

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2025
6:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of December 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James M. Olson, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, April Wells, Michelle Stinson, Corbin Keaster, and Becky Gorton; Sally Miller was not present. New incoming mayor Travis Page, Public Works Codi Heikkila, and mayor's wife Amy Olson were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The minutes from the December 3rd meeting were moved to approval as written by Michelle Stinson and seconded by April Wells. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Claims/Warrants submitted for approval were moved to approval by Paul Heikkila and seconded by Becky Gorton. The claims/warrants were approved by unanimous vote and checks were approved to be released.

The Complaint Log was reviewed. No complaints were submitted at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Review- Annual Financial Report (AFR) due 12/31/2025; Mayor Olson spoke on this topic and wanted the council to be aware that the AFR would be submitted late which comes with a \$50 late fee penalty. Mayor Olson spoke with accountant Chet McLean and was told this information. The AFR is going to be late due to missing information that Chet needs. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby has attempted four different times and left messages with Chet McLean to possibly move things along but with no return. Mayor Olson also informed the council that the upcoming audit in May 2026 will show/ask about the late AFR. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby will continue attempting to get ahold of Chet and get him the information that is needed but either way the AFR will be filed late.

OLD BUSINESS: Review of Current Fire Service Agreement between City of Belt & Belt Rural Fire District was once again the first topic of discussion. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby printed off and made copies of the Agreement for all the council members. This current agreement ends January 1, 2026, but the fire department is willing to extend the current agreement to another year. The fire department is looking for an increase in mills, making the agreement fairer in their words. The council would like to know the \$ amount/mills that are agreed upon in the current agreement. Other questions raised by the council were, can we increase the mills? Will the citizens of Belt agree with the increase? To increase the mills, the citizens of Belt will have to vote on it in upcoming elections. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby will get more information on the dollar amount/mill. This topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

The second topic of discussion was once again consideration-sander options for municipal dump truck. Mayor Olson informed the council that the Town of Belt has received \$31,500 in reimbursements from the Department of Commerce. It has been deposited in the bank. Council members Paul Heikkila and Michelle Stinson both felt that going with the modification/conversion route was still the way to go, fixing up the old sander and making it workable with the setup we already have. Michelle Stinson stated that there are other projects that need to be completed and this money would be a big help in completing those. Due to the knowledge of these sanders that Paul Heikkila has April Wells stated that Paul should take the lead and be the point of contract on this project. The sander will be taken to Normont for the

conversion and an assessment. The council wants Normont to do an assessment of the current sander and just see if it is in good working order. If it is in good working order, then go ahead with the conversion/modification. If Normont believes the sander needs more work than the modifications/conversion and chain tightening, April Wells motioned to go ahead and buy a new stainless-steel sander. This motion was seconded by Paul Heikkila and was passed by unanimous vote.

The final topic under old business was consideration- Little Belt Cowboys Association Agreement Closure/Completion. Mayor Olson spoke with Dave Anderson and let him know that the council was not satisfied and the work needs to be completed. The work that needs to be completed is the installation of the sinks and toilets. Dave Anderson stated to Mayor Olson that he will take the information to their meeting and start the process of finding a licensed plumber to do the installation.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Anaconda Street in front of Gloria Warehime's residence seems to be sinking, will continue to monitor it. Busy day with the windstorm today, a lot of calls for fallen trees/powerlines and destroyed roofs around the town of Belt.

COUNCIL REPORTS: April Wells brought concerns about Christmas decorations/lights. She asked about replacement bulbs. She also requested that before storing the decorations for the off season, go through all the decorations/lights change out the bad lights so that everything is in workable order when its time to hang them up next year. When it comes to that time, pull out the decorations/lights 2-3 weeks early and make sure everything is good to go.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: DEQ has requested a water bill be sent to them for the water treatment plant. Kellen Kirby asked the council, pertaining to this request are we charging them a Flat Rate or are we charging due to meter readings? It was determined a year and a half ago in a council meeting that the water treatment plant would be charged a flat rate & so much per gallon. Kellen Kirby will look in previous minutes and get those figures. Kellen also informed the council that Lynn Schilling has been coming in and helping him with different tasks such as payroll, PERS, allocating revenue, etc. With approval from Mayor Olson, Kellen went ahead and ordered two new office chairs for City Hall. Mayor Olson and Kellen found the chairs on Amazon for \$158 for the two.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson informed the council that Josh Sommer from Great West Engineering will be here on Monday to do the tank draw. City Hall will issue Josh a key to do his monitoring. With this being the final council meeting for Jim as mayor, he thanked all the council members for all their hard work and wished the best of luck to clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby and incoming mayor Travis Page. Travis Page will be taking position 01/01/2026.

PUBLIC INPUT: NONE

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Corbin Keaster seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to and submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby