

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P.O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
Posted July 18th, 2025

*There was a regular council meeting of the Whitehall Town Council on **Monday, July 21st, 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Katy James, Linda Jung, Mary Janacaro Hensleigh, Bill Lanes, Shawn Hoagland, and Roy McBride. Visitors: Jay Doyle, Brennen Hammer, Doug Dodge, Trevor Walter, Kerry Walter, Colton Howser, Jenna Gill, Maxine Samuelson, Joel Andrews, Tayla Andrews, Dwane Haydin, Kris Haydin, Liz Pullman, Kory Klapan

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS *None*

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

Roy McBride motioned to approve. Katy James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Jung motioned to approve. Shawn Hoagland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Butte Local Development Corporation – Emily Schulte
Jay Doyle stated that the presentation will be for the Headwaters Resource Conservation Development. They help small businesses get started with loan resources and business plans. They also help existing businesses expand, offer consulting services, and help with selling a business. They offer a

revolving loan program for a business that has been turned down by a bank and offer gap financing. Jay Doyle turned over the presentation to Brenan Hammer who focuses on the agricultural side of headwaters. He announced that they would leave information packets and contact information at Town Hall.

- b. DES Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Doug Dodge
Doug Dodge stated that the county develops this plan every five years. It was last updated in 2017. The plan identifies risks and mitigate them as well as fund the mitigation projects through grants. He encouraged Whitehall to adopt the plan. The plan document is posted on the county website. He also encouraged the public to sign up for emergency notifications.

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

- a. Mayor's Report and Public Service Announcements
Mary Janacaro Hensleigh reported that Frontier Days is this coming weekend and she encourages everyone to participate.
- b. Officer's Reports
 - a. Attorney - *None*
 - b. Clerk - *None*
 - c. Public Works – *Kory Klapan reported that water samples will be collected tomorrow. There have been several water leaks in Town that have been fixed. Four meters have been installed at new houses. The chip seal project is approximately three weeks away from starting.*
 - d. Fire Chief – *Colton Howser reported that they received 14 calls this past month. The pancake breakfast fundraiser is Saturday morning during Frontier Days. The new firehall siding should be complete by the weekend.*
 - e. Sheriff - *None*
 - f. County Commissioner – *Dan Hagerty reported that they have three candidates that have been interviewed for the unexpired seat. The decision will be made tomorrow.*
- c. Committee/Board Reports
 - a. Planning Board – *Linda Jung reported that Jeremy Fadness has approved the site plan for the Strozzi property on the consent agenda. Whitehall Auto signage is also on the consent agenda and meets requirements. Both are recommended for approval.*
 - b. Sewer, Water, Garbage, Streets, Alleys, and Sidewalks – *No Meeting*

- c. Parks, Trees, and Cemetery – *Mary Janacaro Hensleigh reported that the cemetery shed is now complete and stated that everything was looking great.*
- d. Pool Board - *None*
- e. Rec Complex Board – *No Meeting*
- f. Whitehall Tax Incremental Finance District – *Roy McBride reported that the three items on the consent agenda were recommended for approval. He stated that if anyone has a project in the community, please fill out an application for a grant. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that the 12'x18' flag was donated by Pam Polachi. It will be located at the Rec Complex.*

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – *Katy James read the consent agenda. Roy McBride motioned to approve the consent agenda. Shawn Hoagland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Business License

Carbonation Station

Mountain Construction Company MT dba Mountain Roofing

CS Earthworks

HDH Rejuvenation and Wellness

Isbell Industries LLC dba Solar Montana

TIFF Board

Rec Complex - Modify loading chute and two gates - \$3,000

Rec Complex - Flagpole - \$21,000

Rotary Club – Fish Pond Improvements - \$10,000

Planning Board

Development Permit – 107 East Legion Ave - Sign

Development Permit – 1 Transmission Way – Shop

Pool Board

Katy James resignation as Town Council Representative

Fire Department

New Volunteer - Trevor Patterson

Miscellaneous

No Primary Election Required

Legion Ave Park Usage – August 8th – Ability Montana

Jessica Ward Employment – Treasurer

Whitehall Events – Frontier Days Street Closure, Open

Container Permit, and Legion Ave Park Usage

Title Signature Approval – Kory Klapan

XI. OLD BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution No. 2025-01** A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Whitehall to set a permissive medical levy for employee health insurance.

Roy McBride motioned to approve. Katy James seconded. Shawn Hoagland stated that levies affect all the taxpayers. He asked if there was any other way to fund it without using a permissive levy. Roy McBride stated that the budget is very tight because the Town has not had an increase in the operating funds since the 1970s. He said the Town needs to take care of its employees without cutting from other areas that also need the funds. Linda Jung, Roy McBride, and Shawn Hoagland all agreed that roughly 540 households would cost each of them \$12/year. Maxine Samuelson wanted more explanation of the permissive levy. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh and Shawn Hoagland explained that this would cover the increase in the cost of employee health insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution No. 2025-02** A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Whitehall calling for an election to impose a 56-mill levy to generate \$120,000 annually for law enforcement services.

Katy James motioned to approve. Roy McBride seconded. Shawn Hoagland stated that other municipalities fund their law enforcement with levies. This is a large portion of the annual budget. He stated that law enforcement has been funded by the general budget and that the Town must supply law enforcement. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh and Linda Jung stated that this would go to a vote in November whereas the permissive does not go to a vote. Linda Jung read off the approximate monthly cost based on housing prices. Shawn Hoagland stated that if it does pass, it will be on the county taxes.

Bill Lanes stated that Whitehall is behind the times and needs this levy. After a question from the public, members of the Council stated that \$120,000 is currently budgeted to cover the annual cost of the law enforcement contract. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that the current contract is valid until June 2026 and they are expecting an increase in the cost when the contract is renegotiated.

Kerry Walter stated she does not live in Whitehall but would like to know how many officers are paid. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh stated that the \$120,000 goes to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. They send officers to patrol Whitehall and are currently understaffed. Kory Klapan stated that Town is patrolled 8 hours every day. Bill Lanes stated that it would cost the Town much more to hire our own law enforcement. Liz Pullman asked if there would be more education on this levy than the last time a public safety levy went to the ballot. Multiple Council members stated there would be more information available this time. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Resolution No. 2025-03** A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Whitehall calling for an election to impose a 28-mill levy to generate \$40,000 annually for the operation and maintenance of the Whitehall Community Pool.

Roy McBride motioned to approve. There was no second and the motion failed.

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.

Maxine Samuelson stated that more than just the people in Whitehall use the pool. The levy should use the school district borders rather than just the Town. She also stated she had tried to come into Town Hall in the afternoon on July 3rd but the office was closed with a sign on the window.

XIV. UNSCHEDULED MATTERS

Bill Lanes made a statement regarding the special meeting at the beginning of the month. He said the Council does not make decisions based on favoritism. Mary Janacaro Hensleigh asked that the public be gracious this coming week. The new Treasurer starts next week and both clerks are out of the office. Town Hall will be staffed by Mary Janacaro Hensleigh and volunteering Council members. Maxine Samuelson

had visited Belgrade and liked the signs the city has put up about dog waste and thinks it may apply to Whitehall as well.

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

Roy McBride motioned to approve. Katy James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT *The meeting was adjourned.*

Next Regular Council Meeting, **Monday, August 18th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**