

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832

April 15, 2025 - 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the April Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members Clute, and O'Dell; Town Attorney McGill; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington. Council Member McLure attended via telephone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance during the Public Meeting.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Chamber of Commerce President Megan Lacy.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Law Enforcement Report was provided to Drummond Town Council, for the April Town Council Meeting.

MINUTES:

March 18, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the March Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve the March Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

March 26, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the March Special Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the March Special Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

CLAIMS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

INVESTMENTS: Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

Delinquent Taxes:

Mayor Leeper and Clerk/Treasurer Wight will request placement on Granite County Commissioners' agenda; to discuss, Granite County delinquent taxes. April Granite County delinquent taxes have an outstanding cumulative balance of \$601,253.97.

Town of Drummond is required to present how the Town is confronting delinquencies within the Township, to Grant Funding Agents for the current Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade project.

Town of Drummond portion of delinquent taxes on Granite County Repot TX190F Uncollected Taxes with Delinquents with Legals equals a sum of \$75,096.47.

MT League – Financial Service Agreement

Town of Drummond and proposed MT League Financial Agreement will serve as financial services in the Clerk/Treasurer position absence; agreement is scheduled to be effective immediately upon fully executed agreement, with expiration date of December 31, 2025.

Mayor Leeper and the Town Council discussed the benefits of having such an agreement in place; further concluding a similar agreement would be beneficial for the Public Work Director's position. This would provide the Town's employees reassurance that the Town would maintain proper coverage in either positions absence.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to The Montana League of Cities and Towns proposed Financial Services Agreement, which there were none.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of the Montana League of Cities and Towns Financial Services Agreement. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Montana league of Cities and Towns Financial Services Agreement. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

GUEST COMMENT:

DRUMMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Farmer's Market:

Drummond Chamber of Commerce President Megan Lacy, presented proposed 2025 Drummond Farmer's Market along Front Street. This would be the second year, the Town of Drummond hosted a weekly event throughout the summer months, providing the opportunity for vendors and citizens a time to mingle and enhance our community.

The Farmer's Market is a weekly Wednesday event from June 4th through August 27th. Drummond Chamber of Commerce will be handling the set up and tear down of the weekly event, and local businesses along Front Street will allow public utilization of their restroom facilities during the event.

Megan Lacy will be taking the lead on the Farmer's Market this year; she has been in contact with last year's vendors and potential new vendor leads for this year's Farmer's Market.

There is currently anticipation of additional vendors and food trucks for this year's event.

Megan will make contact with the Health Department, regarding proper protocol for food handlers and food trucks.

Flowers and Flags:

Drummond Chamber of Commerce is actively engaging the community; both businesses and citizens alike. To gain more community involvement and perform duties more often utilized through a Chamber; and less often through a Town Hall. These would include: flowers, flags and beautification efforts; as well as, community involvement activities such as Drummond Rodeo Weekend, with the Town of Drummond still providing porta-potties along Front Street for such events to prevent an over burden on the Town's infrastructure.

Chamber Membership:

Drummond Chamber of Commerce is currently looking at revamping the current member structure and fee schedule; with creation of more levels and options. These proposed structure changes are looking at how to best utilize the Chamber in meeting needs and providing perks to Drummond businesses and citizens.

The Chamber has a current vision of the creation of two subcommittees; a Historical Committee overseeing the Historic School and Flag Park and a Business-driven Committee. With these enhanced changes to the Chamber, they are also looking to help educate our youth of the importance such organizations play in our communities, and the benefits they provide.

Chamber Website:

Drummond Chamber of Commerce is looking to revamp the current Chamber website; with that, Megan Lacy Chamber President and Jodi Oberweiser Drummond Librarian, spent a morning working with Robin Wight Drummond Clerk/Treasurer reviewing how the Town Hall website design is structured from the back-end; learning how the upload process works, how the alert system is distributed, and the importance of compliance.

The importance of networking, was also discussed during the work session; the ability to work together for the greater good of the community.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-SLIPA-25-127 BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR SLIPA GRANT FUNDING.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-3 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-3. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-3 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-SLIPA-25-127 BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR SLIPA GRANT FUNDING, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-3 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-SLIPA-25-127 BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR SLIPA GRANT FUNDING. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-3. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-ARPA-PL-023A AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM (MCEP) GRANT FUNDING.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-4 Council Member Clute made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-4. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-4 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-ARPA-PL-023A AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM (MCEP) GRANT FUNDING, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-4 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #MT-ARPA-PL-023A AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM (MCEP) GRANT FUNDING. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-4. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Local Government Review – Public Educational Training:

Granite County and Town of Philipsburg will be providing a joint public education presentation, on Thursday, April 17th at 3:00PM The Local Government Review Process, presented by: Dan Clark, MSU Extension. This event will be hosted by The Town of Philipsburg, at Philipsburg Town Hall. All public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Fireworks:

Mayor Leeper reached back out to MMIA regarding Town liability coverage with usage of fireworks within Town limits. Both Mayor Leeper and Clerk/Treasurer Wight were in attendance on the phone conversation with Britani Laughery, MMIA Operations Manager. Clarification was made, to the Town's denial of liability; that of which would be, if the Town orchestrated the Fireworks show.

The Town would not be denied coverage, if a citizen sets fireworks off on their own property.

The Town is currently looking at the firework ordinances of Superior and Deer Lodge, in constructing an ordinance addressing Fireworks within the Town of Drummond.

This firework ordinance is anticipated to be drafted, discussed, approved and in place prior to this year's Fourth of July Celebration.

The Town encourages our citizens to utilize good decision making, when using fireworks.

ATTORNEY:

Notification of Retirement:

Attorney McGill notified the Council, she will be retiring at the end of June; which, is Town of Drummond's Fiscal Year end date.

The Town is anticipating bringing on Attorney McGill's replacement prior to her departure; to ensure a smooth transition, with the current Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project and numerous grant funding contracts, in relation to that project.

PARKS:

In Memory Bench:

The Town of Drummond is looking into purchasing an *in-memory-of* bench for Council Member Carla Stuart to be placed at the campground.

Mayor Leeper is currently looking into a concrete bench; these benches are currently priced around \$1,000. Then adding a plaque in honor of Council Member Stuart.

The Council were in agreement to have Mayor Leeper continue her pursuit, of a concrete bench for this purpose.

Camping:

Discussion was presented, as to Campers paying at the campground. The Town utilizes the honor system in our payment collection. However, it as been noted; of non-payment and reduced fees placed within payment envelopes.

Public Works Director Harrington will pay special attention this season; as to violations of this honor system, with law enforcement called in when necessary.

Violation:

Unauthorized solar lights were placed at the back of the campground, in an area camping is prohibited. Mayor Leeper requested Public Works remove these lights.

Short-Term Worker:

Town of Drummond's Short-Term Lawn Maintenance Worker is scheduled to start work the beginning of June, finishing the end of August.

Campground Water:

Water at the Campground is currently off; samples are scheduled to be taken. once those results are in, water at the campground will be turned on for the season.

Porta Potties:

Two porta-potties are scheduled to be delivered to the City Park/Campground for the summer season.

T-Ball:

The T-Ball schedule has been received, and will be made available on the Town website for those interested in attendance.

When Town employees are unable to mow the grounds for these T-Ball events, Brett Graybeal will mow the softball grounds.

ROADS:**Blackfoot:**

The Blackfoot meeting to discuss the Fiber Optic Project work within the Township of Drummond went well yesterday; after brief discussions were held at Town Hall, Public Works Director Harrington was able to accompany Blackfoot representative throughout Drummond identifying problem areas which need to be addressed by Blackfoot for repair.

Town of Drummond's contract for the Fiber Optic Project is with Blackfoot, not their subcontractors. Therefore, Blackfoot will be ultimately responsible in ensuring roads/alleyways are returned to preconstruction condition. These repairs need to be completed in a timely manner, to ensure no conflict in restoring to preconstruction condition upon project completion.

Previous areas of repair by Blackfoot contractors were not properly packed, resulting in returned potholes. These areas are most obvious after rainfall.

Potholes:

Discussion continued to annual pothole patching throughout Drummond. As done in the past; high traffic areas will be repaired first, continuing through the completion of all repairs needing addressed.

Parking Violations:

There is a current issue with parked vehicles encroaching onto roadways. Drummond Roadways need to be accessible to emergency vehicle passage. Law Enforcement will be asked to provide warning of improper parking violations, followed by towing if not rectified.

FLOODPLAINS:

Floodplain Mapping Ordinance: DNRC provided update on timeframe of required ordinance update and implementation; deadline for implementation is August 19, 2025.

Draft Ordinance provided to Town Council for review; there will need to be two public readings with public comment.

SEWER:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade – USDA/RD Grant Funding/Loan Package:

Mayor Leeper and Clerk/Treasurer Wight attended a zoom conference with the Drummond Wastewater Facility Upgrade Project Bond Council, Dan Semmens, on April 4th; discussing the Town's mechanism for sewer charges, delinquent taxes, and enforcement of delinquent taxes and outstanding sewer fees.

Specifically speaking to the Federal Grant funding for the project through USDA/RD; Rural Development is requiring an Ordinance describing how delinquent fees will be enforced.

Clerk/Treasurer Wight will pose the question to ListServ requesting sample sewer ordinances. Further discussion will be addressed at the May Town Council Meeting.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MMIA Employee Benefits:

Discussion was made to the rise in Employee Benefit rates; and possible future need to cap the amount the Town provides in annual Employee Benefits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Open Council Seat (Parks):

Council Seat over Parks has been vacant for months; there has been no interest within the Township, of citizens willing to come forth and fill the vacant Council Seat.

Municipal Elections:

Mayor Leeper has been in contact with Kelly Lynch, representing MT league, and Senator Becky Beard to discuss the new legislation placing municipal elections on the same schedule as county elections.

This change will result in those elected officials' terms concluding December 2025, needing to run again the following year.


Drummond currently has three seats up for re-election, with terms concluding December 2025.

Mayor Leeper will reach back out to our representatives, once this bill is passed for more specifics in relation to the new rules. Communities that have already implemented this practice have seen better voter turnout.

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member O'Dell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor

ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal