

## Public Hearing

The Town of Chester Council held a Public Hearing meeting on June 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)  
Terry Tyler (Public Works Director)

Guests: Susan Yurman

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm
2. Public Comment: None
3. New Business: Budget Amendment Public Hearing
4. Tina Neer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

## Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on June 12, 2024 at 6:01 pm.

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)  
Terry Tyler (Public Works Director)

Guests: Susan Yurman

## Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. Tina Neer made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, May 9, 2024 with a correction on line 7, under #1 to the spelling of pool. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
3. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Ashley Wickum informed the council that the check for Lakeside/DOR will be held until the ARPA funds are received. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20254-20288, electronic payments -99976 & Payroll Advances Ck #20289-20291. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.

4. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in April. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
5. Public Comments: None
6. Sheriff's Office Report: was provided to the council.
7. New Business:
  1. Approval Resolution # 05-2024 Budget Amendment: Rachel Ghekiere made the motion approve Resolution #05-2024 to Amend the FY2023-2024 Budget. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
  2. Approval Resolution #06-2024 Motion of Intent to Increase Sewer Rates: Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve Resolution #06-2024 Motion of Intent to Increase Sewer Rates. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
  3. Discussion Ice Rink Property Sale on Ballot: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that he has been in contact with Bill Hunt regarding the ability to sell the skating rink property. There are two options, #1 put it on the ballot and let the citizens vote on it, or #2 see if the Lions Club can work with the town to change the wording allowing the town to sell the property. The town will continue to work with Bill Hunt and Bob Mattson on this. This will not be placed on the ballot for November 2024.
  4. Memorandum of Understanding for the SFY 2024 City Park Rest Area Program: Tina Neer made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the SFY 2024 City Park Rest Area Program. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
  5. Approval of New Hires: One new application for lifeguard was received. Wrien Wolery. She is already certified. Pool Manager Lily Wickum said she would be a good hire. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to hire Wrien Wolery as a returning lifeguard. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
  6. Interlocal Agreements:
    - Law Enforcement interlocal agreement was presented to the council. It is a two-year agreement. Mayor Dahlen and Ashley Wickum met with the Commissioners, Deputy Heppner, Clerk Davin Padmos, and County Attorney Robert Padmos. They provided a copy of their budget and expenses. They are working on accurately documenting the numbers of incidents in city limits. They are also going to look into the Justice Court fines and fees to ensure these are being entered correctly. New interlocal agreement was presented with an increase in contracted amount from \$89,000/year to \$100,000/year. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to accept the interlocal agreement with the only change being the new contracted amount of \$100,000/year. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

- Justice Court interlocal agreement was presented to the council. The only changes being updated names.

7. Approval Building Permit:

- D. Hull- Replace Back Deck and New Front Dormer- permit not received.
- K. Johnson- Replace Front and Back Deck
- D. Hodges- New Fence
- D. Fraser- New Deck & Small Concrete Slab
- J. Anderson – New Garage
- R. Augustine & K. Sonneburg- Addition
- J. Kucera – Replace Deck & New Concrete Slab
- Liberty County- Replace Sidewalk and Curbing

Building permits were presented to the council. D. Hull's permit was not received. A permit from Jill Streit for the Natural Solutions property at 14 1<sup>st</sup> Street East was added for approval. This is for a awning from the front of the building, handicap accessible entrance and a privacy fence in the rear. Discussion for the new garage for Jesse Anderson at 211 4<sup>th</sup> Street West. Bill Hunt looked at easements and put together an acknowledgement for Jesse Anderson to sign that the Town is not responsible for determining if he will be building over his or his neighbors' service lines. The agreement from the school elevator addition was signed and written permission for Keith Gonzalez to put up a fence was received. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve all building permits, with the signed agreement Jesse Anderson. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

8. Old Business:

9. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Marlin Harstad entered the meeting. He wanted to talk to the council about putting up a flag pool by the Chester sign entering town. He would like the town to pay for the replacing of the flags, approximately two flags a year, for about \$75-\$100/ year. He is waiting for final approval from the state to install the 40-foot pole. This will be placed on the agenda for next month so that the council can vote on paying for the flags.

Mayor Dahlen suggested that the council help to identify properties that need weed letters sent to them. Each council member can compile a list and give it to Ashley who would send out letters. Properties could be reviewed every two weeks and anyone who doesn't comply with the letters will have their yards mowed and billed by the town. Currently we have two options to hire for mowing. If the bills aren't paid, then they can be placed on taxes.

Mayor Dahlen inquired about being able to fix the Northside of the street on School drive. Terry reported that this is on his list and in front of the hospital as well.

Mayor Dahlen asked if there was a volunteer for the Bear Paw Board. Currently no council members can attend meetings.

10. PWD update: Terry Tyler updated the council that the sewer project is continuing to go well. They are working on the open dig on the north side, putting in manholes, and dredging of the lagoon is also in progress. The contractors are using their own pumps to pump into cell 3 and are working 6 days a week currently. The north water pond is drained down as far as we can

with gravity feed. Terry will be switching over so that the school can begin watering. The crew will need to pump the remaining water out of the north pond and will do that when they are ready to clean the north pond. Terry was able to check the valve between the ponds and it did open about 10 turns. When the north pond is cleaned and in use he will try turning the valve on the south pond. The crew is starting to pave patch, they will start with potholes, then the problem areas and the area at the school. They are also moving and will spray weeds when the weather allows. They have sprayed mosquitos, and it is getting closer to being about to treat the creek as well. They are planning to spray Joplin for the Art in the Park. Terry updated the council on the filter media sample. He had to wait for the tool from Havre but should be able to start next week to get the sample. He has all the paperwork ready to send off with the sample. Terry will need to order parts for the pool pump as they had to work on it. This is in the budget. Terry will be gone next Thursday and Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

11. Clerk update: Ashley updated the council she is working with Terry and Dan to get Dan Davis registered to start testing. She would like to start the bidding process in July for the SLIPPA project. Ashley suggested that the administrative committee meet prior to the budget building meeting in July to discuss wages. Ashley will check with Tesla Kantorowicz to see if there is any news on the possibility of a swim meet in town.
12. Council: Scott Decker asked if the fire hydrants were going to be flushed. Terry said it is on the list of things to do, he would like to do the crack sealing before flushing the hydrants.
13. Tina Neer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk Mayor