

## Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on April 8, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Tina Neer (arrived at 5:38 pm), and Jim Sivils

Members Absent: Garrett Graff

Staff Present: John Kleinsasser (PWD)  
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests:

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Sonja Dahlen made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting , March 12, 2025, with a correction to spelling on line 11. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
4. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20834-20859, electronic payment -99954-99955 & Payroll Advances Ck #20860-20861. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
5. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in March. 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: None
8. New Business:

1. Approval of New Hire:

- Summer Help: One application was received for summer help, Kelvin Jones. Kelvin can start the middle of April after he finishes his two weeks at his old job.
- Landfill Attendant: One application was received for landfill attendant, Tina Neer, and one application for a fill-in for landfill attendant, Ted Zorn.
- Lifeguards: One application for lifeguard, Saige Bachteler. This will be her 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Sonja Dahlen made the motion to hire Kelvin Jones for summer help, Tina Neer as landfill attendant, Ted Zorn as a fill- in landfill attendant, and Saige Bachteler as a returning lifeguard. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

2. MMIA Employee Benefits: Rates and Group Election Form- Medical Benefits will have a final rate increase of 12.2%. This will increase the Bridger plan from \$877/month to \$984/month. The town currently pays the amount equivalent to the Bridger plan and lets the employees pick their plan. The council enquired if there were other options for health insurance. Ashley Wickum will look into this for next year. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to continue to pay the equivalent to the Bridger plan, \$984/month towards employee health insurance and let the employee pick their plan. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
3. Approval of Building Permit
  - Eric Sundgren- Moving house and adding an addition, 115 6<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast. The septic application is being completed, and Sarah Robbin has emailed the town that there should be no problems with it. There is currently no water line on Marias Street, and the council discussed this.
  - CJ Maan- Chain link fence, 315 ½ East Jefferson Ave. This property is in the floodplain. Based on chapter 5 of the floodplain management plan, fences, such as those that have a low impact on the flow of water, do not need a floodplain permit. CJ is aware of this and will provide the town with ongoing pictures to ensure that there is no violation to the plan.

Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve both building permits as presented. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

9. Old Business: None

10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that David Lindsay has resigned, and his last day is April 11, 2025. Jadon Sullivan has been hired as a full-time laborer and will be part time until after graduation in May. Discussion of current employee's positions and wages.
11. PWD update: John Kleinsasser, PWD, updated the council that they are chasing a water leak and although they have not found this leak, they have been able to fix the ones that they have found. The new jetter has been delivered and they have already used it on a plug by the senior center. The northside sewer main still needs to be videoed so that they can determine how to fix it. He has also been working with Chris Hayes with RPA to determine how to fix the Ford Garage lift station.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that she will be gone 4/9-4/11 for the core pesticide class and testing. The Garden club would like to start working with the Town to get the new gazebo placed. Ashley will be preparing the Water policy to update it to include that it is the property owner's responsibility to expose the meter and then replace any insulation after the new meter is installed. She will be working with the county on the updated emergency operation plan, including a cyber security policy. She is working to gather information for a sewer policy and EDU rate plan. She left a message for Frank Leeds to discuss when he is planning to start the SLIPA valley gutter project, and the Catholic Church and Lodge are wanting to replace the curb on the northside of their property at the same time, Ashley will help facilitate this between them and the contractor, but the repairs are the property owner's responsibility. The pool has currently raised \$22,150, the tarps have been ordered, and John is helping to gather quotes for a boiler, hot water heater and more information on the chlorinator. The American Legion brought in keys to the new flagpole, stating that the Town was taking over it, this was not part of the agreement. Jim Sivils will follow up with the American Legion on this.

13. Council: Scott Decker wanted to know if Fish and Game should set up traps and transplant the fish in the north pond. John didn't think this was necessary. Cliff Wickum is going to be hauling gravel for him and was wondering if we needed some for the alley behind the Catholic Church, however, the garbage has been moved as it was determined that was not an active alley. Scott was wondering if we could start looking at updating the sprinkler system at the park and use the Amtrak money for that. John thought that the Town should look at running raw water to the park as well. Scott will start looking into updating the sprinkler system.
14. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

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