

Ekalaka Town Council
Minutes
Town Office, 103 N Main Street
April 2nd, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order

- a. Roll Call Council: Mayor Buck Kratzer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Council members present were Andy Wright and Rex McCord.
- b. Employees' Present: None
- c. Appointed Officials Present: Carol Spencer & Kamely Harkins

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Public Comment/Complaints:** Members of the public present included Dennis and Trish Bishop, Toni Kratzer, Mike Ashbrook, and Chad Hanson. Trish and Dennis commented on their property, stating that they hope to build a duplex and make it more attractive. They wanted to know about the survey project, how far away it was, and what they needed from the town. Mike Ashbrook provided a quick update on the fire structure truck. The EVFD found a home for the fire truck, and the rates will stay at 5 for another year. Also, this spring, they will be flushing hydrants and color-coding them according to pressure. A Complaint was received regarding animal nuisance.

4. **Presentation on Petitions and Communications:** The town has received and reviewed building permit applications for the Donnelly's doghouse and Steve Townsend's shed, Andy moved to approve the building permits for Donnelly and Townsend. Carol seconded, no discussion. The vote included 3 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. Unfinished Business * Action Item

- a. Water Project Spring walkthrough: Chad from Great West performed a walkthrough with the mayor and clerk. The company is fixing items on the punch list. Chad also said the town has until November 2025 to have any warranty work done.
- b. Reminder of municipal elections: 1 four-year term currently vacant, 2 two-year terms, and 1 four-year term for the mayor.
- c. * Hire dump attendant and set wages for Tuesdays & as needed: The Mayor received an application from Jay Beach for transfer site attendant on Tuesdays and as needed. Andy moved to approve Jay Beach as transfer site attendant for \$16.00 per hour, Carol seconded. There was no discussion. The vote passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

6. New Business * Action items

- a. *BMS utility billing software: Carol moved to approve the software for utility billing to help speed up work in the office and keep accounts current. Andy seconded the motion with 3 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried
- b. *RFP approval: The council sat down and scored four engineering firms' applications, and the highest score was Great West. The mayor recommended hiring Great West based on qualifications. Andy moved to accept the mayor's recommendation and hire Great West for a general engineering

firm; Rex seconded. There was no discussion; the vote concluded with 3 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

- c. *Close of Main Street and Short Street: On behalf of the chamber and businesses, Tony Kratzer asked to close Main Street on the weekend of the fair and grocery store appreciation day in September. Carol moved to close the streets on those dates. Andy seconded. Discussion: The clerk needs to communicate with the T- & Casino and TSO Cantina so they may also request the streets be closed and the alcohol ordinance be lifted if they want to have events outside of their premises. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 Nays.
- d. *Advertisement for Pool and Summer Park/Street Help: Andy moved to approve the advertisement for summer help for pools and parks. Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.
- e. *Close Summit National Bank CDs as they mature and deposit the funds into the regular account: Andy moved to close CD's at Summit National Bank as they matured. Rex seconded, and the motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.
- f. *Close Bank accounts with Summit National Bank and only keep one for cash deposits: Carol moved to close all accounts with Summit National Bank and keep only the Money Market account for cash deposits. Rex seconded, and the motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 Nays.
- g. *Open account with Stockman Bank in Miles City: Rex moved to authorize the town to open a bank account with Stockman Bank in Miles City, Andy seconded, and the vote passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.
- h. *Open an account and move funds with STIP (Short Term Investment Pool): Carol moved to approve a resolution read out loud by the mayor to invest the town's money with STIP. Andy seconded, and the motion passed with 3 ayes, 0 nays.

7. **Minutes from the last meeting(s): read, correct (if needed), and approve.** Andy moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Rex seconded, and the vote was 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

8. **Claims Approval-** Carol moved to approve the claims for \$49,636.19. Andy seconded; no discussion. The vote passed with 3 ayes, 0 nays.

9. Reports of Officers:

- a. Public Works Director: Elston will maintain the lift station and other pumps as needed.
- b. Mayor: Work on animal ordinance; set a workday for the council to work : Friday, April 11th, at 2 p.m. The Mayor will also talk to Carl and find out if he can get the town an estimate on the cost to get the roads bladed. Carl has a contractor's license and insurance.
- c. Attorney: none
- d. Council: The council received complaints about how bad the streets are.

10. Reports on Standing and Special Committees:

- a. Administrative (Clerk/Treasurer): Kamely will go to Miles City to take a continuing education certificate class on water and wastewater, and to meet with Stockman Bank to set up accounts.
- b. Law Enforcement: none

- c. Library: Council received last month's minutes and finances.
- d. Fire Department/Committee: none
- e. Parks: Carol said the park looks great after taking the ice-skating rink out for the spring.
- f. Safety- none

11. **Announcements:** Andy will be gone from April 30th through May 7th.

12. **Next Meeting Date: May 12th, 2025 (Clerks institute will be from the 4th to the 11th)**

13. **Adjourn:** Carol moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Rex seconded, no discussion. The vote passed with 3 ayes, 0 nays.

***Items up for action without discussion at a previous Council meeting may or may not be accepted for action by the Council at the Council's discretion.**