

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on October 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff (6:03 pm), Tina Neer, Jim Sivils

Members Absent:

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

Guests: Sam Mandel – New Miami Colony
Shorty Hofer- Midway Colony
Joseph Mandel- New Miami Colony
Joseph A. Wery- New Miami Colony
B. Mandel- New Miami Colony
Jesse Anderson

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reminder that the Meeting is Audio Recorded
4. Tina Neer made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, September 10, 2025, with corrections to spelling on line #8 & #14. the Special Council Meeting, September 22, 2025. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
5. Claims were presented to the council for approval. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 21169-21195, electronic payment -99938-99939 & Payroll Advances Ck #21196-21197. 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 September. Sonja Dahlen 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:
 - Update: Bill Hunt -Town Attorney on NCMRWA: Attorney Bill Hunt updated the council on his updates from the NCMRWA (see Attached). Mr. Hunt would like to know what the Town would like to do next. Discussion about nominated capacity and determining how much water the Town needs. Sam Mandel, with new Miami Colony stated again that they want to connect to the Town water and would like 50,000 gallons/day. They are willing to pay a buy in. Mr. Hunt will research how this works to

- determine if it is legal. Mr. Mandel stated that the Colony is willing to work together on a contract or what ever is necessary as they are very serious about getting water. Council voiced concerns about whether there is room for growth in the amount of water the Town requests, and if the Town requests more, will they have to pay for the gallons requested even if they aren't being used, and if so, how this could affect the Town. The Colony is starting to work on easements. Garrett Graff asked about where the colony would hook on to the Town's water, and would this affect the water pressure for the rest of the town. The Council will continue to address the connection to North Central and will meet with the Colony to determine the amount of water they need and the next steps to determine if the Town will provide water to them. The Colony members left the meeting at 6:55 pm. Mr. Hunt continued the discussion on the next steps. Mr. Hunt discussed the base rate, and water costs. Jesse Anderson asked about the drawback to keeping our own system. Mayor Dahlen explained that the cost to improve our own system would be much larger than connecting to NC. The council agreed that they would have another meeting to gather more questions and then present them to NC, and then have a meeting with NC, followed by a more involved public hearing. Garrett Graff inquired about how the Town can get the information out to the public.
- Discussion/Approval to Proceed – Jesse Anderson Replotting of 411 1st Street West and 14 W Monroe Ave.: Jesse Anderson presented the council with two options (see attached) to split the above lots and have them replotted. Council reviewed the options, in favor of having Jesse proceed with option 1. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to have Jesse Anderson proceed with option one, have the lots surveyed and replotted. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. Once Jesse has done this, he will bring it to the council for final approval before recording it with the Clerk and Recorder. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
 - Update HB 588 – Motorized Scooters: Ashley Wickum presented the council with information regarding HB 588. She will meet with the Sheriff's office, County Attorney, City Judge and County Commissioner's to discuss education of the community on this matter and how it will be enforced before the Town works on a new ordinance for this.
 - Approval of Building Permits:
 - Jessica Scott- 414 2nd St West- Fence
 - Jim & Barb Vinson- 554 West Monroe Ave- Move Fence
 - Joe & Cyndy LaSorte- 119 Madison Ave W. – Concrete Slab
 - Bruce Jeppesen – 559 W. Jefferson Ave- Concrete and Fence

An additional building permit for Travon Pfaff- 122 Casey Street NE for a fence. Jessica Scott's permit is from last month and Public Works Director, Dave Ghekiere met with her and verified that everything is okay. Travon Pfaff's property is in the floodplain, however, under 10-5-1 Uses allowed without permit within Jurisdictional area, Fences, such as those that have a low impact to the flow of water do not need a floodplain permit. Travon is going to put up a chain link fence and will provide the town with pictures. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve all building permits as presented. Scott Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

10. Old Business:

- Discussion/Approval- City-wide Mapping project: Ashley Wickum provided more information on the mapping services from Montana Rural Water. These services are free and they work with staff to complete the mapping, most likely beginning in the spring as winter is approaching. Once in Diamond Maps, the Town can choose to move all of the data to a GIS based mapping system at any point. Jacob Brooks would be willing at that time to help if the Town needed it or on any other maps if needed. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to work with Montana Rural Water for the

City-wide mapping project. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

11. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: Mayor Dahlen informed the council that there has been one employment application received. The administrative committee will meet to discuss it and determine if they will set up an interview.
12. PWD update: Dave Ghekiere, PWD, updated the council that they are currently cleaning the south pond and hope to be done in a couple of days, and then they will fix the leak on the line that goes to the lake. The snow guards are almost all installed. They fixed Pete Woods and Francis Hochberger's curb stops. The fences at the landfill and lagoon are fixed. He is working on getting ahold of Frank Leeds about the curb and entrance at the park. The sprinklers at the park and everything at the pool have been winterized. He has an employee scheduled to have his CDL physical and one to take the written portion of the CDL test in the next month. Scott Decker enquired if the employees are studying for their water tests, but they are not yet. Dave is getting a quote from Peter Underdal for the pool boiler. They will be sweeping streets soon as well.
13. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that there is a new County Health Nurse and that a new County DES employee was being interviewed. She provided the council with the dates for the water project advertising, pre-bid and bid opening meetings. She will advertise a budget amendment for the sewer fund in November.
14. Council: Jim Sivils asked about the time frame for repairing the holes in the street on Jefferson created by digging to find the water leak. Public Works Director Dave Ghekiere stated that it would probably be in the spring when all the areas could be repaired at once to be most cost effective. It is too cold to run the pave patcher right now.
15. Jim Sivils made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor