

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P.O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
Posted May 15th, 2025

*There was a regular council meeting of the Whitehall Town Council on **Monday, May 19th, 2025 at 7:00 pm**. The meeting was held in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave.*

The agenda is as follows:

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER *Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.*

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Katy James, Linda Jung, Sara Unruh, Mary Janacaro Hensleigh, Roy McBride, Bill Lanes, Shawn Hoagland. Guests: Kory Klapan, Dan Hagerty, Colton Howser, Liz Pullman, Chiara Schober, Tim Schober, Sherry Camretta, Bob Camretta, Terry Reed, and Maxine Samuelson.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Liz Pullman requested a street closure permit and open container permit for June 14th. The Bootleg Brawl will be taking place at the Star Theater as a fundraiser for the Theater's new roof.

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

Roy McBride motioned to approve the agenda. Linda Jung seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Jung motioned to approve the minutes. Roy McBride seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Big Sky Passenger Rail – Mary Janacaro Hensleigh, Jefferson County
Director Executive Secretary

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh had been asked by Dan Hagerty to give an update. \$150,000 has been appropriated to the project in North Dakota to assist with the non-federal matching funds. The Montana Legislature did not take action. The annual conference will be held in Livingston, MT on September 8-10, 2025. Call for volunteer contributions from member counties for the upcoming fiscal year. Any questions should be directed to Rich Wallace (Treasurer). Now legislators have been better informed about Big Sky Passenger Rail.

Dan Hagerty had three questions: What can Whitehall expect out of this, will the residents of Jefferson County benefit from this, and will the Passenger Rail enter through Jefferson County at any time?

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh explained the first phase is on existing track and the route from Billings to Seattle. The second phase would bring the train through Whitehall and Butte. During the first phase, there will be shuttles from Whitehall to the Bozeman/Belgrade and Helena stations. Dan Hagerty asked about the projected timelines and Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated phase one is approximately 8 years and there is no current timeline for phase two. There was discussion about the current train system with stations across the highline. Jefferson County has allocated over \$2,000 to Big Sky Passenger Rail.

VIII. REPORTS - PLEASE KEEP REPORTS WITHIN A 3 TO 5-MINUTE SYNOPSIS

a. Mayor's Report and Public Service Announcements

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh thanked Roy McBride for running last month's meeting. She also thanked everyone involved in the successful Spring Clean at the end of April. The first weekend in May was the first youth 4H rodeo and first event held in the newly completed rodeo grounds. She thanked all the hard work done by everyone to complete the arena on time. The solar speed signs have been installed on each end of Legion Avenue. The third and fourth signs will be installed near the school. Maxine Samuelson suggested that signs may be needed on Second Street. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that Town Hall will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

b. Officer's Reports

a. Attorney - None

b. Clerk – *Sara Unruh attended the Clerk and Treasurer Institute at the beginning of May. She stated the office is working on a system to keep better records including looking into agenda and minute software. She, along with Katy James and Linda Jung, will be attending the Municipal Summit in Belgrade this week. Kennedy Kleinsasser will begin working on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.*

- c. *Public Works – Kory Klapan reported the water samples for last month have passed. The scheduled opening for the water treatment plant is June 16th. There will be a first responders training for the plant on May 28th. The sewer lagoons are full from all the recent rain and the pivot was down for maintenance. Sugar Beet Row had a plug in the sewer line and it was jetted. The millings project should begin on June 2nd. Locations currently listed for millings are Rocky Mountain Drive, Paul Gulch Road, the swimming pool parking lot, the boulevard in front of the ambulance barn, South Brooke Street, and South Main Street. The curb and gutter on Legion Avenue is being replaced and there is damage to the sprinkler system in the park.*
- d. *Fire Chief – Colton Howser reported there were 17 calls in April, making a total of 74 calls year to date. The firehouse is having the siding, roof, and flagpole replaced. The doors will be painted and new exterior light fixtures installed. Work has not yet started.*
- e. *Sheriff - None*
- f. *County Commissioner – Dan Hagerty reported that travel management remains an issue with the USFS, especially in the Pipestone/Delmoe Lake area. The Beaverhead Deer Lodge working group met and it consists of seven counties. Commissioners from each county (21 total) plan to draft letters of support to the USFS and legislators. They ask the public to also send letters of support.*
- c. *Committee/Board Reports*
 - a. *Planning Board – Linda Jung read the May minutes. They have \$3,800 left in the budget. The zoning map is still being updated and the public hearings will be scheduled by June or July. Codification of the zoning ordinance has been submitted. They had one development permit submitted and have made the recommendation of approval to Council. She also explained the split parcel from John Janik's property and the ambulance barn at 109 N Whitehall Street. They are recommending approval from the Council.*
 - b. *Sewer, Water, Garbage, Streets, Alleys, and Sidewalks – Kory Klapan reported that the board met on May 11th due to lack of a quorum on the regularly scheduled day. The water tank has gone out to bid. The casing is cracked on the Firehouse Well and will need to be abandoned in the future. The TA sidewalk grant will be completed in September. The sidewalks have been redone on 3rd Street and at the school. Bill adjustments have been recommended for approval. Payment plan agreements for delinquent bills have been recommended for approval.*

Rate adjustments were discussed for water disconnects and meter reinstalls.

- c. *Parks, Trees, and Cemetery – Mary Janacaro Hensleigh reported that the planters have been filled. Currently working on cemetery mapping with a software program. A shed will be built in the cemetery and should be completed in June. The Arbor Day grant has been awarded and funds will be used for a new tree in Silvertower Park and a new tree in the cemetery.*
- d. *Pool Board – Katy James reported that lifeguard training was held on May 16-18. Board elections were tabled due to lack of quorum. They are looking into having a water aerobics class. Scheduled opening is June 13th and will close August 15th. The 4H club will help with cleaning the pool on May 31st. Fundraising initiatives include a fun run during Frontier Days, a quilt raffle, and night swims. Highlands College have agreed to build a new pool reel in the fall. The bathroom is in need of a ventilation fan. Discussion about swim lesson costs: \$65 for level 3 and \$60 for levels 1 and 2.*
- e. *Rec Complex - None*
- f. *Whitehall Tax Incremental Finance District – Katy James reported that the Master Plan at the Rec Complex was discussed. Bleachers have been estimated at a \$600,000 cost. TIF can contribute \$100,000. Golden Sunlight Mine and others have been contacted about contributions. Triple Tree Engineering is currently working on the pickleball courts design. The Whitehall Senior Center has applied for grants for their awning, solar array, and exterior painting. Frontier Days (Whitehall Events) has requested 15 picnic tables (\$4,000). A grant of \$2,000 was requested for gazebo repair in the park. Next meeting will have a budget discussion.*

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Linda Jung read the consent agenda. Liz Pullman's request for a street closure permit and open container permit for the Star Theater Fundraiser was added to the consent agenda. Roy McBride motioned to approve. Katy James seconded and it passed unanimously.

Business License

Summit Valley Outdoor Living

Mill Iron D Designs

American Tree Service

Sixgun Sallies Coffee

Land Escapes

True North Adventures LLC

TIFF Board

Whitehall Senior Center – Awning
Whitehall Senior Center – Solar Array
Whitehall Senior Center – Exterior Paint

Planning Board

Development Permit – 3 N Division St

WSGSAS Board

Delinquent Bill Payment Plan Contract
5 Second St W – \$224.54 credit
1 Bowman Ln – \$1916.49 credit
307 W Legion St – \$788.52 credit
219 N Jefferson St – \$214.57 credit

Miscellaneous

Legion Ave Park Usage – Vigilante Electric

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Pool Fundraising Fund (2393) Spending Policy
Sara Unruh read the Policy. Linda Jung explained that a purchase order clause had been added as well as monitoring oversight since it was tabled from the last meeting. Linda Jung motioned to approve. Katy James seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Jefferson Valley EMS ambulance barn & John Janik's split commercial lot
Bill Lanes asked about the orientation of the survey. Linda Jung and Katy James both explained the mapping and how the buildings sit on the parcel in relation to the street and alley. Roy McBride motioned to approve and Linda Jung seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing is debated or voted on during public comment. This is where the public gets the opportunity to talk about anything that is NOT on the agenda.

Terry Reed stated that he had questions that demand answers. He wanted to know who wrote a citation on a cargo trailer at 7 N Division, who enforces parking fines on trailers parked on private property, who ordered the signs put up in front of 7 N A Street, was the Council advised of the sign placements, did the Council approve the purchase of the signs, where there any complaints about the vehicles turned into the Council or the Town office, is there public record of any no parking agreements, what are the justifications of the signs, does the Council or Mayor think this type of "petty control" is constructive of building the relationships with the citizens of this community.

He also asked if there were any other signs placed anywhere else in Town other than "kitty-corner from the mayor". He requested answers to these questions at the next council meeting. He stated he thinks the Mayor is abusing power for a personal agenda. He would like the signs to be removed and an apology. He stated he will be attending the next Council meeting.

XIV. UNSCHEDULED MATTERS

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh asked Terry Reed to come back to the podium so they could address some of his questions. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh asked if Terry Reed was the owner of the four-plexs at 7 N A Street. He stated his daughter owns them. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh explained she had a verbal agreement with Terry Reed's daughter in the planning stages that there would not be any on street parking on First Street or A Street. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that a tenant was parking too close to the fire hydrant and that event initiated the installation of the no parking signs.

She said the council approves the purchase of signs and there are other signs to be installed on Commercial Way. Terry Reed stated that there was no written agreement and asked if it isn't in writing did it actually happen. He stated that it is now a no parking zone on a public street. He was concerned that the particular hydrant was the only issue being addressed.

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh asked about the issue with the cargo trailer. Terry Reed stated there was a citation on the trailer while it was parked in the parking lot on private property. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated it was not cited by the town and perhaps it had come from the Sheriff's Office.

Terry Reed asked if this was a good use of taxpayer dollars and why can't the public park on a street. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that no one can use the Town's property to store vehicles. Terry Reed stated that not having a written

agreement is unclear and misleading to the public. He thinks this issue has arisen from a personal agenda based on the location and called it an abuse of power. Terry Reed stated that he personally paid for the gravel in the boulevard and helped improve the community and that this is not constructive between the Town and the public. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that she has not received any complaints from the owner of the property.

Bill Lanes said he agrees with the sign near the hydrant but thinks only the one sign would be necessary. He stated that these issues should come to the boards. He thinks ordinances that allow unilateral decisions should be addressed. Roy McBride asks why as a citizen of Whitehall can he not park there. Bill Lanes mentioned a specific example of a handicapped resident changing their routine after the signs have been installed.

Linda Jung stated that the Mayor has the power to install signs without Council approval due to an ordinance. Linda Jung and Bill Lanes told Terry Reed that ordinances can be changed and can be written by the public and not just the Council. Liz Pullman asked if there was anything in the ordinance requiring a written agreement and she was told that there is not.

Maxine Samuelson stated that she was on the former pool board and she left that position. She does not appreciate Mary Janacaro Hensleigh's job as mayor.

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh scheduled a budget work session for June 5th at 1 pm.

Linda Jung brought up the rumor about the Treasurer leaving. She said one council member was told that Kennedy Kleinsasser was leaving and wanted to know why they have not started accepting applications to fill that position. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that it was a rumor and she had not received notice. Linda Jung motioned to Roy McBride. He stated that Kennedy Kleinsasser told him that she would give her two-weeks notice when she was ready. Linda Jung interjected that it would be the end of June. Bill Lanes had asked if Mary Janacaro Hensleigh received any informal notice. She replied that she had not.

XV BILL/CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Linda Jung motioned to approve. Bill Lanes seconded and it passed unanimously.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Shawn Hoagland motioned to adjourn. Bill Lanes seconded and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Regular Council Meeting, **Monday, June 16th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**