CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2025
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL & ZOOM

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM & AT CITY HALL

City Attorney Bugni called the public hearing on City of Cut Banks 2025-2026 Budget. City Attorney Bugni swore in the Clerk-Treasurer Schultz. Clerk-Treasurer Schultz stated that it was published in the paper on August 27, 2025 and September 3, 2025. Clerk-Treasurer Schultz stated that she had not received any correspondence. City Attorney Bugni asked for public comment. There was none. **City Attorney Bugni asked for a motion to not adjourn the meeting but continue the public hearing on September 22nd. Councilperson Nygaard made a made a motion to continue the public hearing. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. The Motion carried 3-0**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Winchell called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:40 PM, Monday, September 8, 2025. The following persons answered roll call: Mayor Winchell, Councilperson Doug Vermulm, Maynard Nygaard, Kacie Fey. Also present were Police Chief Schultz, Clerk/Treasurer Schultz, City Superintendent Damberger, and City Attorney Bugni. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS:
Vernon Thomas
Andy Van Haur
Rick Geiger
Ricky S. Salazar via zoom

ABSENT**:**
Councilperson Reynolds

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT ON THE AGENDA: none

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Andy Van Haur of the Northern MT Joint Refuse Disposal District of Valier wanted to introduce himself as the landfill superintendent. He informed the council that there would be a meeting this Thursday at 10:00 AM where they will be discussing new rates and fees. The dollar per mile rate would increase.

Dr. Ricky S. Salazar of 402 1st ST SW read a statement concerning the airport. Dr. Salazar stated that he had worked on FAA documentation & infrastructure of this airport. He stressed that the airport was value to Glacier County, Blackfeet Community and the state as a whole. This airport can bring in economic educational, and culture value. He was seeking a contact number to have a more in-depth conversation about this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Fey moved to approve the minutes from August 18th as distributed. Payroll Summary for August 28, 2025, for $107,564.10. Claims through September 5, 2025, for $172,674.51 warrants 63474-63522. Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote on the Consent Agenda. The Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney:

City Attorney Bugni gave an update on the Burlingame Property. It went through the legal process to clean up the property. Mr. Burlingame did not clean it up so the City will clean the lot up and put the cost on the property's taxes. The process of the City cleaning up the lot has already started.

City Superintendent:

The painted garbage dumpsters got distributed. There has been a lot of positive feedback on these garbage dumpsters. The Sewer plant is up and operational. The SW lift station might need engineering to help an issue they are having there. The water project on 3rd AVE SW is coming along. All the water lines are operational. The street department will have the chips picked up on the road and the school lines restriped by the end of next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve resolution 2025-16 repealing resolution 202-15 levying additional mills to provide funding for capital needs for the City Fire Department. Councilperson Fey made a motion to approve. Councilperson Nygaard seconded. Attorney Bugni stated that the legislation this year changed the mill levy law so that levies had to be in a dollar amount instead of a mill amount. **The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.**

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-17 levying additional monies to provide funding for capital needs for the City Fire Department. Councilperson Fey made a motion to approve. Councilperson Nygaard seconded. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-18 levying voted mills as required by laws 2025, chapters 674 and 767 passed in the 69th Montana Legislative Session. Councilperson Fey made a motion to approve. Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-19 a resolution of intent to fund the capital needs of the Cut Bank Police Department. Councilperson Fey made a motion. Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-20 a resolution of intent to levying a special assessment to defray the cost for the maintenance of streets, avenues, and alleys in districts numbers 1,2, 3 and 4. Councilperson Fey made a motion to approve. Councilperson Nygaard seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-21 a resolution of intent levying a special assessment to pay for the cost of maintenance and for furnishing electrical current for the lighting districts in the City of Cut Bank. Councilperson Nygaard made a motion to approve. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-22 a resolution of intent of the City of Cut Bank adopting additional permissive medical levy mills for employer group health insurance for fiscal year 2025-2026. Councilperson Nygaard made a motion to approve. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-22 a resolution of intent of the City of Cut Bank adopting additional permissive medical levy mills for employer group health insurance for fiscal year 2025-2026. Councilperson Nygaard made a motion to approve. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-23 a resolution of intent for funding park maintenance district 1 in the City of Cut Bank. Councilperson Nygaard made a motion to approve. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. The Mayor Called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-24 adopting a preliminary budget for the City of Cut Bank for fiscal year 2025-2026. Councilperson Nygaard made a motion to approve. Councilperson Fey seconded the motion. Councilperson Fey stated that she had a few questions on the budget. In Legal Services in professional services the budget doubled. City Attorney Bugni stated that this is to pay for additional help. This line would cover other attorney fees, or prosecutors if the court needs additional help. The City attorney's Office is overwhelmed and some of things need to be farmed out. Councilperson Fey stated that Facilities Administration increased their budget. Clerk Treasurer Schultz stated that she put the match money for the HB 355 grant in there. Clerk Treasurer Schultz stated that she would move it to his own category in the general fund so it would be easier to see. Councilperson Fey asked why the training budget for the police went down significantly. Chief Schultz stated that he is trying to keep cost down. There is a program for training on-line through Police One which they already have a subscription for. There are a lot of training opportunities that will be paid for by other entities. Also there is no one going to the academy this year. Councilperson Fey mentioned there was $50,000 increase in building materials. Superintendent Damberger stated that he is planning for future projects and costs for building materials is high. Councilperson asked about the machinery and Equipment in the Water Operating Fund. Superintendent Damberger stated that the City might need to buy an air compressor for the Water Treatment Plant. Councilperson Fey also asked about the construction in progress for the water department. Superintendent Damberger stated that this is a line to connect the storage ponds. This project has been slated for 6 to 7 hears but has not taken place yet. Councilperson Fey asked about construction in progress for water distribution. Clerk Treasurer stated that this is for the current project that is taking place on 3rd Ave SW. The amounts listed below this line item is the loans/grants that are paying for the project. Councilperson Fey also asked about the Water Tank Project loan. Clerk Treasurer Schultz stated that she included the amount to payoff the loan and also the yearly cost to keep the loan depending on how the City decides to go. Councilperson Fey also asked about why the sewer expenditures were so high. Clerk Treasurer Schultz explained that cash had to be 200% of expenditures. Superintendent Damberger also stated that this budgeted money could be used to fix the lift station if need be or replace sewer lines.

Correspondence: none

WORK SESSION:

Presentation by Rick Geiger of the GCCB Airport Authority.

Mr. Geiger stated that they can not sell the land because there are grant assurances that need to be met and runway safety zones. The Airport Board leases land to make money. Mr. Geiger also stated that they have a grant to fix the beacon on the main hanger. They received local match money so this project will not cost. The airport receives 2 mills from the City and the County. This 2 mills is not enough to save for upcoming projects. The airport is just treading water. The airport authority would like to ask for a vote on a levy to help fund the airport. Mr. Geiger also turned in the airport's budget sheet. Please see attached paper.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

The City only received 1 RFQ for the police department project. The Mayor stated that we still need to get a committee together and score the RFQ. Councilperson Reynolds and Nygaard stated that they could be on the committee.

The Mayor stated that the growth policy town meeting would have one more round. The first one went well but The Growth Policy committee would like to give other citizens a chance to attend that were not able to attend the first town hall meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Port Authority:

The Port Authority has two new members. Browning, Cut Bank, and Glacier County all have 3 seats on the board.

Public Comment:

none

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Winchell adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Attest: Approve:

Donni Schultz, Clerk-Treasurer Kimberly Winchell, Mayor