

Town of Richey Council Meeting
Final Minutes
Tuesday, April 8, 2025—Town Office/Fire Hall
6:00 p.m.

Open Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM.

Roll Call of the Council Members and Guests: Mayor Brown, Councilmember Clinton, Councilmember Barnhart, Councilmember Ulrich, (Absent - Councilmember Gibson), Public Works/Clerk Chance Senner, Lorraine Whiteman, Anita Torgrimson (arrived at 6:25 PM), Brett Irigoien (via Microsoft Teams), Finance Director Jodi Rogers (via Microsoft Teams)

Consent Items*: Mayor Brown asked for questions and comments on the consent items. There were none. Motion made by Councilmember Barnhart to approve the consent items. Seconded by Councilmember Ulrich, all in favor, motion carried. See attached voting record.

- Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)
- Monthly Bank Reconciliation
- Monthly Payroll, Claims, and Journal Entries

** **Consent Items** are those upon which the presiding officer considers no discussion should be necessary. However, at the beginning of each meeting, any Council Member may request one or more items to be removed from the consent agenda for the purpose of discussion prior to a separate vote on the item(s). The presiding officer shall schedule such discussion and vote immediately following adoption of the consent agenda.*

Correspondence:

Sheriff's Report: See attached report.

Nuisance properties

Public Comment for items not on the agenda:

Mayor's Report: See attached report.

Council Reports and Concerns: Councilmember Barnhart had asked about future appearances of a yard waste dumpster, and was reassured by Councilmember Gibson previously that it was donated for the first year of its presence. It was discussed that due to the high cost, other solutions for residents looking to dispose of yard waste such as local yard waste dumps were a more viable solution.

Committee Reports: none

Public Works / Clerk's Report: Public Works/Clerk Chance Senner updated the Town Council on recent/ongoing activities such as, attending Rural Water Conference in Great Falls in order to obtain his wastewater certification, Chance stated that he has yet to get his results back. Other activities include, opening the bulk water plant for the season and getting the backflow preventer tested, sweeping streets, multiple locates and property boundary reviews, replacing old water meters to new radio read meters, checking parks more frequently due to warmer weather, working with Big Sky Hardware and Richey FFA to construct a hangar for the plow truck's sander, working on getting the Town's Ambulance trip reporting system back up and running, and contacting a contractor in the near future in order to replace a couple of hydrants and a non-functioning curb stops on the north side of Town.

Finance Officer Report: Finance director Jodi Rogers reassured council that the Town of Richey's finances are in a comfortable position at the moment. No questions from council.

Jodi Rogers left the meeting at 6:28 PM

Old Business:

1. Discussion and possible action of resolution for Rural Fire District Interlocal Agreement with Town of Richey

Mayor Brown and Attorney Brett Irigoien had been working to compile an agreement between the Town of Richey and the Rural Fire District. Mayor Brown had contacted Rural Fire District to discuss the current Interlocal Agreement. Rural Fire had noted their agreement with a flat \$400.00 per month for stall rental. Councilmember Barnhart asked that with the \$400.00 flat rate if Rural Fire is also paying for bulk water for fire

suppression as well? Mayor Brown said that is the case. Barnhart expressed his favorability in this agreement. Attorney Irigoin clarified language questions from the Council. With no comments or concerns from the public a motion was made by Councilmember Clinton to accept the lease agreement (Resolution #2025-03) as written. Seconded by Councilmember Barnhart. All in favor. Motion rescinded due to it being mistakenly addressed. Motion made by Councilmember Clinton to accept the lease agreement (Resolution #2025-03) with correction to the article numbers on the attached lease. Seconded by Councilmember Barnhart. All in favor, motion passed. See attached voting record. The lease agreement will be presented to Rural Fire for their approval.

With permission from council, the meeting moved to item #10 due to guests present wanting to discuss the item.

2. Discussion and possible action of resolution for out-of town insurance coverage for Richey Volunteer Ambulance Service through mutual aid agreement with County.

Attorney Brett Irigoin explained that he needed time to further research the topic before providing information to council. Item tabled until more information is gathered from the attorney. *Brett Irigoin left the meeting at 7:34 PM.*

3. Discussion and update for income survey to qualify for the CDBG grant for Phase 3 Water Main Replacement administered by MAP.

Mayor Brown and Clerk Chance Senner updated council that they are still working on updating the property owner list. Councilmember Barnhart had asked if there was a bracket that the Town of Richey would have to fall in under in the income survey to qualify for CDBG funds. Mayor Brown responded that she believed 51% of residents would have to fall in the low-intermediate income category. No action was taken on this item, only discussion was had.

4. Muni-code ordinance recodification update and discussion with work sessions.

Mayor Brown updated council that she was actively working on the ordinance recodification. She pointed out that this will streamline our ordinance organization as it will all be digitalized. She stated that once the attorney from the Muni-code ordinance review presented his findings and organization work meeting would have to be scheduled to update the ordinances. No action was taken on this item, only discussion was had. No comment from the public.

5. Request for funding for Clerk / Public Works to attend Montana Municipal Institute for Clerks on May 4-8 after receiving scholarship to help alleviate some costs.

With no public present for comment or correspondence a motion was made by Councilmember Barnhart to approve funding for Clerk/Public Works Chance Senner to attend Montana Municipal Institute for Clerks on May 4-8 after receiving a scholarship to help alleviate some costs. Motion seconded by Councilmember Clinton. All in favor, motion carried. Voting record attached.

New Business:

6. Discussion and possible action for pay increase for the Public Works Director contingent on passing the Waste Water Certification exam.

With no public present for comment or correspondence a motion was made by Councilmember Clinton to increase pay by \$1.00 for the Public Works Director Chance Senner contingent on passing the Waste Water Certification exam. Seconded by Councilmember Ulrich. All in favor, motion carried. Voting record attached.

7. Discussion and action for funding for Biolyneus fertilizer for lagoon irrigation ground and probiotic scrubber for the lagoon and sewer system.

Councilmember Barnhart noted that the property owners on which the lagoon irrigates to seemed satisfied with the Biolyneus fertilizer. With no public present for comment or correspondence a motion was made by Councilmember Barnhart to approve funding for

the Biolynceus fertilizer for lagoon irrigation ground and probiotic scrubber for the lagoon and sewer system. Seconded by Councilmember Clinton. All in favor, motion carried. See attached voting record.

8. Discussion and action for approval for building permit for Clevery resident to build garage.

Public works had drafted a map to show council the proposed building to be placed on the property. With no public present for comment or correspondence a motion was made by Councilmember Barnhart to approve the Clevery building permit contingent on the fact that it will be placed on her property. Seconded by Councilmember Ulrich. All in favor, motion carried. See attached voting record.

9. Discussion and action to correct and remove a nuisance fine that was incorrectly assessed to property taxes at 313 North Main Street in the year 2021.

With no public present for comment or correspondence a motion was made by Councilmember Barnhart to correct and remove a nuisance fine that was incorrectly assessed to property taxes at 313 North Main Street, Parcel # 0000RRT320 for tax year 2020. Seconded by Councilmember Clinton. All in favor, motion carried. See attached voting record.

10. Discussion and possible action to proceed with abatement process from petitions of public nuisance, creating a hazard, and disorderly conduct about unkept and unsafe properties in Richey town limits.

Mayor Brown asked for public comment on item #10. Resident Lorraine Whiteman explained that she was requested to drive around town to look at properties, after expressing that she felt that there were properties that were unkept around the Town of Richey. Resident Anita Torgrimson expressed that she lived near properties that had become what she explained as “junkyards”. She was concerned about safety issues for children and residents due to old appliances and vehicles, further stating that they were an eyesore. She also stated that she expressed disdain for free-running pets that were leaving feces in her yard. Councilmember Ulrich had asked if these issues could be addressed by Rural Fire seeing as he felt the properties could be classified as a fire hazard. Mayor Brown said that she had contacted the sanitarian on how to move forward with the nuisances, the District Sanitarian had responded by saying the best place to start would be a public petition, which the Town of Richey has put in place. Attorney Brett Irigoien then reassured that the District Sanitarian would use the petitions to come to the Town of Richey and inspect the listed properties. Resident Anita Torgrimson then asked if it was said that after the inspection, an abatement process would begin. Brett Irigoien reassured that it would be the procedure that would follow. Mayor Brown then asked for further public questions. Resident Anita Torgrimson asked if there were restrictions on licensed vehicles that were capable of operating being stored yards. Attorney Brett Irigoien stated that if the property owner can prove that they are capable of operation, they can be stored in a yard, and by definition of a “junk vehicle”, it has to be wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable. He further stated that even if the vehicle has permanent registration, if it falls under the description of a “junk vehicle”, it is still considered a junk vehicle. Mayor Brown asked for final questions. There were none. Motion made by Councilmember Barnhart to proceed with the abatement process in pursuit of the complaints brought by constituents. Seconded by Councilmember Ulrich. All in favor, motion carried. See attached voting record. Resident Lorraine Whiteman and Anita Torgrimson left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Adjournment: Motioned made by Councilmember Ulrich to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Barnhart. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. See attached voting record.

ATTEST: _____
Chance Senner, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: _____
NaDean Brown, Mayor