

**CITY OF THOMPSON FALLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 11, 2024



The City Council meeting was held at the City Hall,
108 Fulton Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Council Members Present:

Raoul Ribeiro, City Council President – He left after the HighLead Block Party Agenda item.

Hayley Allen-Blakney, City Council Vice President

Katherine Maudrone

Earlene Powell

Shawni Vaught

Larry Lack – He walked out during the letter of support for the USFS Watershed Forest Plan Agenda item. But then came back in for the next Agenda item.

City Officials Present:

Rusti Leivestad, Mayor

Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer

Erica Franck, Assistant Clerk

Tim Goen, City Attorney

Police Officer, Jason Thornton

Others signed in Sign-in sheet is attached.

Rusti Leivestad opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Chelsea Peterson made note of who was present.

The Council passed a motion 6-0 to approve setting the agenda. (Ribeiro, Maudrone)

The Council passed a motion 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. (Powell, Allen-Blakney)

Standing Committee Reports- Zoning Committee meeting and Committee Meeting of the Whole

Community Decay Update – None

Information: None

ACTION TAKEN

1. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve supporting the Beautification Days and their requests for city trucks to pick up garbage and yard debris, tree trimming, and placing an ad in the Sanders County Ledger. (Ribeiro, Vaught) Public Comment: Gunner Junge thanked the Beautification Committee for their work and the city crew for their help with the trash. Tobo Leivestad said that he picks up trash all the time when walking. Shawni Vaught said that the kids from the school help with the clean-up days. Katherine Maudrone said that the Forest Service helps clean up the Mule

Pasture. Catherine DeWitt said that she is a member of the Thompson River Cleanup crew. Jim Greaves said to ask local churches to help. Gussi O'Conner said that the Women's Club is being cleaned by the Odd Fellows. Greg Hinkle thinks it is great what people are doing and mentioned a group will be cleaning up the Cherry Creek boat launch.

2. The Council made a motion 6-0 to send the Farmers Market Agenda Request to the Parks Committee. (Vaught, Allen-Blakney) Public Comment: Beth Junge asked how much it would be. Greg Hinkle said he thought it was a great idea and there should be one every year and thinks the Council should consider waiving the fees. Melinda Thompson asked if this was considered a vendor fee that is in the fee schedule. Gayle Hinkle said he thinks Farmer's Markets are great and they should be free. Cody Mosher offered that the HighLead would help pay for fees. Steve Oswald asked if there would be a mess to clean up afterward. Katherine Maudrone said she was happy she came to present and appreciates that they are planning on having it in the evening during the week. Shawni Vaught said she thinks it's a great idea and would be good for kids. Gunne Junge said he thinks it would be great to promote getting the community involved. Howard Inks said he would cover fees for the vendors. Catherine Dewitt asked how long it had been going on.
3. The Council made a motion 6-0 to table the Hwy. 200 move speed signs 25/35 per MDT speed study. (Ribeiro, Lack) Public Comment: Jim Greaves agreed to moving the signs. Catherine Dewitt has had a hard time seeing the 25-mph sign by the Town Pump. Gordon Wood mentioned looking into State Law because he believes the speed must be 25 mph by a Fire Hall. Nancy Johnson asked if it was possible to look at changing the 15 mph by the schools to a sign that says while kids are out, she feels 15 mph by the high school is a speed trap. Linda Weygint thinks the speed limit in town should be 20 mph all the time. Jim Greaves mentioned having to ride your brakes going down the High School hill at 15 mph. Gordon Wood thinks it should stay the same because people don't obey the 15-mph anyway.
4. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve closing Mill Street for the HighLead Block Party on June 22, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Powell, Vaught) Public Comment: Shawni Vaught thinks that is a great thing for the community and like the idea of having a car show.
5. The Council made a motion 5-0 to send the David Thompson Plaque to the Recreation Public Properties Committee. (Maudrone, Vaught) Public Comment: Catherine Dewitt suggested talking to Linda or the Old Jail Museum about where to place the plaque. Beth Junge asked to see a picture of the plaque. Barb Mosher talked about David Thompson Days and suggested placing the plaque somewhere that would draw people's attention.
6. The Council made a motion 6-0 to terminate the agreement with Northwestern Energy regarding Wild Goose Landing Park. (Powell, Vaught) Public Comment: Howard Inks asked what the agreement was. Jim Greaves asked what would become of the park. Melinda Thompson asked if we would receive a penalty for terminating our agreement. Barb Mosher asked about dredging the water bank and if there were grants for that.

7. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve a letter of support for the USFS Watershed Forest Plan. (Maudrone, Allen-Blakney) Public Comment: Todd Wakefield asked what it changes. Jim Greaves asked whether we have groundwater or well water. Steve Oswald asked if we have a history of repairs or what has happened up there.
8. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve the Fee Schedule. (Maudrone, Powell) Public Comment: Lisa Gregory said she was in favor of the fee schedule. Jim Greaves doesn't think we need any more fees with the cost of property taxes. Gunner Junge's objection to the fee schedule. Tamra Shear asked who the clerical/executive fees were. Greg Hinkle- If there was a penalty for not paying fees. Cindy Bronner asked if it was \$10.00 per chicken.
9. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve the Public Records Resolution and forms. (Lack, Allen-Blakney) Public Comment: Jim Greaves asked about voting registration. Gunner Junge asked if this was tabled at the previous meeting.
10. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve the Wayfinding Master Plan and the final draw. (Maudrone, Lack) Public Comment: Tamra Shear wanted to know what the money was completing and asked how much replacing signs would cost. She also asked if any money would be spent down by her house on the reservoir. Cindy Bronner asked how much money businesses contributed. Linda Weygint wanted to know where the matching funds came from. Catherine Dewitt asked where the grant came from. Beth Junge asked if there was any way to get the schools involved. Jim Greaves asked once the grant runs out where will the money come from. Linda Weygint asked when will the Master Plan be complete. Melinda Thompson was confused about what grants are out there. Linda Weygint asked where the money came from and were city funds used for the project. Gunner Junge asked when the completion date is and what is left to be done.
11. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve the wastewater project request for reimbursements for Phases 1 & 2. (Lack, Allen-Blakney)
12. The Council made a motion 5-0 to approve the wastewater project request for reimbursements for Phases 3 & 4. (Allen-Blakney)
13. The Council made a motion 5-0 to table the water project request for reimbursement. (Maudrone, Vaught)

Unscheduled Public Comment:

Lea Herndon said to abolish zoning, approved behind closed doors, needs to be a larger venue, e-mail notify time and date of zoning meeting, council disregard, city unwillingness to be transparent.

Greg Hinkle said meetings must be posted 48 hours in advance, if people don't like it get it on the ballot.

Nancy Johnson said 21 more petitions, 865 total signatures submitted, asked about the financial reports on the agenda.

Catherine Dewitt stated that the petition is not legal.

Charlie Munday stated the Rex Theater is available for meetings.

Linda Weygint said she retired from public schools and dealt with the budget and grants, wondering why the budget on the website had different dates.

Steve Oswald said the City of Thompson Falls website has a wealth of knowledge so don't look at Facebook for information.

Melinda Thompson said she wants to find answers and clarity.

Barb Mosher thanked the city for what they do, thinks the frustration comes from comments made back and forth, and thinks the city should consider zooming meetings so people can participate at home.

MAYORS REPORT –

Completed the series of virtual training for Newly Elected officials.

Meetings regarding substantial completion of Phases 1&2

Citizen's comments relating to stormwater runoff from Town Pump Construction

Teleconference with Kristi Kline of Montana Rural Water Systems

Reviewed the draft of the Thompson Falls Water Source document and met with public works about edits.

Site visit for Phase 3&4 to look at gravity feed versus lift station placement for a main line.

Zoning training

Reviewing Veteran's Memorial at Ainsworth MOU

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



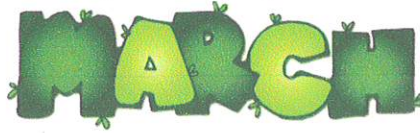
Rusti Leivestad, Mayor

ATTEST:



Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Thompson Falls City Council Meetings



**Public Hearing regarding updated Fee Schedule
City Hall, 108 Fulton Street, Thompson Falls, MT
Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.**

**Regular City Council Meeting at the
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AGENDA

OPEN MEETING

ROLL CALL OF THE COUNCIL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SET THE AGENDA

**CONSENT AGENDA: Claims, Minutes, Financial Reports, Court Report, Water Shut-off
List/Arrangements**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

INFORMATIONAL: Solor Radar Speed Signs – Gussie O’Conner and Catherine Dewitt

ACTION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Rusti Leivestad will present the Agenda Item unless otherwise listed.

1. **Beautification Days - Public Comment**
2. **Farmers Market - Public Comment**
3. **Hwy. 200 move speed signs 25/35 per MDT speed study - Public Comment**
4. **Highlead Block Party**
5. **David Thompson Plaque - Public Comment**
6. **Terminate agreement with NorthWestern Energy regarding Wild Goose Landing Park - Public Comment**
7. **Letter of support for the USFS Watershed Forest Plan - Public Comment**
8. **Fee Schedule - Public Comment**
9. **Public Records Resolution & Policy & Forms -Public Comment**
10. **Wayfinding Master Plan final draw - Public Comment**
11. **Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 1 & 2 - Public Comment**
12. **Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 3 & 4 - Public Comment**
13. **Water Project Request for Reimbursement - Public Comment**

Cody Mosher

Katherine Maudrone

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 minutes

MAYOR’S REPORT

ADJOURN

****There may be issues discussed during the meeting which may not be listed on the agenda. If a decision is required on items of significant interest, it will be scheduled for another date/time and posted within the required 48-hour notice. This schedule is subject to change without notice but will be posted within the required 48-hour notice. If you have any questions, please contact 406-827-3557.**

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Sign in Sheet

<p>NAME (Please Print)</p>	<p>WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD? √ = yes</p>	<p>Street Address</p>
<p>Please Print ROB CLARK</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you 409 ADAMS ST.</p>
<p>Ricki Clark</p>		<p>409 Adams St. TF</p>
<p>Jane Peterson</p>		<p>CHERRY CREEK</p>
<p>Shelbyne Gregory</p>		<p>608 Preston</p>
<p>Terry Vekstrom</p>		<p>110 Play St.</p>
<p>Ricky Rice</p>		<p>110 E. LA J ST.</p>
<p>Nathan G. Nelson</p>		<p>207 Woodland St.</p>
<p>Steve Oswald</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>203 South Gallatin TF</p>
<p>Donna McQueen</p>		<p>111 Hill St.</p>
<p>Tracy Spoll</p>		<p>Powder Valley Area</p>
<p>Annie Woodr</p>		<p>Ledges</p>
<p>Olivia Kuhens</p>		<p>Ledges</p>
<p>GREG HINKLE</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>CITIZEN 5 GABLE RD TF</p>
<p>Rea Herndon</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>12 GITERDUNE LN TF, FALLS</p>
<p>Richard Mays</p>		
<p>Arbuck Ballew</p>		<p>405 Ferry St</p>

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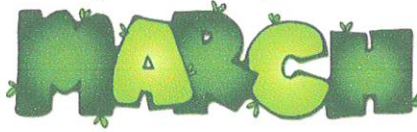
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NAME (Please Print)	WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD if YES what NUMBER? ✓ = yes	Street Address
Please Print		Please Print ~ thank you
Catherine DeWitt		2503 Mossy Rock Cr
Howard Inks		
Ron Chiswick		200 Woodliss Ln
John Harrison		707 Blue Slide
KAREN SHEETS		Karen Sheets
GUNNER JUNKE	#8	407 EAST 4TH
B. John Mosher		81 Elk Ridge
Joni Mosher	✓ #	306 Mosher
Cynthia Munkley	✓	1033 MAIN ST
Nancy Johnson	✓	76 Steamboat Way
Dean Johnson	✓	"
Kaitley Brown		3 Childs Road
Kirstie Brown		3 Childs Road
Cody Mosher	✓	P.O. Box 1914
Melinda Thompson		219 Park St

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<p>Please Print CHARLIE MUNDAY</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Please Print ~ thank you</p>
<p>Kristie Brown</p>	<p>NOT NOW</p>	<p>3 Childs Road</p>
<p>Randy Duffield</p>		<p>219 Park St</p>
<p>BRANK Cole</p>		<p>1210 Haley Ave W</p>
<p>ROB VIERG</p>		<p>208 CHURCH ST.</p>
<p>Karen McKindar</p>		<p>#2 S Sanders Loop Rd T.F.</p>
<p>Kristie Brown</p>		<p>3 Childs Road</p>
<p>Christy Bradley</p>		<p>19 Dry Creek Rd. T.F.</p>
<p>Anna Lisa Shee</p>		<p>704-712 MAIDEN Lane</p>

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<p>Please Print</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you</p>
<p>Lisa Gregory</p>	<p>8-9 ✓ yes</p>	<p>608 prostm</p>
<p>Do</p>		
<p>Steve Oswald</p>	<p>8 -</p>	<p>203 S. Fallatin TF</p>
<p>Toko Leiviska</p>		<p>Maple sf.</p>
<p>LINDA Weygant</p>		<p>504 Cherry Crk</p>
<p>Gail Hinkle</p>		<p>5 Gable, T.F.</p>
<p>Groze Hawke</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>5 Gable Rd T.f.</p>
<p>Gussie Connor</p>		<p>501 Main TF</p>
<p>Subrah Mithland</p>		<p>408 Ferry St</p>
<p>Rick & Lesley Fagerberg</p>		<p>1417 Marcken Lane TF</p>

April 8, 2024

Mayor, Council Members, and City Clerk,

I am requesting that the minutes from March 11 meeting be amended from:

Linda Weygint said she retired from public schools and dealt with the budget and grants, wondering why the budget on the website had different dates.

To read:

Linda Weygint said she retired from public schools' system with 22 years tenure, and dealt with all budgets, state and federal as well as grants, both state and federal. She questioned why the budgets she obtained from Montana State Department of Administration, State Financial Services Division, Local Government Services Bureau, dated December 8 and December 14 were two different documents. Was asked to make an appointment with the Mayor to discuss this.