

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2025

7:00 PM

The first regularly scheduled meeting of February 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James Olson; Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Aldermen Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, Michelle Stinson, and Becky Gorton; Public Works personnel Codi Heikkila, Planning Board member Rolph Johnson, and members of the public including Resident Deputy Alec Lugo.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deputy Alec Lugo requested of all present, that if they get a jury summons to please fill it out and return it promptly.

Rolph Johnson announced that the Belt website was up and running.

An update presentation from DEQ Mine Water Division was passed over, since no representatives from DEQ were present.

COMPLAINT LOG: Reviewed with special attention given to citizens of Belt that have made claims connected to damages their water lines suffered on three dates last Summer, during ARPA construction, during which extreme pressure surges were created by project contractor in turning water on and off.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were submitted and approved; The Claims and Warrants were submitted for approval and were accepted and released for payment.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution 815 to adopt the 2023 DES Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented by Mayor Olson. Following some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried by a unanimous vote of those present, to adopt the plan.

The Council considered selection and appointment of a new City Attorney. The mayor presented a proposal to use Andy Newcomer, already working on the city's lawsuit with Browning Ranch. Mayor Olson further proposed fixed monthly rates rather than hourly charges. Following Council discussion, it was agreed to engage Newcomer to be present at the next meeting to hear his proposal and consider a possible appointment.

The Council considered problems and issues related to contract garbage collection service received by Republic Services. A high volume of ongoing citizen complaints was noted, and Clerk-Treasurer Schilling confirmed that service was frequently incomplete or cancelled altogether, with many addresses being missed on a regular basis, catch up collections declared by Republic frequently not happening, and general poor communication on the part of Republic as to the status of delayed or cancelled service. It was decided to request the presence of Republic managers and officials at the next Council meeting to resolve problems with the current contract and poor service being received.

OLD BUSINESS: Rolf Johnson presented an update related to Belt's ongoing status and corrective actions in the FEMA NFIP program. Johnson reported that 11 violation notices were being mailed to the original 11 violators identified by DNRC in the previous year. He further explained that these 11 individuals would be scheduled to meet with Belt's NFIP committee with 30 days of receipt of the letter to address their specific violations and that this action would meet another compliance timeline task with the corrective action plan.

PUBLIC WORKS: Codi Heikkila was present to report that everything was going fairly well with seasonal snow removal, and to make the comment that he felt the big plow truck was old, ran roughly, and was due for replacement.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Alderman Miller followed up on C. Heikkila's report asking if he had adequate places to pile snow being plowed from the city streets. She proposed using the Rodeo Grounds as an extra place to pile snow, and it was also noted that the city owned parking lot in the center of town could also be used to full capacity.

Alderman P. Heikkila reported that the State was still in the planning stages of repairing the collapsed wall and landslide on upper Castner Street. He further commented that options for a fix were being explored and that the State did not have any real progress to come and report to the Council at the present time.

Alderman Heikkila also reported that the hydrant in front of his house is still leaking, following ARPA Water Project construction during the summer months.

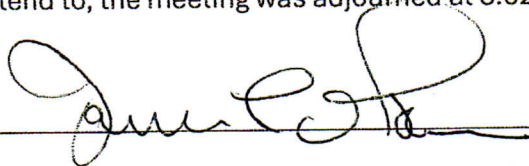
CLERK-TREASURER COMMENT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson reported that both public works personnel were keeping up with snow removal and doing a good job. He further reported that Seasonal PW personnel, Rick Hertz had discovered and repaired and electricity outage at one of the lagoon vaults.

Olson closed in reporting that the city would be receiving 2 grants for Great West to draft a PER relative to the next water project; \$32,000 for the PER and \$8,000 of Planning Grant that would require a city match.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Approved by Mayor James M. Olson



Attested to and submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling

