

BELT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 20, 2025

7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of August 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James Olson; Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling; Council Members including Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Michelle Stinson, and Becky Gorton; Deputy Alec Lugo and members of the public including Travis Page and Matt Triplett. Not in attendance was Council Member Corbin Keaster.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deputy Lugo reported that he is investigating the 1st Ave. South barn property ownership and squatters, indicated that he will be writing citations for construction traffic light violations, and closed in saying that citizens should call dispatch rather than him directly when reporting violations or issues.

The claims and Minutes from the previous meeting were submitted for approval; all were accepted by a unanimous vote of those present.

The complaint log was reviewed with consideration for a claim by C. Hanson for compensation for water purchase during the boil advisory that was not noticed door to door to residents. Claim denied. No action taken on any other complaint items.

NEW BUSINESS: Matt Triplett presented ideas for football team community service in Belt, including a Saturday event to paint dugouts and the Castner Park gazebo, and to pick rock for Belt Stock. It was suggested that replacing boards on the remaining wooden picnic tables would be another possible item. The Council gave approval and thanks for the proposed help.

The Council reviewed Resolution 821 Mill Levy Calculations and Resolution 822 Street Light Assessment. Both were read in their entirety by Mayor Olson and were followed by the unanimous approval of the Council.

The Council reviewed budget to actuals and line by line preliminary budget items for proposed expenses and revenues in the General Fund, Gas Tax Fund, PERS Fund, and Insurance Funds. It was noted that Library Funds due from the county on July 1st had not been received, and it was decided to draft the preliminary budget with the expectation that the city would experience a 15% rate increase for law enforcement, that no money would be budgeted to Flood Plain/ NFIP Administration, and that \$32,000 would be obligated for the purchase of a truck. The Council decided to schedule the annual Budget Hearing and adoption of a final fiscal budget for FY26 for the next meeting on September 3rd.

OLD BUSINESS: The mayor discussed the parameters and particulars of going through mediation and HB333 arbitration associated with law enforcement contracts, having spoken to Dan Clark of Local Government Center MSU, the entity that will be conducting the actual mediations. Olson noted that the mediation and arbitration process will be afforded cities and towns free of cost and can begin before October 1st.

The Council discussed the item of a position for Flood Plain Administration, posted to the public 2 weeks ago. Mayor Olson announced that no applications had been received, that Rolf Johnson did not intend to apply for the position, and that Johnson would be resigning his volunteer position as Flood Plain Administrator's Assistant. Olson further reported that he didn't believe the city has the resources to fully and properly enforce the current Flood Plain Ordinance that it has on the books. He further reported that the random and

discriminatory manner in which the city is currently applying the Ordinance and regulations is unfair to citizens and leaves the city in jeopardy of a lawsuit. He closed in proposing that the town pull out of the NFIP. Rolf Johnson will be at the next meeting to further discuss this issue and a proposed Resolution to pull out of the NFIP will be prepared for the Council's review at the next meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council Member Miller reported on a variety of areas around town that JR Civil will need to repair before leaving town. Council Member Wells reported that the tennis courts were still housing nets and a random pile of equipment belonging to the Little League group. Council Member Heikkila inquired about the status of current electrical problems at the well houses. Mayor Olson indicated that they were being resolved with the use of an SD card and a minimal amount of help from a contractor.

CLERK-TREASURER INPUT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson proposed allowing PW personnel Codi Heikkila to recycle steel and aluminum that the city has just lying in various piles and further reported that Codi would propose a list of surplus sale items for minimum bid setting at the next meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: Travis Page expressed concern about traffic risks associated with the Butte Street traffic plan.

There being no further business to attend to a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.



Approved by Mayor James M. Olson



Attested to by Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling



Submitted by Lynn Schilling