

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on October 11, 2023.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen, Council Persons Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff, Tina Neer and Scott Ross

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Terry Tyler (PWD)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Jim Sivils

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. Tina Neer made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, September 13, 2023. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion to approve minutes passed with all voting ayes.
3. Claims were presented to the council for approval. There are two claims for 1st Bank of MT, September and October. Bank of Colorado is for the purchase of the CAT, funds were wired, they are setting up shipping. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 19831-19857, & Payroll Advances Ck #19858-19860. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
4. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in September. Scott Ross made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
5. Public Comment: none
6. Sheriff's Office Report: Copied and presented to the council.
7. New Business:

1. Motion of Intent to Raise Garbage Rates:

LANDFILL CHARGES (Proposed changes 10/11/23/23)

Grass Clippings.....No Charge
Tree Branches.....No Charge

FEES BELOW ARE ADDITIONAL CHARGES OVER AND ABOVE NORMAL MONTHLY OR ANNUAL CHARGES FOR DISPOSAL

Pickup.....\$30.00 per Load **\$35.00/load**
Small Trailer.....\$30.00 per Load **\$35.00/load**
Dual Axle Trailer.....\$96.00 per Load **\$100.00/load**
Single Axle Truck w/Standard Sideboards.....\$96.00 per Load **\$100.00/load**
Large Single Axle or Tandem Axle Truck.....\$145.00 per Load **\$150.00/load**

ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR INDIVIDUAL ITEMS BELOW

Small Appliances (TV, Microwave, Space Heater, Etc.).....	\$12.00 Each	\$10.00 Each
Large Appliances (Freezer, Refrigerator, Stove, Washer, Dryer, Etc.)....	\$18.00 Each	\$20.00 Each
Over Stuffed Chairs.....	\$15.00 Each	\$25.00 Each
Box Springs.....	\$18.00 Each	\$25.00 Each
Mattresses.....	\$18.00 Each	\$25.00 Each
Couches.....	\$18.00 Each	\$25.00 Each
Carpets (10 x 12).....	\$18.00 Each	\$25.00 Each

PU- \$620/dump - \$650/dump

Permit Holders- \$324/year - \$384/year

Residential Users 1 container/1 dump per week- \$27/month - \$32/month

Mileage \$1.25/mile- \$3/mile

Extra dump \$7-\$9

Sonja Dahlen made the motion of Intent to Raise garbage rates as presented. Scott Ross seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

2. Approval Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan: Add in disposal site for sharps. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan with the addition of disposal site. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
8. Old Business:
 1. Mayor Dahlen inquired about the meters at Hill County Water. Terry Tyler updated the council that he has been in contact with Chad Hedges and will be meeting with him to see what he has. Scott Decker brought in a list and Terry has that as well.
9. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items:
 1. Mayor Dahlen asked about putting gravel in the parking lot at the park, Terry is planning to do that along with a couple of problem alleys.
 2. Mayor Dahlen was wondering about patching the street to the north of the Hospital, on Madison Ave. This will be completed during the summer next year. Should have no problems building it back up.
10. PWD update: Terry Tyler updated the council that they are almost done with cleaning the south pond. They have been working on this for the past week and a half. They will put just enough water in it to hold the liner and will continue to wait a while longer to fill it completely as the reports are that the lake is not very clear. They did purchase an additional trash pump to help, and to have for future cleaning. They are starting to winterize everything. The safety cable was put on the tower.
11. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum gave the council a flyer on board leadership training present by MSU extension's Local Government Cent on Oct. 17 @ 6pm. Ashley shared an email with the council from the Chamber regarding putting banners on the lights on HWY 2 through town. These lights are maintained by the State. Ashley will let the Chamber know this. RPA will be scheduling a Prebid meeting soon. They are also working on a sewer rate increase and will present this to the council. We will need to complete a budget amendment for the purchase of the CAT and any maintenance costs. Ashley talked to Bill Hunt about run down properties. There are a couple of options to look into. One would be to identify the run-down properties

and talk to property owners about doing a quick claim deed on the property, the Town tare down any structures and clean up the property and then sell it to a contractor to develop the property. Another option would be to purchase properties by tax deed and do the same. The cost to clean up a property could be around \$10,000 with legal costs included. Ashley will create a list of properties in town. Ashley also spoke to Bill Hunt about the feral cats in town. Bill directed her to Shelby's ordinances, which Ashley printed. The Town needs to determine if there is a problem, where in town the problem areas are, and then they can decide how to proceed. Changing the ordinance and enforcing a cat ordinance is very difficult. A flyer with information on how to control feral cats, including information on spading and neutering animals, closing dumpsters, and not having feeding areas are all good ideas. Also, cleaning up some of the properties in town would help as some of these properties have been identified as high cat areas. Ashley did subscribe to the new paper that is coming from Cut Bank, that is including the Liberty County Times. She will look into advertising in this paper as well as the Havre Daily News. Advertising with the Havre Daily News is working well.

12. Council: Scott Decker asked about the upcoming meetings for the garbage rate increase. The next meeting with will a resolution of intent to increase rates, followed by a public hearing and then approval of rate increases. New rates would go into effect January 1, 2024.
13. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor