

ST. IGNATIUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY 6, 2025

Mayor Daren Incashola called the meeting of the St. Ignatius Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 6, 2025, in the town hall. Mayor Daren Incashola, Council Members Janis Heffern, Chris Heffern, Rikki Merchant and Daniel Thompson were present. Also present were Clerk/Treasurer Mary Leishman, Public Works Director Scott Morton, Police Chief Jason Acheson, City Attorney Michelle Sievers and members of the public as listed in the minute's book.

Mayor Incashola called for public comment. James Steele gave an update on CSKT projects at the school: new fence at the softball field and new scoreboard at the baseball field.

Daniel Thompson motioned, Chris Heffern seconded to approve the consent agenda which includes April 15th claims, May claims, April minutes, March MM and CD JVs and April JVs. Motion passed unanimously.

Janis Heffern talked to the Montana State Library about who can be on the library board. She was told to follow the library bylaws, which state that the board should consist of 4 residents of the city and 1 from Lake County within the School District #28 boundaries. Janis Heffern motioned, Merchant seconded to deny appointing RaSena Christopher to the library board since she lives in Arlee. Motion passed unanimously. James Steele requested that he be given the information about appointments to the library board and he can add it to the tribal website. Janis indicated that there are two vacancies on the board. The mayor and council next considered the 2nd/Final Reading of Ordinance 1-8-101. Thompson asked to take out last part: "unless otherwise noticed by the council". Thompson motioned, Chris Heffern seconded to approve the updated Ordinance 1-8-101 on 2nd/Final Reading. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Incashola read the updated ordinance aloud. Next, the mayor/council discussed the entrance to Rod's Harvest Foods. Rod Arlint was in attendance. Rod asked for confirmation that the state owns the road in front of his store. The mayor affirmed that the state owns the road. Rod continued to say that changing his parking lot entrance would directly impact his business and that he is opposed to any unnecessary ordinances in regards to his parking lot. The review and approval of new park pavilions was discussed next. Mayor Incashola said that Scott had two bids, both over \$10,000 for each pavilion; would the council like to table the issue in order to seek other bids? Thompson motioned, Janis Heffern seconded to table the issue and continue to seek bids. Motion passed unanimously. The mural submission was next on the agenda. The only submission was from the same artist that had been at the last meeting. She updated her previous mural. Discussion continued about what to take out since many felt that there was too much on the submitted mural. After much discussion, Merchant motioned, Thompson seconded to table the approval of the mural submission. Motion passed unanimously. The mayor will resend the new ideas to the muralist.

Police Chief Acheson said the monthly stats of the department are down. There will be a presentation on Elder Abuse Scams in coordination with the MT Department of Criminal Investigation. The presentation is June 11th and is open to the public. Chief introduced the two new reserve officer, Korey Green and Kreig Hester. Mayor Incashola asked about the reserve training and the chief stated that there is 88 hours state-mandated training within two years. Jera Stewart gave praise to Officer Loehde for how she handled a tough situation at a recent car accident.

City Attorney had nothing.

Fire Chief Adams said there will be a spring training exercise next Friday. The department had 17 calls. The new DNRC truck is stored in the FD building.

Public Works Director Morton will be ordering water meters. He applied for an extension on open burning but hasn't heard back from CSKT. He's put a new tire on the lawnmower. He thinks he found a person for the mower position, a kid in high school.

Leishman presented the quarterly budget numbers to the mayor and council.

The mayor received a call from Senator Tim Sheehy's aide confirming that they had received our application from Zinke's office. They will submit an application for us also. Mayor Incashola recognized Scott Morton for all the work he did getting letters to go with the 2025 Community Project application.

Chris Heffern motioned, Rikki Merchant seconded to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Daren Incashola, Mayor

Mary Leishman, Clerk/Treasurer