

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

Monday, December 11, 2023



The City Council meeting was held at the Sanders County Courthouse, 1111 West Main Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Council Members Present:

Raoul Ribeiro, City Council President
Hayley Allen-Blakney, City Council Vice President
Katherine Maudrone
Earlene Powell
Shawni Vaught
Larry Lack

City Officials Present:

Rusti Leivestad, Mayor
Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Tim Goen, City Attorney

Others signed in: Sign in sheet 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. (Maudrone, Powell)

Standing Committee Reports- None

Community Decay Update – None

Information: Blackfoot Communications spoke to the Council about their Fiber Project.

ACTION TAKEN

1. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. (Powell, Vaught)
2. The Council made a motion 6-0 to support the HighLead Block Party planned for this next summer. (Ribeiro, Powell)
3. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the NorthWestern Energy Easements. (Powell, Ribeiro) Public Comment: Mary Dunn had questions about the parks. Kristin Wing asked about cost and the agreement.
4. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Arbor Day Grant Application. (Ribeiro, Powell) Public Comment: Mark Sheets in favor
5. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve placing a no parking sign on South Columbia Street for plowing and emergency vehicles. (Powell, Vaught)

6. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the InterCap Loan and Resolution #839 for a Skid Steer and Trailer. (Ribeiro, Lack) Public Comment: Kristin Wing asked how much they were. Cody Mosher asked if it was on tires or tracks.
7. The Council made a motion 6-0 approve using the HB355 Funding for Streets. (Ribeiro, Vaught) Public Comment: Mark Sheets is in favor. Kristin Wing asked about ARPA funds, asked when Wood Street would be fixed, she asked why the grants only pay for 1 side of the street. Melinda Thompson asked when Park Street would be fixed and made complaints about her sewer services. Gunner Junge asked where the matching funds came from for the grant.
8. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the updated Capital Improvements Plan. (Maudrone, Powell) Public Comment: Mark Sheets a CIP is great to have.
9. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Great West Engineering Contract for the upcoming Water Project. (Ribeiro, Allen-Blakney) Public Comment: Mark Sheets would love to see them go forward with the project. Kristin Wing asked for a copy of the contract with Great West Engineering for the Water Project. Mary Dunn asked how much the engineering costs were in the Great West Engineering Water Project Contract.
10. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Letter of Conditions for USDA Rural Development Grant Loan for the upcoming Water Project. (Allen-Blakney, Ribeiro) Public Comment: Mark Sheets suggests accepting the USDA RD Letter of Conditions for the Water Project and that the application was put in 9-10 months ago and cost the city water department was \$10,000. Kristin Wing asked if water rates would increase.
11. The Council made a motion 6-0 to table the Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements for Phases 1 & 2. (Ribeiro, Maudrone) Public Comment: Gunner Junge- asked why Razz was being released from this part of the contract and asked how many cubic feet of sludge it was. Kristin Wing how and where can you dispose of it. Brian Cole asked how many years it has been since the removal of the sludge and how long it will last. John Mosher asked when Razz is getting turned loose.
12. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements for Phases 3 & 4. (Maudrone, Powell) Public Comment: Kristin Wing asked who the contractor for the upcoming Sewer Project Phases 3 & 4 is.

Unscheduled Public Comment:

1. Katherine Maudrone read the below:

I'd like to address an occurrence from last month's city council meeting, in which a time for public comment was, in my perception, seized as an opportunity to intimidate and bully.

I became a member of TF city council in January 2020, a year no election held, as all 3 candidates were running unopposed. This was also a time when Thompson Falls began experiencing inconsistency in the mayor's position. And will be serving another 4 years, as this year, I was uncontested.

The document that was referenced last month was the Sanders County, MT Housing Needs Assessment & 5 year Housing Action Plan.

I was asked by Lisa Fried de Reyes, the Executive Administrator of Sanders County Community Housing Organization if I would represent the city as a Task Force Member. This task force was a collaborative effort with representation from elected officials, businesses, nonprofits, and school districts.

It was during this same time that I was asked by Jen Kreiner, who was the Executive Director of Sanders County Community Development Corp., if I would serve on the Steering Committee for the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant. This was another collaborative effort of governing agencies, non-profits, business owners and many volunteer groups.

And in contrast to these 2 examples of community engagement that were time limited, I presently serve on the Board of Directors for Kaniksu Land Trust. Eleven years ago I was introduced to KLT. It was a requirement, in my job description as Director of Land Services with Sanders County. Today it is my choice to serve.

KLT was originally founded in 2002 as the Clark Fork Pend Oreille Conservancy with the purpose of supporting the land conservation needs of Avista Corporation as required under the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement.

KLT has since transitioned to a stand-alone 501c3 non-profit organization, operating in Idaho and Montana and has also diversified its land protection and community engagement programs. It is my privilege and joy to serve on a board with others who also align with KLT's vision and mission.

My actions speak of who I am, a person of service, who steps up when I see a need and who answers a call for help. And as I begin my second term on city council, I invite and welcome an opportunity to come together in mutual respect to collaborate for the wellbeing of our community and all who live here.

Katherine Maudrone
205 Ferry St.
Thompson Falls, City Council Ward 2

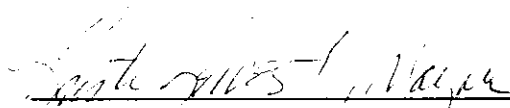
2. Steve Oswald- snow plow job was great, talked about Kristin Wing being mad about sewer costs even though he has been paying for sewer since the 80's, thinks people just need to deal with it since they bought the houses. Wants to find a way to help low-income people with their water and sewer bills.
3. John Mosher decided not to talk.

4. Cindy Bronner questioned the budget and said she was a CPA and had her CPA look it over and thinks there are discrepancies and wants to know who to talk to about it. Rusti said to call and make an appointment. She also brought an additional 239 signature for the Orchard.
5. Mark Bronner decided not to talk.
6. Kristin Wing wanted to thank Katherine for the time she takes to serve on boards.
7. Veronica Ingel asked the council about a Farmers Market and how to rent Ainsworth at a lower rate. The council told her to get on the Agenda for the January meeting to discuss it.

MAYORS NOTES –

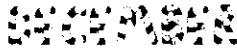
1. Much of the last month has been orientation, reviewing policy manuals, past budget, meeting with department heads, sitting in on teleconferences about water and sewer projects.
2. I want to express gratitude for all the assistance the team here at City Hall has given me.
3. Met with Nick Lawyer about possible soccer field.
4. Continued with Mayor's corner, writing a brief request to remember to not park on Main Street at night so state could plow snow.
5. Met with Kim McMahon of NWE regarding easements for FERC relicense.
6. Met with Travis Fitchett with the State Road Department to look at complaint on Main Street where water not adequately draining into drain from recent rains, concerned when it becomes icy.
7. Discussion with tobacco specialist about being on agenda – suggested Feb which is “quit smoking month.”
8. Research inquiry by Solid Rock Estates about plowing, relaying info to resident making request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


Rusti Leivestad, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Thompson Falls City Council Meetings



Public Hearing at 5:45 P.M. regarding upgrading the Capital Improvements Plan at the
Sanders County Courthouse, 1111 West Main Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, December 11, 2023

Regular City Council Meeting at the

Sanders County Courthouse, 1111 West Main Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

READ
FIRST

Sign in Sheet

<p>NAME (Please Print)</p>	<p>WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND IF YES WHAT AGENDA ITEM NUMBER? √ = yes</p>	<p>Street Address</p>
<p>Please Print</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you</p>
<p>Chris Laslovich Ledy</p>		<p>Blackfoot Communications 801 West main Street</p>
<p>Toba Leivestad</p>		<p>534 Maple T F</p>
<p>Lisa Snell</p>		<p>427 Clay Street</p>
<p>JOHN BRANT</p>		<p>441 CHERRY CREEK RD</p>
<p>Leslie BRANT</p>		<p>441 Cheeny Ck RD T.F</p>
<p>Carrie Gardner</p>		<p>Great West Engineer</p>
<p>Gussie O'CONNOR</p>		<p>315 GROVE</p>
<p>Rene Woodm</p>		<p>Ledy</p>
<p>Donna McQueen</p>		
<p>Nadean Nelson</p>	<p>✓✓✓✓✓</p>	<p>207 Woodland St, T.F</p>
<p>MARK sheets ✓</p>	<p>2356799</p>	<p>215 Grove St.</p>
<p>KAREN SHEETS</p>		<p>215 Grove St</p>
<p>Terry Volkman</p>		<p>110 clay ST</p>
<p>Picky Price</p>		<p>110 CLAY ST</p>
<p>Kathy Conlin</p>		<p>Trout Creek</p>
<p>Karen Sheets</p>		<p>415 Johnson St N TF</p>
<p>Nichelle Blake</p>		<p>105 park ST</p>

