

## **July 14, 2025, Regular Council Meeting**

Council Members in attendance were Curtis Green, Tamara Todd, Jan Bowey, and Diane Kaatz. Also in attendance were Mayor Bob Stump and Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse

**Guests:** Wyatt Macy (Public Works Employee), Mati Bishop (The Madisonian), Janis Hansen, Chris Roberts, Anne Wentz, Michael Douglas, Corey Theis (Sheridan/Alder Parks District), Kaylie Theis (Sheridan Charitable Community Foundation - SCCF), Jeff Gerth (Sheridan Fire Department), Kerry Walter, Becky and Brandon Macy, Linda Clark (Library), and Jim Kaatz (via zoom)

Mayor Stump called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Non-Agenda Items:** Corey Theis thanked Bob and Donna Stump for painting the Amphitheater.

Kerry Walter – Asked if there was a way for the Town of Sheridan to get a community grant writer, so the Town could apply for grants for their infrastructure such as water/sewer, streets, parks, and anything else that needs funding. Bob said we do have a grant writer for water and sewer. The Town's engineer writes those grants. Discussion occurred regarding grants. The Town currently has a grant for \$125,00 that will be used to loop the line from Madison to Washington Street near the Hospital and the elementary school. Grants are hard to get from the State.

Brandon Macy reported that the Fourth of July turned out nice.

Becky Macy asked who writes the grants for the Town. The engineering firm. The Town lost their qualification for CDBG grants because of the median household income has increased for Sheridan. Becky commented that her mother is great at writing grants. She has a lot of experience.

**Consent Agenda:** Jan Bowey made a motion to approve June 9th with the amendment to the date of the next council meeting changed from the twelve to the fourteen, and the minutes for June 19 and July 1. Tammy seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Jan made a motion to approve the claims. Tammy seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Unfinished Business:** Patricia and Richard Wang (206 Ruby St) – Mayor Stump provided a recap of what occurred at last month's meeting. The Wangs asked why they were getting a second base rate on their water/sewer and requested the Council remove the second base rate. It qualifies them as a multi-user dwelling as they are renting out two rooms in the house for income. The Town has reached out to the Town attorney and received a response back. Bob read the response from the attorney to the public. Mayor Stump asked for any public comment. Discussion occurred. Kerry Walter asked if there are any others in Town that are being charged more than one base rate. Kaylie said it is safe to say if you are advertising that you are providing a rental then you must pay the difference in utilities.

Tammy Todd commented if it is advertised for profit then it is an extra charge on the base rate. Curtis Green made a motion to keep the double base rate in place for 206 Ruby St., per Ordinance 118. Tammy second the motion. Jan commented that with a roommate or couples living together those are individuals sharing expenses. This situation is different as they are not sharing expenses, they are renting space for profit. The Montana Code that Richard Wang was citing was landowner situations not water/sewer rate situations. The difference between guests staying at home versus a renter is the length of stay. That

precedence was set when we charged for separate RV spots that have water and sewer access.

Anne Wentz if they are renting out space then they should be able to pay for the utilities.

Since Richard cited landlord tenant law it becomes a landlord tenant situation.

Bob called for the vote. Curtis – yes, Tammy – yes, Diane – yes, Jan – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **New Business**

Glen Goldthwait as member of zoning commission: Jan made a motion to appoint Glen to the zoning commission. Diane seconded the motion. No comments. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

*Resolution 2025-08 Water Rates:* Bob provided a summary of the resolution for the water rates. Tammy made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-08 Resolution of the Town of Sheridan, Montana increase of water rates. Diane seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

*Resolution 2025-09 Sewer Rates:* Bob provided a summary of the resolution for the sewer system. Diane made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09 Resolution of the Town of Sheridan, Montana increase of sewer rates. Curtis seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

*Swimming Pool:* Discussion of the swimming pool occurred. Mayor Stump provided the public and the council with a proposal for the future of the pool. The Town used to run the swimming pool. There was in the past talk about closing the pool. The Sheridan/Alder Parks District (Parks District) was formed to help prevent this from happening. The Parks District's purpose is to provide funding for the parks in the Town of Sheridan and Alder and this includes the pool. It is a \$35.00 annual fee that is accessed to the tax bills. The pool has relied over the last few years on the Parks District to supply funding for the pool. Currently there are four entities involved with the pool. The Town who does the yard upkeep, provides the water and sewer services, picks up garbage, and provides \$8,000 towards the pool out of the general fund; the Park District that funds \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year; the pool advisory committee; and the pool club which is a 501 C3. Their main purpose is to fund raise for the pool.

We have had internal conversations that the Town would do the financial piece of the pool but not manage the pool. The ideal is for the Town to have a pool board that would handle the hiring and managing of the pool. The pool board would determine their budget every year. The budget would then go to the Parks district to get money. No decisions have been made; it is just in discussion. Discussion with the public occurred.

Corey Theis, who is on the board of the Park District (3 members) spoke on behalf of the district. The district was originally supposed to be strictly a funding resource but over the years it has become more than that. The Park District has become involved with running the pool. There are things behind the scenes that need to be changed. The park district should not spend 90% of their time on the pool. Corey would like to see the Town take over and come to us for the funding each year. The majority of the district's money does go to the pool.

Mayor Stump stated additional information will be coming. Kerry Walter volunteered to be on the pool board.

Dirk Wagner joined via zoom.

## **Boards and Committees**

*Sheridan/Alder Park District Board:* Corey Theis commented that the district funded the Alder baseball field, the pool and provided money to SCCF this year.

*Sheridan Charitable Community Foundation:* Kaylie Thies reported on behalf of SCCF. Sheridan Days start Thursday and end on Sunday. They have started on the Pavilion, and it will be used for Sheridan days, but it will not be finished. There will be music on Thursday on Main Street and Friday and Saturday at the park.

*Zoning Commission:* Jan Bowey reported on behalf of the zoning commission. The zoning commission has worked through the first draft of the use districts and definitions. They are waiting for some reviews from the engineering firm. The second part of the zoning plan has Montana Code Annotated (State Laws) in it and how to apply for a building permit. The engineering firm is making sure we are following the state laws. The bulk of the draft is done.

The next meeting will be on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and it will be another working meeting for the rest of the draft and then we will have a hearing for public participation and review.

*Local Government Study Commission:* Tammy reported that the Local government study commission had interviews with Town officials regarding the current form of government. All officials said the current form of government was functional. There is a concern if a change does occur it could be a financial burden to Town residents. They had a public hearing and did not have very many people attend and which does not let the study commission have a clear understanding of what the public would like to see. Their next meeting will be the first Thursday in August, which is the seventh.

## **Reports**

*Sheriff's Report:* Mayor Stump read the written report. There were three ambulance calls and forty-four to the Sheriff's office. Jan asked if the calls were all in town limits or out of Town. They are supposed to be in Town, but they are not.

*Library:* Linda Clark reported on behalf of the library. The library has their summer reading program for the kids up and running. It ends in August. The library has updated their donation and discard policy. They now have a policy in place. Looking at a book club for kids as there has been a request for one. There is discussion about combining the Friends of the Library ice cream social with a book sale. The library is also working on their strategic plan.

*Attorney:* No report

*Fire Department:* Jeff Gerth reported on behalf of the fire department. There were no calls in Town last month, seven calls outside of Town. The fire department will be having breakfast on Sunday during Sheridan Days starting at 6:00 am to 9:00 am at the fire hall. They will then participate in the parade afterwards.

*Public Works:* Wyatt Macy reported that public works have been working a lot on the roads and the parks. He cleaned up the sidewalk on Main Street. They have also cut down some trees on Poppleton. They will be starting to grade the alleyways this next week. He also wants to get a permit to fix the walkway along the creek at the baseball field.

Curtis commented that they just replaced the radio controller at the water tank with a new one at the cost of \$23,000. The radio controller needed to be replaced because it froze up this past winter. The new controller is operating well.

*Clerk/Treasurer Report:* Kristi reported that she sent out tax lien notices this past week, they had to be out by the seventh. There were seven tax lien notices that went out. A few individuals have already come in and taken care of their accounts. Overall, there are approximately twenty-eight accounts that are past due.

Curtis, Bob, and Kristi are updating the water and sewer ordinance.

Kristi will also be starting the closing for FY2025 shortly and working with Denning and Downey on it. She is still waiting for a couple of invoices to come for the past year, such as Northwestern Energy.

*Council Report:* Curtis asked if Bob has heard anything on Well 7. Bob stated that we are still waiting for DEQ approval.

Tammy Todd commented that three people have told her how nice the parks and roads look. Appreciation for the dust control.

Diane Kaatz – Commented she has been impressed with parks and roads as well.

Jan Bowey – She has also heard the same comments.

*Mayor's Report:* Bob reported that the sixty-one acres next to the lagoon has been sold. Discussion occurred regarding the water and sewer and what the individual's plans are at this time. Currently there is just a plan for four houses.

Council Review – Next meeting is August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Jan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ATTEST:

Signature on file

signature on file

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Kristi Millhouse, Clerk/Treasurer

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Robert Stump, Mayor