

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on October 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

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

Members Absent: Scott Decker

Staff Present:

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Attorney Bill Hunt

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Council Meeting September 11, 2024, and the Regular Council Meeting September 11, 2024. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
4. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Ashley Wickum informed the council that the checks for Lakeside, MT Dept of Revenue and RPA will be held until the ARPA funds are received. Rachel Ghekiere inquired if the Town was using both papers for advertising, for job postings we are. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20501-20528, electronic payment -99969-99970 & Payroll Advances Ck #20529-20530. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
5. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in September. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
6. Public Comments: None
7. Sheriff's Office Report: was provided to the council.
8. New Business:
 1. Approval- Building Permit
 - Brent & Alicia Riggin- 626 West Monroe Garage:
Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the building permit as presented. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
 2. Approval- Employee Policy(s)/Handbook updates: Town Attorney, Mr. Bill Hunt reviewed the handbook with the council, going over the proposed changes as well as several areas for clarification. Mr. Hunt will make the changes discussed. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to accept the Employee Policy(s)/Handbook with the changes. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

9. Old Business: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that the valley gutter that Mr. Heimbigner was asking about during the September meeting is on the SLIPA project list. Mayor Dahlen also updated the council that the town can not cut down trees in the creek.
10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen discussed the possibility of doing an ordinance that would prohibit open carry weapons in the Town Office. Bill Hunt will draft an ordinance for the council to review at the November meeting.
11. PWD update: Mayor Dahlen provided an update. Lakeside's sewer pump went down during the windstorm, and the sewer backed up into Trey Marshall's house. Mr. Marshall is working with Lakeside to cover this. MMIA has been informed. A new pit will be dug at the landfill, and they will burn the burn pile when the weather permits. The manhole ring behind the Chester Pharmacy has been fixed. The sewer project is going well. The sludge spreading is being done, and they are beginning to line the cell #1. In the next few weeks, they hope to start sweeping streets and will notify property owners to trim trees. There is a leak on Jefferson Ave, Rural Water was here to try and locate it. The curb shut off has been replaced, but the leak has not been located.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council Nikki Lindsay is helping to send out the follow up information for the lead and coper inventory.
13. Council: none
14. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor