

**CITY OF MORO**  
**MINUTES OF April 1, 2025**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

*Written minutes may not contain a verbatim record of meeting events. If clarification or additional specific information is desired, please reference any available audio recording.*

The Moro City Council met for a regular council meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Bert Perisho; Councilors Andy Anderson, James Alley, and Bryan Cranston. Absent: Travis West. City Staff: John English, Director of Public Works; Brittany Wood, City Administrator; Dan Meader, Tenneson Engineering. Others in Attendance: Roberta Aldrich,

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Perisho called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT-**

The minutes from the March Council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented (**Cranston/ Alley**) **the motion carried.** The financial report for March, covering checks #13749-13770 with total bills totaling \$24,180.32, was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the payment of bills as presented (**Anderson/Cranston**) **the motion carried.**

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (Agenda items ONLY)**

No public comments were heard.

**VISITORS – CORRESPONDENCE –**

No correspondence was received.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

Project updates/ DPW staff report- Director English reported that two utility lines were rerouted off the property at 401 4th Street and into the correct right-of-way. Three locates were completed for LS Network in connection with a filed ROW permit. A sewer backup occurred in town, which was cleared, and faulty parts were replaced.

Research was conducted on sewer cameras and monitors for the CIS Grant. Time was spent spraying at the cemetery, while Isaac focused on general park maintenance and repairing grass damage caused by tree removal. The SCA sidewalk replacement project was underway, with Jones Excavation making substantial progress. Notice was received from Shearer Tanks that parts for the reservoir floor would be delivered during the week.

City Hall Staff Report- City Administrator Wood reported that the LOC Region 8 meeting was held at Moro City Hall and saw strong attendance from neighboring communities. The City received confirmation from the Ford Family Foundation (FFF) of funding approval for the PSU Income Survey. Significant time was spent on budget preparation and reviewing the final draft of the Zoning Map and Comprehensive Plan document. A Capital Construction request was submitted to the legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee. A proposal was received from Tower Alliance offering \$210,000 to buy out the existing lease on the City's cell tower.

CA Wood requested permission to have the carpets cleaned at City Hall. A reminder was given that the SEI filing deadline is April 15.

Final review of Public Facility zoning text- Planner Meader reviewed the draft zoning content for the

Open Space/Public Facility zone. Several edits were suggested. It was recommended that “site plan review” be removed and those items be addressed under a Conditional Use Permit. Additionally, the proposed Senior Housing project on Dewey Street was recommended to be zoned Residential under a Conditional Use Permit instead of the OS/PF zone. Setback requirements were briefly discussed. The Council reached a general consensus that the Senior/ Government Housing would be more appropriately located in the Residential zone than the OS/PF zone.

### New Business

Review of Past due Water/ Sewer Accounts- A list of past-due accounts was reviewed. CA Wood noted the list was longer than usual. Disconnect notices would be issued to all 11 account holders who were behind on payments.

Consideration to reduce rear setbacks in the residential zone- Planner Meader proposed that the standard 5,000 sq. ft. residential lot have a 5-foot rear setback and a 20-foot front setback to allow more buildable land in the Residential zone, yet maintain adequate soil for proper drainage.

Setbacks for R-5	Current	Proposed
Front	15 Ft	20Ft
Rear	20 Ft	5 Ft
Side Yard	5 ft interior, 10 ft Side yard	5 Ft interior, 10 ft Side yard

DEQ Local Government Funding Authorization Form- The Council granted CA Wood permission to submit the authorization form for transportation reimbursement and contamination outreach fees. As these services are provided by Waste Connection, reimbursement will go to them.

City of Moro City Council Long-Term Plan- Project Priorities- CA Wood informed the Council that SIP funds from the County have been depleted. She will go before the County Budget Committee and request \$250,000 for each incorporated city for a proposed five-year program. The Council supported this proposed request and agreed that the funds should be directed to a maintenance line item if awarded. Councilor Anderson emphasized the need to prioritize rock production for road resurfacing. Councilor Cranston noted that resurfacing could qualify as maintenance. Mayor Perisho suggested beginning sewer expansion in the APEX/Vista Lane area, even if starting with a manhole as a first step. The \$166,000 in COVID relief funds previously allocated to the sewer crossing project were discussed, and confirmed that the City still had possession of those funds. The Council agreed that the sewer crossing project was a higher priority than expanding the sewer line into the APEX subdivision at this time.

FY 25/26 Budget Work- A motion was made to nominate the Budget Committee members- Dave Messenger, Tammi Bartlett, Jerrilea Mayfield, Shawn Payne, and Janet Pinkerton. Brittany Wood was elected as the budget chair, and the budget calendar was adopted as presented. **(Cranston/ Alley) the motion carried.** CA Wood presented new Water/ Sewer utility rates based on a 2.5% CPI-U increase. A motion was made to set the monthly utility rate at \$130.00 per EDU (Water \$64.00, Sewer \$66.00) **(Anderson/ Cranston) the motion carried.** This motion was made regarding a motion that was made in April of 2019:

*"Councilor Cranston shared that it seems a lot of decisions are made with SIP Funds in mind, and in this case, they subsidize us to keep rates down and playing catch up is not beneficial to the City's financial health. The City has to cover the fixed cost with a limited number of connections, and typically it is easier to manage the cost with more system users. A motion was made **(Cranston/ Anderson)** to automatically increase or decrease the water and sewer utilities rates with CPI, going forward, yearly change to be effective July 01 of each fiscal year.*

Employee COLA/ MERIT raise- City staff did not request merit raises for this budget year. A motion was made to approve a 4% COLA raise for all employees, following County guidance (**Cranston/ Alley) Anderson Opposed- the motion carried.**

Public Works Equipment and Building Maintenance request- The Council approved the purchase of a Zero-Turn Bad Boy lawn mower for use at the park and cemetery. Additional funds were approved to pair with a \$5,000 CIS Grant to purchase a high-quality sewer snake and monitor setup. The Council supported the joint purchase of the sewer camera and monitor with the City of Wasco, sharing ownership and cost, as previously demonstrated with the Sewer Jetter Trailer. CA Wood received permission to purchase a new computer tower for City Hall due to aged equipment and operational issues.

Request of Funding from County in lieu of SIP funding- CA Wood will go before the County Court at the Budget Hearing and will request \$250,000.00 for each incorporated City, in Sherman County, for 5-years in the absence of the expired SIP funds that the Cities have relied upon for Infrastructure planning, repair and development. The council supported this request and did not offer any different proposals for funding requests.

Blue Mountain Network Franchise Agreement Review- CA Wood reviewed the history of non-payment of franchise fees by Blue Mountain Networks. A demand letter was issued to BMN, formerly, Gorge Networks, revealing that the company only collected fees on 18 telephone customers and failed to include the 108 fiber customers in the franchise collection efforts.

Due to a software upgrade, Blue Mountain could not provide the historical revenue records that were requested. The missed franchise revenue over the agreement's life is estimated at over \$25,000. The Council authorized CA Wood to engage the City Attorney and coordinate with other cities on this issue.

Review of ServePro invoice- A resident experienced sewer backup in their home. ServePro was called for cleanup, and the invoice was submitted to the homeowner's insurance. Council determined the City will address the bill if it is submitted to the City's insurance.

#### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA-**

Roberta Aldrich thanked DPW English for working promptly to address a safety concern she had on a culvert.

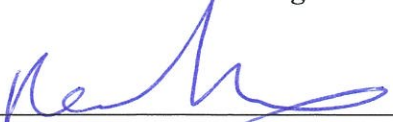
#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER-**

Director English thanked Amber Degrange and the OYCC crew for the outstanding work on the west fence line from Azure up to the Cemetery– the work is very appreciated.

#### **ADJOURNMENT-**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

**The next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.**

 Date 5/6/2025  
Bert Perisho, Mayor

ATTEST:  Date 5/6/2025  
Brittany Wood, City Administrator