

## Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on March 12, 2025, 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: John Kleinsasser (PWD)  
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Buck Dahlin

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Sonja Dahlen made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, February 12, 2025, and Special Council Meeting, February 23, 2025. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
4. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Ashley Wickum clarified questions for the claim to MT DEQ, and the RPA claim regarding local fiscal recovery funds. Also, documented voided checks, 19810, 19986-19991, 20009-20039, 20235, 20674-206650, 20698-20709 & 20737. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20790-20815 & 20818 & electronic payment -99957-99956 & Payroll Advances Ck #20816-20817. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
5. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in February. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
6. Public Comments:
7. Sheriff's Office Report: was provided to the council.
8. New Business:
  1. Approval of New Hire: Pool Manager and Setting Wage: The council reviewed the one application for Pool Manager for Lily Wickum. This would be her third year with the pool, second year as pool manager. Lily has been working on fundraising money for new pool tarps, she also worked in the pool house during her winter break, completing the painting of the ceiling and floors. Scott Decker made the motion to hire Lily Wickum as the Pool Manager for the Summer of 2025 at \$18.00/hr. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
  2. Advertise for Lifeguards, Landfill Attendant and Summer Help- Discussion for wages on advertisements. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to advertise for lifeguards starting wage at \$13/hr. and \$0.50 for each returning year, landfill attendant starting

wage of \$13.50 and summer help starting wage \$13-14/hr. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

9. Old Business: None

10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen reported that the Federal Audit was complete with no findings. David Lindsay passed his last water test. There is an application for full-time help and Mayor Dahlen will set up an interview with him. Mayor Dahlen also updated the council on the sewer line for Buck Dahlin on the Northside. During the open dig portion of the sewer project this summer, the original sewer connection for Mr. Dahlin's property was not located therefor it could not be reconnected. A stub was put on the main for a future connection. Mr. Dahlin had paid for a water connection to establish a current account, so that the sewer could be reconnect, however, since the sewer was not able to be reconnected the water connection fee will be refunded to Mr. Dahlin, he has signed the paperwork to abandon the water line to the shop, and if he decides he wants to have water and sewer at a later date, he will pay the water connection fee and any additional costs for connection at that time. He will need to hire someone who is fulling insured to dig in the town's alley to connect to the stub that was installed.
11. PWD update: John Kleinsasser, PWD, updated the council that they are having troubles with the sewer on the northside, and that Lakeside was out to camera and jet the lines as our jetter isn't working. There are a lot of large rocks in the line that they do not know where they are from. Lakeside's camera broke, and they will not be able to come back for about a month. Once we know what we are looking at, a plan will be made to make any repairs. It is unclear as to the exact problems yet, but they do think two pipes may have fallen in. John has been researching jetter's and has found a 2000 jetter, for \$25,000 which includes delivery and training. He would like to start the process of purchasing it. The sewer fund has \$35,000 budgeted for major budget items and this can be re-allocated to make this purchase. Garrett Graff inquired if the Sewer fund had money in the CIP fund. This was part of the budget plan for this year, but nothing has been put into CIP prior. Council agreed for Joh to move forward with the purchase. Other updates: They are working on building garbage racks, getting the sweeper going and spring work.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that the audit went very well. She has registered for Clerk Institute May 4-7<sup>th</sup> and for the Initial Core Applicator Training in Great Falls April 9-11.
13. Council: Scott Decker wanted to know if there was any news from North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. There has been no contact with the office or with Mayor Dahlen. When the emails come for the meetings, Ashley will forward them on to the entire council.
14. Rachel Ghekierre made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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