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~~9:00 AM~~

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<p>Please Print</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you</p>
<p>Gina West</p>		<p>20 Wood St</p>
<p>Ruth Cheney</p>		<p>1806 Pine Tree Hwy</p>
<p>John Moshier</p>		
<p>John Hasken</p>		<p>John Haskenson</p>
<p>JASON TIERMAN</p>		<p>1</p>
<p>LEA HERNON</p>		<p>12 GIBBON TIEALS</p>
<p>Philip Williams</p>		<p>1219 Main St.</p>
<p>Ann Linda Thompson</p>		<p>219 Park St</p>
<p>Randy Duffield</p>		<p>219 Park St</p>
<p>SIAN CARTER</p>		<p>10 Steep River Rd</p>
<p>Tomra Sheer</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>704 Maiden Lane</p>
<p>Kirsten Winy</p>	<p>6, 8, 9</p>	<p>1214 Haley</p>
<p>Mark Brown</p>		<p>5413 Grayson</p>
<p>Suzanne Bern</p>		<p>309 Little Beaver</p>
<p>Madison</p>		<p>103 Hill St. S.</p>
<p>Stephanie Webb</p>		<p>39 S. Iroquois Park Ln</p>
<p>Kim McMaha</p>		<p>Plains</p>
<p>Mary BUNN</p>		<p>Thompson</p>

City of Thompson Falls City Council Meetings

OPEN

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Sign in Sheet

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<p>Please Print Mike Wells</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you 25 Silcox Ln</p>
<p>Ron Christall</p>		<p>200 Woodlin Ln</p>
<p>Catherine DeWitt</p>		<p>102 N. Galbraith</p>
<p>Gunnar & Beth Jorg</p>		<p>407 1/2 Ave</p>
<p>Dean & Nancy Johnson</p>		<p>76 Steamboat Way E</p>
<p>Rob & Ricki Clark</p>		<p>Adams Street</p>
<p>Cindy Bronner</p>		<p>23 Cherry Creek Rd</p>
<p>Tina A. Soto</p>		<p>209 N. Ferry St</p>
<p>Resi Stalder</p>		<p>Willow Run Dr</p>
<p>Jim Elliott</p>		<p>1203 Maiden Ln</p>
<p>Veronica Inge</p>		<p>Trout Creek</p>
<p>Brian Cole</p>		<p>2413 Capstan Ct</p>
<p>Angela Drake</p>		<p>1216 Holly Hill Ln</p>
<p>Titus Drake</p>		<p>214 North Columbia St</p>
<p>Moses Drake</p>		<p>214 N Columbia</p>
<p>Dave Douglas</p>		<p>214 N Columbia</p>
<p></p>		<p>112 Steamboat Way E</p>
<p></p>		<p></p>
<p></p>		<p></p>

City of Thompson Falls City Council Meetings

DECEMBER

Public Hearing at 5:45 P.M. regarding upgrading the Capital Improvements Plan at the

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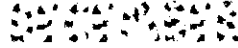
Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

READ FIRST

Sign in Sheet

<p>NAME (Please Print)</p>	<p>WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT? ✓ = yes</p>	<p>Street Address</p>
<p>Please Print</p>		<p>Please Print ~ thank you</p>
<p>Katherine Mauderke ✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>205 Ferry -</p>
<p>Steve Oswald ✓</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>203 S. Gallatin</p>
<p>John Mosher ✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>81 Elk Ridge Rd.</p>
<p>Cindy Bronner (June 2024) ✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>93 Cherry Creek Rd</p>
<p>Mark Bronner ✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>93 Cherry Crk.</p>
<p>John Mose ✓</p>		<p>66 Rutaw Dr</p>
<p>Kathleen Willy ✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>1214 Halcyon</p>

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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: BLACKFOOT COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS:

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

1. **HighLead Block Party** Cody Mosher
Public Comment
2. **NorthWestern Energy Easements** Kim McMahon
Public Comment
3. **Arbor Day Application**
Public Comment
4. **Place no parking sign on South Columbia Street for plowing and emergency vehicles.**
Public Comment
5. **Intercap Loan and Resolution for Skid Steer Loader and Trailer**
Public Comment
6. **HB355 Funding Resolution for Streets**
Public Comment
7. **Updating the Capital Improvements Plan** Carrie Gardner
Public Comment
8. **Great West Engineering Contract for the upcoming Water Project** Carrie Gardner
Public Comment
9. **Letter of Conditions for USDA Rural Development Grant Loan for Water Project** Carrie Gardner
Public Comment
10. **Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 1 & 2** Carrie Gardner
Public Comment
11. **Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 3 & 4** Carrie Gardner
Public Comment

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.