

BELT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 18, 2025

7:00 PM

A Public Hearing for a 28.57% rate increase to water users and the second regularly scheduled meeting of June 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James Olson; Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling; Council Members Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, Michelle Stinson, and Becky Gorton; Project Engineer Josh Sommer; Resident Deputy Alec Lugo; and members of the public including Mayor's Flood Plain Assistant Rolf Johnson, Travis Page, Jenny Albert, Ted and Cindy Nault, and Lita Howes.

**PUBLIC HEARING - WATER RATE INCREASE & WATER PROJECT LOAN**

PUBLIC INPUT: Cindy and Ted Nault requested clarification on the upcoming 28% rate increase for water, asking if the rate increase was because of the water main project. Mayor Olson stated that the rate increase would allow for the continuation of the grant based federally funded ARPA Water project by allowing the city to secure a large loan to allow JR Civil to continue to replace more water mains and valves in the City of Belt.

NEW BUSINESS: The Council considered the approval of Resolutions 817 and 818 to increase the water rates by 28.57% to all users of the municipal water system and to execute a \$3,492,000 revenue bond (loan obligation to the City of Belt) to be paid out to JR Civil as Project Contractor and Great West Engineering as Project Engineer to continue the replacement of old water mains and valves. Council Member Heikkila made a motion to approve Resolution 817 and Resolution 818; that motion was seconded by Council Member Miller and carried out by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

Public Hearing adjourned 7:30 PM

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PUBLIC INPUT: Cindy Nault inquired about the city-wide water outage that occurred today.

Jenny Albert asked if she needs to boil her water.

COMPLAINT LOG: Reviewed with no action taken; the receipt of a formal complaint from Katie Heitzman was acknowledged.

Minutes were approved; Claims and warrants were approved and released for payment.

NEW BUSINESS: Josh Sommer was present to give an update on project progress with work happening currently on Anaconda and North Castner Street.

The Council considered Resolution 819 to cancel elections for mayor, council member ward 1, and council member ward 3, should no one file as a write in candidate by August 6<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made to approve Resolution 819, seconded and carried by a unanimous vote of those present.

The Council discussed the parameters of on-call status for public works employees and further discussed plans for dealing with after-hour emergencies and water leaks. Council Member Keaster suggested the use of a dedicated call phone that a public works employee would carry when it was his designated weekend day. No action was taken, and the item will be further discussed on the next Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council Member Wells excused herself at 8:00 PM.

Council Member Stinson inquired about the encroachment of tree branches over the road and sidewalks and what was being done to enforce the corresponding Ordinance. Mayor Olson said that Public Works had made a list of all violations in town for the Clerk to send official warning letters to. Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling stated that she had not received a list and suggested that it be done soon as there are many violations city wide.

CLERK-TREASURER INPUT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson stated that he had had a private conversation with Sheriff Jesse Slaughter and that Slaughter said, "they would work with the town on the increase amount of the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Contract, and that he encouraged the town to buy another resident deputy house.

Olson went on to report that the bank was having sewer line issues that he believed were the responsibility of the City and so he had contracted Travis Johnson to complete the work at the city's expense. He closed in saying that Travis Johnson has begun work on that issue.

PUBLIC INPUT: Lita Howes spoke, requesting that the city direct their contractor to do a better job of controlling the dust on bridge street. Josh Sommer stated that he will order more frequent applications of water to the length of that street that is torn up and under construction.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.