

## Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on February 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff (via phone) and Tina Neer

Members Absent: Jim Sivils

Staff Present:

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Ron Croy (came to the meeting at 6:05)

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Scott Decker made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, January 8, 2025. 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 stated that the claim for the Antivirus protection for DIS was added, also clarified the claims for the new office furnace, the new office printer, and new office door. Scott Decker inquired about the claim to Hi-Line Colony, this was for stainless steel tanks for the street sweeper for water tanks. Scott Decker stated that the Hill County Water District has extra MRX antennas should the Town need more. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20712-20736 & 20752-20753, electronic payment -99958-99959 & Payroll Advances Ck #20750-20751. 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 January. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
6. Public Comments: Ron Croy stated he was just here to listen.
7. Sheriff's Office Report: was provided to the council.
8. New Business:
  1. Ordinance No. 2025-1: 1-4-1 Chester Municipal Code – General Penalty: Amend penalty to include up to 6 months incarceration. Second Reading. The council reviewed Ordinance No. 2025-1. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-1: 1-4-1 Chester Municipal Code – General Penalty: Amend penalty to include up to 6 months incarceration. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Ron Croy addressed the Council about this Ordinance. He wanted to know why this would need to be done and felt it was taking away his rights. Council Person Sonja Dahlen explained the purpose around the Ordinance for

prohibiting the open carrying in the City office. Ron Croy left the meeting. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

2. Resolution 09-2025: A resolution of the Town of Chester, Montana, Agreeing to Prepare the Environmental Review Record for Neighborworks Montana Home Grant Application- Discussion of how the program works. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve Resolution 09-2025: A resolution of the Town of Chester, Montana, Agreeing to Prepare the Environmental Review Record for Neighborworks Montana Home Grant Application. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
3. Approval Building Permit: Dan Davis, 10x20 Polyester Tarp Car Port- Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the building permit as presented. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
4. Clerk Substitute Wages: Discussion Clerk Substitute wages. This increase would be only to the wages for Nikki Lindsay as the primary clerk substitute. Her current wage is \$13.00/hr. Scott Decker made the motion to increase the wages for Nikki Lindsay, Clerk Substitute, to \$16.00/hr. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
9. Old Business: Scott Decker inquired if there was any update from the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority or from our engineers, Mayor Dahlen informed the council that there has not been any.
10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that employee evaluations have been completed.
11. PWD update: They have finished digging the new garbage pit and burn pile has been burnt. David Lindsay is testing for his water license and both Dave Ghekiere and David Lindsey have attended classes for their CEU's. They are putting in meters and building new garbage container holders. The heater in the office had to be replaced, and the lights in the shop and at the lagoon were replaced as well.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council the chamber would like to use the park on Thursday's starting June 12, from 5-7 pm, they were informed that they could but if another community member wants to reserve the park, they would need to find another location. The Audit was moved from February to March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ashley informed the council that the clerk institute is in May, and she would like to attend this year if possible. Ashley also updated the council that the pool manager is sending out letters and working with the Hi-Line Pool and Rec. Fund to start requesting donations to help pay for the pool tarps.
13. Council: None
14. Scott Decker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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