

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT BYRON TOWN HALL**

Call to Order: Mayor Clark

Roll Call - Mayor Clark, Councilman Brandon Hessenthaler, Councilman Shae Abraham, Councilwoman Karma Sanders (newly appointed), and Councilman Mikey Brightly (newly appointed). Others Present: Judge Nick Lewis, Acting Clerk/Treasurer Kristin Sanders, Marci Brightly, Marie McCollam, Chuck Brightly JR, Richard Hawley, Jared Sanders, and Dan Bodtke.

With a quorum present, Mayor Clark called the meeting to order and Brandon Hessenthaler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark invited Judge Nick Lewis to the front to perform the oath of office. Judge Lewis asked Karma Sanders and Mikey Brightly to stand in the front and repeat the oath of office. Karma Sanders and Mikey Brightly raised their hands to the square and repeated the oath. They were congratulated and welcomed to sit in their council chairs.

Approval of Agenda - Mayor Clark explained changes to the agenda, including moving executive session and office staff to right before adjournment. Reappointments were added to the agenda below Town Website. Mayor Clark removed the Ice Machine discussion altogether from the agenda stating that the issue had been previously discussed many times and we didn't need to devote the time to that issue at this time.

Mayor Clark entertained the motion to approve the agenda. Karma Sanders made the motion to approve the agenda, and Brandon Hessenthaler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes - Mayor Clark entertained the motion for the approval of previous minutes. Karma Sanders made the motion to approve the previous minutes. Brandon Hessenthaler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Bills - Mayor Clark explained that there are two bills needing to be added to the Bills report. One is the Amazon Business account requested for the town office by Kristin Sanders. Another bill was an invoice from Judge Lewis. Karma Sanders asked about a Trendsetters bill about truck repairs. Mayor Clark explained all of the Trendsetters bills. Karma then asked about the Town of Byron bills, and it was explained by Kristin Sanders that they were electric and water bills. Mayor Clark entertained the motion to approve the bills. Shae Abraham made the motion, and it was seconded by Brandon Hessenthaler. All in favor. Motion passed.

Disclosures - Reading of disclosures was completed by Kristin Sanders. It was disclosed that the following public officers bank at the following institutions:

Big Horn Federal Savings Bank:

Mayor Clark - personal savings, personal checking, and business checking accounts

Karma Sanders - personal savings and personal checking accounts

Mikey Brightly - personal savings, personal checking, and business checking accounts

Bank of Lovell:

Shae Abraham – personal business savings and checking accounts

Kristin Sanders - personal savings and personal checking accounts

Judge Lewis – personal checking account

First Bank of Wyoming:

Brandon Hessenthaler - personal savings, personal checking, and business checking accounts

Judge Lewis - personal savings, personal checking, personal line of credit, a personal loan, and personal business checking account and business line of credit

There were no public comments from the audience.

Reappointments - Mayor Clark called for the reappointment of Judge Nick Lewis as our Town Judge. Shae Abraham made the motion, and Brandon Hessenthaler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Mayor Clark suggested the reappointment of the Big Horn County Sheriff's Department for our law enforcement patrol. Shae Abraham made the motion, and Mikey Brightly seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Mayor Clark called for the reappointment of Granite Peak Law as our Town Attorney. Brandon Hessenthaler made the motion, and Shae Abraham seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Planning and Zoning - Dan Bodtke represented the Planning and Zoning Committee and explained several issues with our master plan as outlined in a submitted document. He explained the status of the surveys, our need to get a general street plan, and some issues with the alleys not being on the county records. Dan Bodtke explained that Alan Bair and JR Gonzalez's committee positions have opened up, and that Mr. Pruett resigned, so he is left alone on the board. He said we need 2 more board members appointed.

Fireworks - Jared Sanders represented Caleb Sanders and explained a contract suggestion for the upcoming fireworks show for Byron Days. Jared explained some ATF rules and insurance, and said that Caleb is hoping to form a contract with the town in order to be in compliance with fireworks insurance. A sample contract and budget proposal was presented to the council. Mikey Brightly made the motion to approve a deposit for the fireworks show, and Shae Abraham seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Town Website – Kristin Sanders reported that Cameron Frates would like to turn the town website logins and responsibility over to the town since her availability to help has changed. Karma Sanders made a motion to allow the town to end our contract with Cameron Frates and turn ownership over to the town. Brandon Hessenthaler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Works - Mayor Clark reviewed the report left by Jacob Gruell about the Public Works Department. The report mentioned issues with the sewer line near the Byron Bar. Discussion ensued and included some vocalization from the audience about the history with that particular pipe dating back to at least 10 years ago.

Court Report - Kristin Sanders explained that there are two ongoing court cases, but neither defendant has yet paid any fees toward those citations. Five other defendants have been sent NRVCs, and an additional defendant will be represented at the next court date (2/13/25) remotely.

Bank of Lovell CDs - The CDs mentioned in the last meeting were deposited. Paperwork was included in council packets to show the deposits.

Grants - Mayor Clark explained the status of both the Main Street Light Project and the TCT Expansion Project. He said that two light poles had been ordered and will be shipped soon, and that we will have a grant meeting on Thursday, January 16th to discuss the next steps.

Mayor Clark also explained that a TCT representative reached out to us [Town Hall] in December asking for Byron's support in expanding the fiber network throughout the county. The Town submitted a letter of support.

Millings Pile - Mayor Clark explained that the town owns a millings pile from when the road was replaced, and he suggested the idea of using the millings to improve the Town's unpaved roads. Suggestions were given about where the millings might be best used, with some favoring Road 6. Richard Hawley spoke from the audience suggesting that IEC could possibly cover the cost of that road's improvement if that is the road selected. Mayor Clark explained that he spoke with Ty Sammons and the rough quote he was given for the cost was approx. \$9 per linear foot.

Another future project suggested by Mayor Clark was a lock box for the Town Hall. There have been some issues with the town hall needing to be unlocked for parties reserving the building. Discussion continued about whether a key box or an affixed lock box would be better. No actions were taken but the idea was favored. Karma Sanders moved that the council go into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel. Shae Abraham seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Brandon Hessenthaler made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Shae seconded. No actions were taken in the Executive Session. Mayor Clark explained that Misty had resigned, and he wanted to personally express gratitude for Misty's hard work and donating of her time to the town. Karma Sanders made the motion to accept the letter of resignation, and Mikey Brightly seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Karma Sanders made the motion to hire Kristin Sanders as part-time Clerk-Treasurer. Brandon Hessenthaler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Karma Sanders made the motion to hire Lexi Sanders as an Assistant Clerk-Treasurer. Brandon Hessenthaler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Karma Sanders made the motion to hire Tomy Pluhar as an Assistant Clerk-Treasurer. Brandon Hessenthaler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Mayor Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Brandon Hessenthaler. All in favor. Motion passed.

PENDING APPROVAL:



Mayor Allan Clark

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Kristin Sanders