

Town of Winifred, Incorporated
Minutes
March 11, 2025
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Community Center

The meeting of the Winifred Town Council was called to order by Mayor Shirley Dyer, March 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was called., Mayor Shirley Dyer, Council Person Rick Baker, Council Person Barry Ehlert, Council Person Kristin Carlstrom, Council Person Cody Isom, Town Clerk Cheri Kjersem, Treasurer Krista Ness. Guests present were Kurt Thomson, Kevin Amende, and Dan Tungesvick.

Agenda was motioned for approval by Rick Baker, Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes from the council meeting on February 11, 2025 were presented. Council person Barry Ehlert made a motion to approve the minutes, Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The monthly bills were presented. Rick Baker made a motion to accept the bills, Barry Ehlert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bills approved were claim number 2677/Aqua Tech, 2679/Debt of Environmental Quality, 2681/MAM, 2682/Fergus Electric, 2683\Republic Services, 2684/Energy Labs, 2685/Town of Winifred, 2686/Triangle,2687/Northwest Energy, 2689/Northwest Pipe, 2690/K-Log,2691/Central MT Propane,2692/Quill, 2693/Ehlert Bros, 2695/Winifred Grocery, 2696/CHS, 2697/VISA.

The Bank Reconciliation for December and January were presented. Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to accept December and January bank reconciliations, Barry Ehlert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial reports for the Pool, Library, Museum, Airport, and Cemetery were reviewed. Barry Ehlert motioned to approve the reports; Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Investments: STIP made \$8.40 interest in December and \$8.25 in January for a balance of \$2,165.05. Ameriprise made \$1,943.40 interest in December and \$1950.78 in January for a balance of \$537,194.82.

Correspondence was read.

Citizen Comment Opportunity:

Unfinished Business:

Sewer: Kurt Thomson was here to update the council. Stahly is still working with DEQ on particulars, still waiting on a few things but it is coming along. Kurt discussed different options that will need to be addressed to control the smell. The council told Kurt they will go with his recommendations to work best with the DEQ. Kurt talked to the Selph's tonight about letting dirt being stock piled on their land during the building of the new lagoon. They are open to that discussion. CHS Big Sky approved the sale of the land for the lift station, still working on paperwork with DEQ and that land.

Barry Ehlert and Cody Isom said they were approached by Nick Econom about the discharge from the lagoon. Nick told them he bought more cattle and he wants to put them in the pasture along dog creek. Nick said he wants the town to stop the discharge, we have two weeks to stop it or he will do it himself. The council said they do not want a verbal discussion with Nick. The town will contact the attorneys on this matter.

Streets: Kurt brought 2 sets of plans for the paving, sidewalks, curb and gutter for the streets. Things are starting to come together now. Stahly and Century plan on having an open house for the public to show the maps and have discussion with the town next month. Stahly will get a resolution for the streets put together for the next meeting.

During the big snow melt last month, Century had to come out and reroute water run off from the airport, because it was flooding Jeff and Jolene Ehlert's yard. Century is looking at putting in some culverts crossing Paradise Road and the Thrill Hills.

Fire Hall: Brandon wasn't here to update.

Technology Updates: There was a long discussion about the tech updates Norman Asbjornson want to have done at the Library, Museum, Office, and Community Center. Dan Tungsevich and Kevin Amende are getting quotes and input from the council about the type of computers, printers to best serve everyone.

Museum will have updated security. A projector and screen, label maker and printer.

Library: Book cover machine. Curved screen desk monitor.

Office: Curved screen desk monitor, large TV mounted to the wall for conference meetings, with speaker.

Community Center: Large TV where the cork board is now. Update the kitchen, new sinks, cooler, dishwasher. Upgrade the plug-ins.

Upgrade the sound system.

Reader board on the front of the building.

Contact Triangle to move the router upstairs, run ethernet. The clerk will contact Triangle and make an appointment when Dan can be here to meet with them also.

Dan also discussed building the town a website in the future. The mayor asked Dan if that was something he could manage. Dan said he would consider doing that along with being in charge of changing the message on the reader board on the front of the building. This discussion will continue.

Bank Signatures, treasurer: Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to add our new treasurer, Krista Ness, as a signer on First Bank, and Opportunity Bank. Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Barry Ehlert made a motion to remove Kristin Carlstrom as a signer on the safe deposit box at First Bank and add Krista Ness, Shirley Dyer, and Cheri Kjersem. Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rick Baker made a motion to remove Kristin Carlstrom from STIP and Ameriprise, and add Shirley Dyer and Krista Ness. Barry Ehlert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Employee evaluations: Mayor Dyer discussed what she learned at her meeting in Helena. Going forward the mayor will do the employee evaluations and then give a recommendation to the board about raises and concerns.

The mayor was late getting home from meetings tonight so she will meet with Rick and Cheri another time this month for evaluations.

Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to increase Rick's wage the minimum wage increase every year going forward. Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed; Rick abstained from the vote.

New Business: Fuel Tax Allocation Certification Map was reviewed for signature. Kristin Carlstrom motioned to sign the fuel tax allocation certification map; Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous: The Cat generator at the water tower needs a new circuit board for the battery charger. We have a new board coming. Kirby Dengel, electrician, will install it when it arrives.

The mayor discussed addressing the freeze problem on Campbell and 4th St. Kim Heller's house froze during the cold weather due to the pipe not buried deep enough. The mayor had a conversation with Shaun Griffith about if something will need to be done before the streets are paved. He thought the paving would help the problem.

The bulk water has not been working again. Wes is working on it. It will probably need some old parts replaced.

The mayor asked if we had a bid for the concrete in front of the Community Center and the post office ramp. We do have a bid from Carr Construction for the post office ramp and the pool.

The mayor said she would visit with Jeremy Carr, and see when he plans on completing the job.

There being no further business. Kristin Carlstrom moved to adjourn the meeting; Barry Ehlert seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Shirley Dyer_____

Clerk Cheri Kjersem_____