

**CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF August 11, 2025
STATE OF MONTANA**

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; officials in attendance were; Council Members Ethan Bell, Doug Roberts and Chris Purkett, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley, Water/ Wastewater Director - Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman, Public Works Director Richard Thompson and Undersheriff Scott McDermott. Excused from attending were Council Member Sam Beyl, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

A. Blake and Brooke Watkins Variance-Change in front setbacks from 25' to 14' on Oak Street and from 25' to 10' on North 7th Avenue: Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. and opened the public hearing. With no comments being heard from the public, Mayor Kopitzke closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 24406-24441 in the amount of \$172,969.13 and check numbers 23037–23057 in the amount of \$137,949.02 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business:

1. Blake and Brooke Watkins Variance-Change in front setbacks from 25' to 14' on Oak Street and from 25' to 10' on North 7th Avenue: Mayor Kopitzke presented the variance and stated the zoning committee recommended granting the variance. Council Member Purkett asked if the variance was granted if the residence would go over the 50/50 rule. City Clerk Donley stated the zoning committee members had driven by and looked at the residence and that they didn't believe the 50/50 rule was an issue.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve the variance for Mr. and Mrs. Watkins; the motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

New Business: Mayor Kopitzke stated there were numerous permits and City Clerk Donley stated they were all during the Duck Days festivities.

1. Forsyth Chamber – Duck Days Permits-August 15 & 16, 2025 Open Container, Street Closure, Parade, Special Event and Street Dance Permits
2. Mr. Tom Queen/Lariat Bar – Open Container and Street Closure Permits for Lariat Bar (Duck Days Festivities) August 16, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to August 17, 2025 1:30 a.m. for open container and 2:00 a.m. for street closure.

3. Ms. Kenzie Stahl/Class of 2015 – Open Container Permit for a Class Reunion at Marcyces Park, August 16, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve all permits together; the motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley and Water/Wastewater Director/ Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman gave verbal and had written reports. Public Works Director Thompson and Pool Manager Jason Forberg had written reports included in the packet.

City Clerk/Treasurer: City Clerk Donley went over her report and Council Members Roberts and Purkett asked to be signed up for the League Conference.

Public Works: Public Works Director Thompson reported he has order new signs, has been working with RHCC and the county on the drainage issue at the end of North 17th Street and still trying to get branches trimmed without success due to dealing with downed branches from storms. Director Thompson stated public works would be trying this week to grind the stumps across from the dentist office and if they weren't successful, another route would need to be taken as sprouts are coming up all around the stumps. Director Thompson stated his department needed to look into purchasing an attachment to help with dike maintenance after the levee project was completed. Director Thompson asked permission to move employee Chris Noser to a level E-3 as he had missed his step raise in July.

Council Member Bell made a motion to allow for Chris Noser to be moved from a D-3 to an E-3; the motion to allow the move was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Water/Wastewater: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman reported Agri Industries would be here in the next couple weeks to replace the pump that had issues and Jeff Cookman passed his CDL license. Director Hallman asked the council what should be done about ATV being driven behind the sewer plant. Council directed Mr. Hallman to start by posting signs stating no off-road traffic and revisit the issue if the problem continues.

Rosebud County Sheriff's Office: Undersheriff McDermott reported all positions in Forsyth should be full within a week and that the Sheriff's Office has a new vehicle they are trying to get equipped. Under Sheriff McDermott stated someone from the Sheriff's Office would be attending the meeting with the governor on Wednesday at the water plant.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Hallman reported he has been moving forward with letters, some issues have been taken care of, a few fines have been received and that he was working with the city judge on issues that residents were not taking care of.

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update: Mayor Kopitzke reported there was still one (1) property owner that had issues with the levee project. Discussion was had on what options the city could pursue to be able to do the entire levee project.

Windfarm-Impact Funds: Nothing new to report

Water Project Update: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman asked that erosion control for the water tank be put on the agenda for the August 25, 2025 meeting. The council then moved forward with the items on the agenda. Discussion was had on item #1 & #2

1. Change Order from Ace Electric for Blind Flanges
2. Change Order from Ace Electric for Water Tank Service

After the discussion.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve both change orders together; the motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Purkett. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

3. Pay app #2 for WTP controls

Pay app #2 for the water treatment plant controls was presented.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve pay app #2 for the WTP controls; the motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget: City Clerk/Treasurer Donley reported she had updated the numbers for taxes to be received as she had received the taxable valuation information from the State of Montana.

NEW BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

City Judge Egeland: None

City Council: Council Member Purkett mentioned there were kids picking up branches in Marcyces Park after the storm and wanted to thank them.

Mayor: Mayor Kopitzke presented his report and asked if there were any questions. Mayor Kopitzke then reported he heard back from the individual that showed interest in the building inspector position with the stipulations of taking the position. Mayor Kopitzke and council agreed the stipulations were not feasible for the city. Mayor Kopitzke informed the council the governor would be in Forsyth on Wednesday at the water plant for a tour and that he had spoken with Rosebud County Commissioner Lee concerning the water at Riverview Villa.

City Attorney: None

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Mayor Kopitzke asked for public comment after each topic, if comments are made; those comments are recorded as part of the official minutes.

Agenda Items for the Next Meeting: Water Project Update, Levee Update, Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget, Code 7-1-9 -Dike Preservation and Erosion Control for Water Tank South of Interstate

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley