

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on June 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

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

Members Absent: Jim Sivils

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

Guests:

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments: No public comment.
4. Tina Neer made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, May 14, 2025, and the Special Council Meeting June 2, 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 claim 29307 and ck# 20890 to Lakeside were both canceled and reissued with claim 29337 and ck# 20935 and claim 29308 and ck# 20893 were also cancelled and reissued with claim 29338 and ck#20937 to Dept of Revenue due to changes to the pay app provided by Robert Peccia and Associates. Tina Neer made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 20924-20953, electronic payment -99950-99951 & Payroll Advances Ck #20954. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
6. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in May. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
7. Sheriff's Office Report: Provided to the Council.
8. New Business:
 1. Approval of Building Permit
 - Sweetgrass Lodge/Catholic Church: West Quincy Avenue- Curb and Gutter work.
 - Todd Wanken: 515 West Madison Ave- Fence in front yard

Building permits were presented to the council, along with an additional permit for Terry Tyler: 143 West Van Buren Ave- Fence. Discussion, work at the Lodge and Church is not for sure, but if done it will be completed by Frank Leeds. Scott Decker made the motion to approve all building permits as presented. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

2. Request to Move Light Pole: Adam Munson 146 1st Street East- Adam Munson would like to move the light pole on the South side of his house further in on his property so that he can put a sidewalk between the fence and the curb. Mayor Dahlen has spoken to Jim Vinson with Northwestern Energy, and this would cost 2-3 thousand dollars. The work would have to be requested by the town and paid for by the town and then the town could bill Mr. Munson. The council agreed to table this item until Mr. Munson can be present and can provide more information.
9. Old Business: Mayor Dahlen updated the council that the money for the water treatment plant project could be used for distribution if the council wanted to request a change. At this time, only one bid has been received on the park sprinklers. Ashley Wickum spoke with the auditor and the money that has been received by Amtrak for storage could be used to help with this cost. However, the general fund can handle the expenditure, and it can be budgeted for during the upcoming budget. Scott Decker spoke to the company who put in the bid, and they would be willing to start in July. The council would like to do a special meeting to award the bid and then budget for it on next year's budget out of the general fund.
10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: none
11. PWD update: Dave Ghekiere, PWD, updated the council that Jadon Sullivan is doing well and is learning fast. They are sweeping streets, and there is a small leak at Kayla Johnson's empty lot that they are trying to find. There was a small incident with the garbage truck, but the property owner is fixing the damage himself.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that the Chester Motor's clean up project will begin 6/16/25. She contacted RPA about the sewer project contingency money and will also contact MET about completion of the SCADA system. The MMIA wellness program will be held at the office on 7/9/25. She is working with Chad Smith on a banner for the pool for recognizing the donations to the pool improvements. Discussion on how to proceed with mowing once letters have been sent out. Ashley will contact Bill Hunt for further direction.
13. Council: Tina Neer reported that she has had numerous community members talk to her about the electric scooters in town wondering if the Town was able to do anything, this is a police issue. Also, a question about the signage on Quincy by the Catholic Church. Should it have a school zone/school speed limit sign. Ordinance 6-2-4 discusses speed limits. It will be checked to see what the sign that is posted there says. Tina Neer also reports that people are having a hard time at the landfill and keep dumping in the metal pile. The crew will create a better sign to help prevent this. Scott Decker inquired about who is responsible for the replacement of the curb. As stated in 7-1C-1 it is the property owner's responsibility. The council would like to look into this ordinance more. Ashley Wickum will reach out to Bill Hunt and RPA about the possibility of changing the ordinance and including curbs into the street maintenance assessment/description.
14. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor