

## Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting

Carnegie Library

August 4, 2025

Mayor DeBoer opened the Public Hearing 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 (via phone).

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, and Jim Lippert, City

Attorney

County: Sheriff Alan Ronneberg

Public: Shirley Layne, Kristi Hogemark, Tom Mattingly, Roger Lee Sanstad, Lee Andreas, Christine Bakke, Gerry Stevens, Bret Engor, Buster Bullock, Ron Thomas, Angela Selby, Mike Shirley, Tom Schriver, Shawn Smith, Doug Ayers, Bill Warwick, Richard Stensaas, Mark Curry, Sheila Stensaas, Dan Astin, Gretel Ehrlich, Natasha Davis, Maria M Davis, Clifford Brophy, Patricia Agnew, Linda Brunckhorst, Brian Hogemark, Barb Swanson, Fran Elgen, Loretta Hurley, Patrick Sanders, Jerry Iverson, Linda Iverson, Jamie Bowden, Charles French, Jane Hallquist, Jeff Johnston, Anita Dore, Bryan Sondeno, Will Huffine, Dulcie Bue Clavarino, Stuart, W Hulen, Celia Hulen, Laura Johnson, Brian Williams, Norene Brown, Bob Faw, Kirk Stephens, Linda Burch, Dick Burch, Amy B Blake, Jamie Hauge, Jason Hauge, Bonnie Glasgow, Holly Tinch, Stacey Smith, Judy Faw, Jessica Drange, Singli Agnew, and William Moore.

Mayor DeBoer presented Resolution No. 1044: A Resolution of the City of Big Timber, Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Public Comment: None

Mayor DeBoer closed the Public Hearing at 7:04pm and opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:04pm.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting of 7/21/25, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that there were 395 complaints, 14 cases, and 39 citations for the month of July. He also stated that they received a few complaints about fireworks on July 6<sup>th</sup> which is normal. He got to attend a conference on the Angel Initiative and we have had four people from Big Timber enter the program.

Public Works Director, Kris Novotny, reported that the department spent most of July patching pot holes on city streets. They did some work at the compost pile. They have been spraying weeds at the park and remain busy with lots of street work. Councilman Woehler asked if there was a timeline for when the City Hall remodel would be completed. Kris stated that he does not have one. Doug Ayers stated that Public Works did some water work in his alley by his home and they did a great job. Linda Brunckhorst asked if the city enters properties when 811 is called to do locates.

Mayor DeBoer led a discussion on the Bulk Water Sales by the City of Big Timber. He stated that the city has been selling bulk water for over 30 years, the municipality has the right to sell water, and the company that they are currently selling water to, Bullock Contracting, is paying the same bulk rate that everyone else pays. Kris Novotny stated that the Bullock Contracting has been getting 100,000 gallons a day. Councilman Ferguson stated that the city's cost per gallon inclusive is a little over \$6 per 1000 gallons and we are selling it for \$14 per 1000 gallons. Public Comment: Patricia Agnew ranch owner read an article about the recent bulk water sales to Crazy Mountain Ranch. She thinks it is a horrific precedent to set to sell our water from rivers that are already running low. Mark Curry with Rose Blue LLC stated that if the system will support selling the water why not sell it for a larger profit. He would like to see us charge a surcharge for over what we are charging them. Buster Bullock owner of Bullock Contracting stated that it is his company that is purchasing the bulk water. They are a local based company from Montana and the truck drivers are Montana residents. Residents Jean Aller, William Moore, Doug Ayers, Celia Hulin, Jerry Iverson, and Katrina McCullough would all like the Council to create a bulk water policy. Some of the suggestions to include in the policy were: not to sell to people out of the county, explain why the municipality can sell water, and a 10% increase in cost for the bulk water each year. Linda Brunckhorst stated that this is the biggest crowd she has ever seen at a meeting and invited the council to do their due diligence as they create a policy. Roger Sanstad and Stuart Hulen would like to see the money earned from the bulk water sales be used to fix roads or replace water and sewer lines. Bonnie Glasgow asked if the water they sell is being metered and if anyone is there when the trucks fill up. She questions whether the \$6 per 1000 gallons really covers the costs. Dulcie Bue Clavarino and Agnew worry about the magnitude of the amount of water being sold and how it compares with previous bulk water sales. Ron Thomas stated that the Boulder River has gotten lower and lower and asked if the tank is still full. Kris stated that it is full and they are checking it every day. Jim Lippert, City Attorney, spoke with the lead attorney from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the attorney representing the department in the court case against Crazy Mountain Ranch. The attorneys' concern was whether or not the city is being paid for the bulk water. Jim told the attorneys that the city is being paid, and that we send a weekly invoice. He asked the attorneys if there was an issue with the city selling water and they said no. He also asked them to let the city know if at any time they disagree with how we are selling it. Brian Williams asked for clarification on the legality if we stopped selling water. Mayor DeBoer explained that if we stop selling water to Bullock Contracting it could open the city up to a discrimination lawsuit. Councilman Davis suggested that we could stop selling water to everyone until a policy is in place.

Mayor DeBoer presented the FY25 Budget Report.

Mayor DeBoer stated that at the last meeting the Council wanted to move forward to install a four-way stop at Bridge Street and 2nd Avenue. Public Comment: Stacy Smith asked if the neighbors were consulted about this. She asked if the trucks and trailers along the curbs would be moved. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the installation of a four-way stop at Bridge Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Baird presented information on an E-Waste proposal from Green Technology Solutions. Public Comment: Bob Faw asked if there is anyone to take the freon out of Refrigerators. Linda Brunckhorst stated that we should charge a user fee for the ewaste recycling. Anita Dore stated that if we charge for it, it will just go in the landfill. The Council agreed to provide this service at no cost to the residents for one year and then reevaluate what the costs are. Councilman Woehler made a motion to

approve the E-Waste proposal for a one-year trial period, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer stated that the timeline for the rate increases has to stay as the resolutions and notices mailed to residents already state the increase will happen with the November 2025 bills.

Mayor DeBoer read Resolution No. 1044: A Resolution of the City of Big Timber, Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1044, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer asked for Council approval for form RM88 #15. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve Disposition of Records Form RM88 #15, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the claims, payroll, and overtime for the month of July 2025, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment: Jamie Hauge stated that parents drive their kids to school along 5th Avenue and no one is yielding at the intersections. She would like some yield signs placed at these intersections. Sheriff Ronneberg stated that as it gets closer to school starting, they will patrol more around that area. Dulcie Bue Clavarino stated that she appreciates the city fixing the potholes.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

A blue ink handwritten signature of Greg DeBoer, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by 'DeBoer', written over a horizontal line.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

A blue ink handwritten signature of Hope Mosness, written in a cursive style over a horizontal line.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer