

## Budget Work Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

July 21, 2025

Councilman Ferguson opened the Budget Work Meeting at 6:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, and Jeff Davis. Leonard Woehler was absent.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Jacque Scott, Library Director, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Lee Andreas, Linda Brunckhorst, Mike Duval, Linda Iversen, Anita Dore, Doug Wiest, Mark Curry, Keegan Nashan, and Patricia Agnew

The Council went over the budget and reviewed changes that were made in preparation to vote on the preliminary budget.

Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst asked the Council to look at the difference between the revenues and expenditures in the general fund.

Councilman Ferguson closed the Budget Work Meeting at 6:45pm and opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7pm.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Doug Weist expressed a concern and asked the Council to consider adding a four-way stop on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Bridge Street. He would like to see additional patrols by law enforcement. He would like to see additional speed limit signs as it is only 15mph due to the park. Public Comment: Mark Curry stated that driving through residential areas the speed limit is not being observed and he thinks it is only time before someone gets hurt. The Council agreed to move forward and will put it on the agenda for a vote at the next City Council meeting.

Mike Duval asked the Council for permission to designate a parking space for the Senior Center bus. They would like to park it on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between the two entrances to the drive thru for Citizens Bank. A sign will be needed to designate it for the Senior Center bus. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve a parking designation on Second Avenue next to the parking lot for Citizens Bank for the Senior Center bus, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Councilman Ferguson asked the Council if they would like to take the Park Electric Capital Credits. Councilman Davis made a motion to reject the Park Electric Capital Credits for the 2024 calendar year, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

discussed a loan about doing our own trash service. Councilman Davis stated that they are looking at set ups from other cities that are doing their own trash service. They've looked at Columbus. They spoke with Olympic Sales and Service out of Fargo. They met at our transfer site to discuss what would be needed. They plan to meet with Livingston and look at their site as well and possibly Roundup. The biggest difficulty is still hiring qualified drivers who have a CDL. Anita also stated in the past that Montana on a Mission had free dump day with the city. Linda Brunckhorst stated that Republic Services is going to set aside a separate day for the community rather than to do them together. Linda Iverson asked if Big Timber is hauling the water to the ranch. Patricia Agnew read a synopsis of what is happening at Crazy Mountain Ranch and the DNRC. She stated we are a county of ranchers and we do it legally and it costs the ranchers a lot of money. She thinks the city looks bad because they are bailing out a golf course for billionaires. She feels it is very offensive and we need to have respect for the rule of the law. Dan Astin from the Big Timber Pioneer, asked if the water that was being sold is treated and if water is being drained from the tower. Kris stated that the water is being treated and the water is not being drained from the tower. Mike Duval asked why we are selling treated water as opposed to untreated water. Kris said it's logistics. We would need more infrastructure as there are no hydrants before the Water Treatment Plant. Mark Curry asked if it would be worth exploring a surcharge for the water we are selling and put it into a fund for a second water tank that could hold untreated water. Jacque Scott asked we are only getting revenue for a two-month period so it wouldn't be wise to invest in a second water tank.

**Council Concerns:** Councilman Davis thanked those who shared public comment about the water situation. He is also concerned that we are stating that we need a second water tank and yet we are selling a large amount of water to Crazy Mountain Ranch. He is also concerned about the wear and tear on our system. He understands it is income for the city, but doesn't think money should always be the objective. He would like to see bulk water sales put on the agenda for discussion and have the council make the decision on whether we sell water or not. Councilman Ferguson stated that the sprinklers at the Dugout are not working and it's dry.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Baird made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.



Justin Ferguson, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer