

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on July 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Dave Ghekiere (PWD)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Saige Bachteler

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Mayor Dahlen moved Saig Bachteler- Eagle Scout Project to the beginning of the meeting.
 - Saige Bachteler- Eagle Scout Project: Saige Bachteler presented the council with her Eagle Scout Project for Little Free Libraries. She would like to put one at the City Park and at the Rest Area, Lions Park. She will do all the work, and nothing will fall on the town for maintenance. She will plan with the Scouts for all future care. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to allow Saige Bachteler to proceed with her Little Free Library's and to put one at the City Park and Lions Park. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes. Saige left the meeting.
4. Scott Decker made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, June 11, 2025, and the four Special Council Meetings held on June 30, 2025. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
5. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Ashley Wickum updated the council that ck# 21012-21016 were canceled due to printing error. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20986, 20988-21036 & 21038-21039, electronic payment -99944-99948 & Payroll Advances Ck #21037. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
6. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in June. Tina Neer made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
7. Public Comments: No public comment.
8. Sheriff's Office Report: Provided to the Council.

9. New Business:

- Approval of New Hire Wages: Mayor Dahlen would like to recommend hiring Will Bryan as a new operator. Discussion of experience and wages. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to hire Will Bryan as a new operator at \$22.00/hr. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
- Approval of 3-year Audit Contract with Strom & Associates, P.C.: Rachel Ghekiere made the motion for the Town to enter the 3-year contract with Strom & Associates, P.C. as presented. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
- Memorandum of Understanding for the FY2026 City Park Rest Area Program: Garrett Graff made the motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the FY2026 City Park Rest Area Program as presented. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
- Approval of Building Permits:
 - Dale & Dana Lalum: 114 4th Street West- New sidewalk and retainer wall
 - Dolezal Holdings LLC – 10 East Adams Ave- Replace existing curb and sidewalk

An additional building permit for Jennifer Yates-122 West Jackson Ave- Replace existing chain link fence with a 6-foot privacy vinyl fence and erect a 10x12 Pergola on the driveway in front of the garage. Scott Decker made the motion to approve the building permits as presented. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

- Setting Date and Time for Budget Building & Preliminary Budget Meeting: July 24, 25 at 4:00 will be the budget building, and the Preliminary Budget Meeting will take place after.

10. Old Business:

- Request to Move Light Pole: Adam Munson 146 1st Street East: Mr. Munson was not present. The council discussed this request. Jim Sivils made the motion to deny the Request to move the light pole at 146 1st Street East by Adam Munson at this time and allow him the option to resubmit a request once he has obtained all of the information and can provide it to the council. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The motion passed with all voting ayes.
- Approval of quote for new sprinkler system at City Park: more information was received from both companies who provided quotes for the new sprinkler system at the City Park. Scott Decker made the motion to proceed with the bid from Dusty's Sprinkler in the amount of \$19,343.50. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

11. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that Eric Minneti With North Central Montana Regional Water Authority would like to meet with the council. This will be scheduled for after the budget meetings are done.

12. PWD update: Dave Ghekiere, PWD, updated the council that they are almost finished sweeping streets, and the small leak at Kayla Johnson's empty lot has been fixed. They also replaced the curb stop at 310 3rd Street East. A new out-of-town, 1 inch water connection has been made for M- Equipment at 5330 Laird Rd. He is planning to have Hawkins come up and do a jar sample and look at chemicals at the water plant end of July.

13. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that she put in a request for reimbursement for completing the lead line inventory in house and the town has received the \$5,000 reimbursement. She has submitted all the necessary paperwork for reimbursement from the SLIPA grant. The election will be cancelled as all wards that filed are running unopposed and

no one filed for Ward 2, so they council will need to appoint someone to fill that seat. The pool banner for donations has been hung at the pool and the pool will be closing August 13th

14. Council: Jim Sivils asked for more information concerning the electric scooters. Ashley emailed out information.
15. Jim Sivils made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor