30.30 to state that council members will be elected by the people who reside in their ward. Councilwoman Baird asked why Councilman Ferguson feels that council members can only be elected by

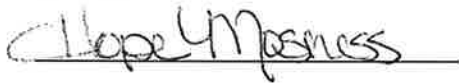
people in their wards. She says she feels like she represents all residents of Big Timber and not just her ward and feels that citizens should have the right to vote for who they want regardless of the ward they live in. Councilman Davis reminded the council that Dawn Curry, County Clerk and Recorder, sent a letter stating that she plans to run the election as by ward. Jim Lippert agrees that our city code is set up to run it by ward and not at large. He's not sure how we could make it clearer, but we could add language from the MCA if needed. Councilman Ferguson stated that when the council voted to approve the lease agreement for Circle T for the temporary office space, he is concerned and wanted to know what other options were explored. Mayor DeBoer explained that he talked with other realtors to see if they knew of any other office space and a modular would be too expensive and without any bathroom facilities. Councilman Ferguson said they had no other opportunity to discuss the cost and that they didn't have any opportunity to discuss the \$1300 cost until the lease agreement was in front of the council. He would like to see the mayor involve the council in other decisions he is making.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

A handwritten signature in blue 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