

TOWN OF HUDSON  
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting  
333 S Main Street  
HUDSON, WY 82515  
June 11, 2024

Mayor Oler called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was announced.

**Governing Body Present:** Mayor Sherry Oler, Councilmembers, Zeke Bonella, Kevin Kummer, and Helen Gordon were present. Councilman Brady Hamilton was absent. A quorum was declared.

**City Staff Present:** Town Attorney, Rick Sollars and Clerk-Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman were present.

**Audience:** Tony Scott and Cressie Mahaffey, Louise and Curtis Barker, Maralyne Middour, Marsha Anderson, Terry Carrol, Katie Peah, Heather Minnich.

Mayor Oler made an announcement asking those present to silence all cell phones and if they are hard of hearing to please sit in the front row. She stated that only agenda items will be addressed and residents presenting agenda items will have five (5) minutes to address the council.

**Public Comments:** Tony Scott – Mr. Scott stated that he would like to address people driving too fast and would like a speed bump on each street to slow drivers down. Councilman Bonelle stated when there were speed bumps in the past, people figured out how to get past them and they did not work. Mayor Oler is waiting for a quote on the cost of a speed bump. Mr. Scott offered to help however possible.

Louise Barker: Louise stated that there continues to be a person parking his vehicle on the street and blocking traffic. The owner has been contacted and the Code Enforcement officer is working on it. Ms. Barker stated it is a very narrow street on Oklahoma and Main and hard to get through when he is parked in the way. Mr. Scott also stated that his neighbors moved their vehicles into the alley and blocked a fire hydrant. The mayor stated code enforcement is a slow process, but we are working on it as best we can.

Letter from Wootens: The Mayor reported that she received a letter from Wootens regarding the lot they just purchased and asked for a variance on the setback rules. The matter was discussed, and a decision was made to table the discussion until they file a setback permit with the exact location of the building.

Brian Rhorbacher: The Mayor reported on concerns voiced by Mr. Rhorbacher regarding the river access. He stated that the access is jeopardized by discarded needles, parties going on, and he reportedly saw a couple having sex in full view. The Code Enforcement officer will investigate the area.

Heather Minnich arrived late to the meeting and wanted clarification on the fire hydrant Tony Scott spoke about and wanted to know if it was a working hydrant or one that is not working. She also wanted to know which hydrants in town work and what ones do not. The Mayor stated that the town has purchased replacement hydrants and they are being replaced as time allows. The Fire Department knows which hydrants are working.

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**Consent Agenda:**

**Minutes:** correction or approval of the minutes of the May 14, 2024, Council Meeting.

**Financial Report:** Correction or approval of the May 31, 2024, financial report.

**Payment of Bills:** Corrections or approval of the payment of bills for June 2024.

Mayor Oler asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the aforesaid council minutes, financial report, or payment of bills.

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to approve the consent agenda, minutes, financial report, and payment of bills, seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Councilwoman Helen Gordon abstained. The motion unanimously passed.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Mayor Report - June 2024**

**Water Meter Replacement Project:** Some potential issues came up regarding the supplier of the Sensus Meters, and I had a zoom meeting with all the parties involved, and my concerns for the town were addressed. There will be a small amendment to the bid requirement, which will save the town a little more money. But the project is on schedule. It should be around 4 weeks before all the materials are delivered to the contractor, Viper Underground. Hopefully, we will be able to get on their schedule right away.

**Brush Pile:** The cameras are installed and so far, everyone has used the brush pile appropriately.

**Frank's Meats Annexation:** The annexation agreement is signed, and the statutory process of Annexation will now begin.

**Grant Applications:** 1) Applications are currently being prepared to cover engineering costs for assessing Hudson's sewer lines, lift station, and sewer lagoon. 2) I met with Jaycee Hurless of WDCA at the WAM Convention, I believe she will be able to assist the Main Street Property owners with grant assistance on any project to develop housing and she told me there are funds to assist with upgrading buildings for the purpose of poverty assistance. I will pursue this further as I am thinking God's Pantry and the old jail building as a target for funding.

**Hudson Daze:** The local Girl Scouts did a great job helping clean up, paint, build flower boxes, etc., for Hudson Daze. Brian Rohrbacher is helping coordinate cleaning of the sidewalks and gutters. There will be a rival Rotary Club softball game at 3:00 Saturday as part of Hudson Daze! Safe Rides are scheduled, the Sheriff's Department and the DUI Task force will provide an increased presence to protect all involved. I recorded a Coffee Time interview with Vince Tropea on all the activities planned for Hudson Daze.

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FEMA Flood Training: Homeland Security visited Hudson for evaluation and assistance with procedures and forms.

Town Hall Floor: The floor is scheduled for replacement after Hudson Daze.

Ballpark/Vinich Sports Complex: The Rotary clubs from Lander and Riverton agreed to paint and refurbish the dugouts at the ball field. This was completed and looks great.

Memorial Day Ceremony: We had a beautiful day, the cemetery was in pristine condition, and we had a great turn out! Hudson's Memorial Day ceremony was a success. Senator Cale Case researched Hudson's military families and armed with his research, he delivered a very thoughtful, well received speech to the crowd. Representative Lloyd Larson and Commissioner Mike Jones were also in attendance.

Level 1 Water Master Plan: The kick-off meeting was held on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and the future calendar dates were set. We will be meeting monthly to discuss the engineer's progress and share additional information as it becomes available.

Lander Pet Connection: I met with the Lander Pet Connection executive board regarding Hudson's Pet Project to address the feral cat population in town. I quickly determined Hudson will need to conduct fund raising to pursue their assistance. We discussed Hudson Daze being a good chance to create awareness and they will either have a booth at Svilar Park or I will get handouts from them and have a donation jar available for the project.

Brownstone Project: Cindi Martinez will come to town council to present her presentation of the Wyoming SPURR program potentially involving and helping Main Street property owners with assistance addressing problems with their buildings. I have invited the property holders to the council meeting. This program is a 100% cost free program paid through the DEQ's philanthropic division.

Vicious Dog Ordinance: If there are no council changes to the proposed ordinance, a public hearing should be scheduled later this month or in July.

Town Clean-up Day: I believe this was a success. Many properties were cleaned up during the week. We had people dumping things in the dumpsters from Lander and Riverton, but no specific offender was identified. People used the metal bin to dump construction items and furniture, which was disappointing.

Annual WAM Convention: I attended the annual WAM convention in Pinedale last week. It was a great networking opportunity and I received good information on more resources available from WAM.

Summer Helper: Kadance Kumor returned this year as our summer help and as she proved last year, she is a rock star worker!

Sewer Lagoon Discharge: Investigation is still pending on the subject.

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**CLERK – TREASURER REPORT**

**June 2024**

I don't know how summer arrived so fast, but here we are! Things have been pretty busy as usual in Town Hall. There continues to be residents coming in to license critters and a couple of setback permits. We have rented Town Hall for several events this month also. All of these activities garner a little bit more revenue for the Town.

As you know, we spent a lot of time working on the budget for the new fiscal year. After making many cuts and moving things around, some discussing and cussing, we managed to produce a balanced budget that should be very workable in the coming year.

The cameras were set up and the brush pile was opened. Many happy people around town took advantage of the opportunity to clean up their yard waste. The cameras seem to be working well. We had one incident where the gate was locked before 4:00 p.m. and without checking to make sure the area was clear of any persons. An elderly gentleman was locked in and was lucky enough to get a ride down to Town Hall. I took him back up to the brush pile and opened the gate so he could get his four-wheeler out and get home before the rain really started to come down. It could have been a very bad scenario had someone not stopped to bring him down.

With the end of May comes the filing for Council seats. We are happy that Helen, Kevin and Brady have all filed to retain their seats. We also have one other challenger with Louise Barker deciding to throw her hat in the ring.

Upright Construction is gearing up to tear up the floor, float the floor and replace the flooring in Town Hall as soon as Hudson Daze is over. No firm timeline yet.

Sweetwater Aire has also been in Town Hall working on piping the Air Conditioning and heat into the office areas. They had to leave some pipes exposed in the bathrooms due to the lack of overhead space above the ceiling, but it will be nice to be warm this winter and cool when it heats up.

The cleanup days seem to have been a hit. It is hard to tell how much trash was deposited by town residents as opposed to residents of outlying areas that took full advantage of the containers outside. Special thanks to Brenda Smith who came and hauled off residual trash that was left when the last dumpster was removed.

There was a snafu with our online billing (truth be told, it was probably operator error on my part!) and several residents phoned to ask why they had a zero balance. After investigating, it was apparent that the bills did not fully transfer and upload to Xpress bill pay. Thankfully, it was just a couple of days into the month, and I was able to get the matter rectified.

There has been a lot of chatter on the WAMCAT forum regarding towns now charging credit card fees for residents paying by card either online or in person. They are trying to encourage people to use an ACH transaction directly from their bank account. I will keep an eye on this thread. I think there would be a huge public outcry if Hudson were to start charging for using a card, but it is something to watch with the price of everything going up.

I have advertised the job listing for an office assistant with Workforce Services. So far, we have received one resume. I have also posted the Maintenance position at Workforce Services. We may need to explore other avenues of advertising the job openings in town.

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My health woes continue, and I have had a couple of trips to Salt Lake with more coming up. Taylor has been great to come in and cover the phones and take messages. However, I would like to get someone in the office that can do everything that needs to be done as soon as possible. We will continue the hunt and hopefully the right person is just around the corner.

Hudson Daze is fast approaching, and it is going to be huge this year! I hope I have enough treats, prizes, and energy to go around!

Water Treatment Plant Report to Council

June 11, 2024

The Treatment Plant Produced 1,639,367 Gallons of water for the Month of May 2024, averaging 52,280 gallons per day.

The Bacteriological sample was collected and delivered to the state laboratory on time and tested satisfactory. May's Bacteriological sample was collected on May 13. June Bact Sample collected on June 10. Monthly SWTR (Surface Water Treatment Rule) report for May sent to EPA.

The laboratory report for EPA required Nitrate and non-organic (metals) sampling from the distribution entry line from the WTP was received and forwarded to the EPA. This information will be included in next year's Consumer Confidence Report for the year 2024. Preparing for required Distribution Lead/Copper sampling and testing this month.

Joe Honner, Uriel Shelby, James Porter, and Andrew Ring from HDR spent about 4 hours at the Water Treatment Plant and the Water Storage Tanks on Wednesday June 5, gathering preliminary information for Hudson's Water Master Plan. More visits and data to collect in the next two weeks.

The CCR, consumer confidence report, information for 2023 has been gathered and I will be working with Harry on how it is constructed and posted as per EPA regulation this week.

Issues with the raw water supply valve controller on LPM are still being addressed. The controller will not keep its calibration and is causing the control valve to slam open and shut as well as not being able to do an automatic LPM start without cutting power to reboot the unit nor modulating properly to control LPM membrane tank levels. A new replacement controller was received yesterday, and we will receive a credit on the valve we're returning if it's indeed found to be defective by the factory. There is a 36-month warranty on the controller which was put into service about 6 months ago.

Outside lighting on the west side of WTP was out and was cleaned and had a successful bulb replacement. The yard light over the dumpster has been out for some time and I'm trying to schedule a repair whenever we have a bucket truck already in the area without having extra charges levied.

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The well field was mowed by Harry and looks great. Weeds around the plant are under control and the grounds have never been as well kept as I've ever seen them.

The strainer basket has been cleaned from the well field line to the raw water tank. Normal flows have been established with a significant drop in back pressure to our carry water line for the sodium permanganate. More issues are being addressed with the permanganate feed system.

There was no Maintenance Report available for May.

Councilwoman Helen Gordon asked the Mayor to report on the WAM Conference. The Mayor gave a brief synopsis of the conference.

Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to approve the department reports, seconded by Councilman Zeke Bonella. The motion unanimously passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**METER PROJECT:** Mayor Oler reported on the Water Meter Project status and spoke about the change of specifications. The Mayor met with the Engineers on Monday, and they determined that a hand-held reader would work the best. The reader software will pick up fifty percent (50%) of the meter readings from Town Hall alone. She further stated that expectations for customer service and IT services for the new meters was nailed down in the meeting. The meters should ship within four (4) weeks.

**ORDINANCE 811:** Mayor Oler reported on the updated Ordinance. Changes have been submitted to the council and they are in the process of making changes to the proposed ordinance. Once there is an approved Amendment to the Ordinance, it will be posted with copies made available for public review, then a Public Meeting will be scheduled.

**Frank's Waterline/Annexation:** Mayor Oler reported that the Annexation Agreement has been signed by both parties. Councilwoman Helen Gordon reported that she was pleased with the five year turn around on the Town's investment and that the building will be in town limits and a new fire hydrant will be installed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**GOLD STAR MEMORIAL:** The Mayor stated how nice the park looks after the cleanup and painting and thanked the Girl Scouts for their efforts. Maralyne Middour reported on behalf of Hudson

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Community Heroes that the Girl Scouts were in Hudson and completed sixty (60) hours of volunteer hours. Maralyne also stated that the last Sunday in September is Gold Star Memorial Day. She would like to ask the mayor to issue a Proclamation on behalf of the Town to celebrate that day. She explained that a Gold Star Family is any family member who has lost a family member in action. Maralyne spoke about the Woody Williams Foundation and shared a YouTube video about Gold Star Memorials that have been made. There is one in Sheridan at the VA. There is also a Freedom Rock Monument. The Non-Profit Organization, Hudson Community Heroes would be happy to do the leg work to pursue grants to get a Gold Star Monument placed in Gold Star Park before the last Sunday in September of 2025.

Tony Scott spoke about the importance of keeping the history of Hudson alive. Councilwoman Gordon asked about the size of the monuments and how it would affect the space available for Hudson Daze in the future. Marsha Anderson asked about Gold Star Parks nationwide.

Mayor Oler suggested a public meeting be held later to discuss a memorial being pursued and placed in Gold Star Park. She also suggested putting information out during Hudson Daze, but Maralyne stated that there would not be enough time to get it prepared.

**HUDSON DAZE / WAIVER:** The Mayor reported that there will be a baseball game played between the Lander and Riverton Rotary Clubs during Hudson Daze. She presented a waiver to be signed by players for approval. Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to approve the waiver with Councilman Zeke Bonella seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then went over the schedule of events for Hudson Daze and stated that WRTA would be providing Safe Rides at no cost to those wanting to use it.

The Registration for the Car Show was discussed, and awards will be provided for each category. All the awards are covered, and the money collected from registrations will be used for expenses associated with the Car Show.

**CHANGE OF DEPOSITORY OF RECORD:** Mayor Oler asked Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Shoopman to explain why they would like to investigate changing banks. Kathy explained that since Bank of the West was bought out by BMO, the Town has had problems with our credit cards, and we cannot get them resolved by going to the bank as we have in the past. Kathy explained the problems and stated that BMO is owned by a Canadian Corporation and would like to pursue dealing with a more local bank. There are several banks that are approved by the State Auditing Department as Registered Depositories for Municipalities in Wyoming. Kathy asked that she be given permission to issue a Request for Qualifications to other banks and go from there. Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to

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allow the Clerk/Treasurer to issue RFQs to other banks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Personnel and Utilities

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made by councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by councilman Zeke Bonella. Motion passed at 7:17 p.m.

Motion to return to regular session was made by councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed and return to regular session commenced at 7:34 p.m.

Councilwoman Helen Gordon reported that she has had to call the Sheriff's Department on her neighbors three times for excessive noise and dogs barking. The Code Enforcement Officer will be made aware as well.

The Mayor shared that the State Department of Audit has requested updated reports from our office related to an Audit they performed on the Town for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Kathy is gathering the information and will send it to them.

Mayor Oler also stated that compliance officers will be coming around looking for Hydrant reports from Harry. Councilman Bonella stated they have already been to several locations.

The Mayor also reported on sandbags and flooding. While there has been no flooding issues yet, there is sandbags and sand available for residents.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the council. Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Helen Gordon seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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**Attest:**

**Approved:**

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**Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman**

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**Mayor, Sherry Oler**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilwoman, Helen Gordon**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilman, Kevin Kummer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilman, Zeke Bonella**

*Excused*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilman, Brady Hamilton**