

**CITY OF FORSYTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF April 14, 2025  
STATE OF MONTANA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Kopitzke asked if there was anyone that had comments not on the agenda- Mrs. Carla Leonhardt owner of the Forsyth Dairy Queen spoke about concerns she had with the sidewalk project on front street. Mayor Kopitzke addressed Mrs. Leonhardt's concerns, stating the plans would not affect the water flow or the parking for the businesses on front street. Mrs. Tamara Robertson spoke on behalf of the Forsyth Youth Council and updated the City Council on the projects planned. Mrs. Robertson also asked the council for the yearly support from the city that is budgeted for.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):** None

**REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 24136-24190 in the amount of \$142,391.78 and check numbers 22771–22828 in the amount of \$117,165.28 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:** None

**New Business:**

1. **Jeannie Hullinger- Open Container Permit for Riverside Park (Celebration of Life) June 28, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 5:00 p.m.:** Mayor Kopitzke presented the open container permit for Ms. Hullinger on June 28, 2025.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve the permit. Council Member Beyl seconded the motion. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.

2. **Susan Quinlan/Class of 80'/81' – Open Container Permit for Riverside Park (Class Reunion) July 18, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 6:00 p.m.:** Mayor Kopitzke presented the open container permit for Mrs. Quinlan on July 18, 2025.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the permit. Council Member Beyl seconded the motion. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.

3. **Forever Forsyth/BreeAnn Purkett- City of Forsyth monetary donation:** Mrs. BreeAnn Purkett spoke asking the City of Forsyth for support. Mayor Kopitzke agreed to write a letter of support and Council will look into budgeting for support in fiscal year 25/26.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to give support to Forever Forsyth in the amount of \$1,500.00. Council Member Purkett seconded the motion. Discussion was had concerning the amount of support the council wanted to give. Council Member withdrew his motion for support in the amount of \$1,500.00 and made a motion to give support in the amount of \$2,500.00. Council Member Purkett seconded the motion to support in the amount of \$2,500.00. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.

**4. Forsyth Chamber of Commerce- Wild flower planting:** Mrs. BreeAnn Purkett spoke regarding beautification for the area on the south side of main street from N 18<sup>th</sup> avenue to Art's Tires which is N 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Discussion was had.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to give permission to plant in the area of main street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley, Water/Wastewater Director and Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman and Public Works Director Richard Thompson all gave verbal and written reports. Pool Manager Jason Forberg had a written report included in the packet.

City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley talked about her report and the rate study for water and sewer increases. Discussion was had on how the numbers were calculated. City Clerk Donley explained that Bobbie Shular with Rural Water met with Mayor Kopitzke, City Clerk Donley and Water/Wastewater Director Hallman and gave them an excel spreadsheet rural water has developed for calculating rates. Council Member Purkett asked to wait on moving forward so he could do calculations.

Public Works Director Thompson talked about his report and asked permission to sell the old dump truck/sander combination now that the city has two new ones. Discussion was had on the process of the sale. City Clerk Donley agreed to work with Director Thompson to advertise and have the decision on the sale held at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Public Works Director Thompson asked permission to buy thirty (30) 96-gallon garbage cans. Discussion was had about can sizes and prices.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to buy the thirty cans. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 3-0.

Water/Wastewater Director Hallman went over his report and commented that Jeff Wilson passed his second water test. Director Hallman stated he did not pass the wastewater test and the next available testing would be held in October 2025.

Code Enforcement Officer Hallman reported he was moving forward spring time code issues and a few ongoing issues to which he has sent letters. Conversation was had on the process to bring tickets to the judge for prosecution that residents have not paid.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Levee Update:**

**Dike Project:** Mayor Kopitzke and Public Works Director Thompson met with Jeremiah Theys with Great West. Great West is moving forward on the general maintenance of the dike which should be going to bid soon. Great West would like to store the rip rap (rock material) on city property at the wastewater plant while the project is being done. Great West is still working the US Army Corp of Engineers on the rip rap project.

**Slaughter House Project:** The BRIC Program has been cancelled so as of now there is no longer funding through that program. Great West is going to resubmit the grant proposal to the flood mitigation assistance which would be the same proposal as sent to the BRIC program. Great West feels we have a good chance of being awarded the grant for \$1.5 million and FEMA would pick up the additional \$7.5 million for the slaughterhouse project.

**Water Project Update:** Water/Wastewater Director Hallman reported he met Ace Electric, Lowell with Interstate Engineering and Dennis with MET and did a walk through at the plant and it was decided the control panel would be moved to be more feasible. The control project is in the works with a few changes and should start in the next month. Director Hallman also reported Blue Creek noticed a void at the water tank when repairing the pipe issue. Interstate Engineering is looking at options to see if material can be hauled in to fix the void or if the design needs to be changed.

1. Task Order No. 2-approving the preparation of an amended water system PER focusing on the water intake  
Council Member Purkett made a motion to approve task order no.2. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried.

**TA Grant:** Mayor Kopitzke reported the TA Grant application has been turned in and the city should know sometime this summer if the grant was awarded.

**Front Street Project/Trees:** The State of Montana got all the trees on Main Street cut down that were damaged during the drainage portion of the Front Street Project. There all still stumps from the trees that will need to be dealt with.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Fire Chief Appointment-Cal McConnell:** Mayor Kopitzke asked for a motion for the appointment of Mr. Cal McConnell.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to appointment Mr. Cal McConnell as the Fire Chief. The motion to appoint Cal was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

**B. Land Swap with Rosebud County:** Mayor Kopitzke asked if council had looked over the paperwork Attorney White had drawn up for the swap. This swap would trade the city's property by the cemetery for the county's property next to Quincer's Subdivision.

Council Member Purkett made a motion to accept the land swap. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0.

**REPORTS:**

City Judge Egeland had a report.

City Council: Council Member Roberts stated a pool committee meeting was being set. City Clerk Donley stated Pool Manager Forberg had sent information to her for the agenda. The meeting will be held at the swimming pool on May 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor: Mayor Kopitzke presented his report and asked if there were any questions. Council Member Beyl stated she would like to make a correction to the mayor's report concerning the date for the community meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday April 22, 2025 not April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

City Attorney: None

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** May12, 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:** Levee Update, Water Project, Water Rate Increase and Budget

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

  
Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

  
City Clerk Sandra Donley