

North Powder City Council Meeting
Minutes
April 7, 2025
City Hall (340 E Street)
7PM

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor John Frieboes called the meeting to order 7PM. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Council Members present were Don McClure, Alan Brown, Tonya Dias, Midge Clause, City recorder, Emily Hart. Rick Lawyer, Public works Director.

Public Comment: Mike Wisdom expressed his appreciation to the City of North Powder for the card following the loss of his son. The funds were donated.

Amend/Accept Agenda: Councilor McClure moved to accept the Agenda. Councilor Clause seconded. Motion passed by unanimously with Councilors Dias and Brown voting in favor.

Amend/Accept Minutes: Councilor Clause moved to accept the Minutes. Councilor Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously with Councilors Dias and McClure voting in favor.

Accounts Payable: Councilor McClure moved to pay the bills. Councilor Clause seconded. Motion passed by unanimously with Councilors Dias and Brown voting in favor.

Library Report: No Report.

Huckleberry Report: Bonnie Finley has been appointed as the sponsorship coordinator. The dunk tank will return, with a Baker County deputy scheduled for the first shift. Preparations are underway to dig out and widen the volleyball area. The organizers inquired about city assistance; the City responded that support will depend on Rick's availability.

Public Works Report: Sludge Judge completed by Scott Miller. Recommendations: 1. Discontinue dredging based on the low levels of sludge in both ponds. 2. Maintaining a small amount of sludge (less than 1.0 feet) is essential for the ponds to operate properly. Most of the biology used for breaking down of incoming waste from town is in the top portion of the sludge called the fluffy layer. This is where the consumption of BOD, TSS and nutrients takes place.

Jeff Nielsen would like to extend his gratitude to Rick Lawyer, David Rosingana, and Josh Guthrie for their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication to their roles throughout this project.

Councilor Dias moved to pay the contractor for a completed job. Councilor McClure seconded. Motion passed with Councilor Brown and Councilor Clause voting in favor.

The pump at the evaporator pond is broken; it is a 0.3 horsepower unit and will need to be replaced. The City is currently in contact with Anderson Perry regarding the issue. The contractor has agreed to pay Rick's overtime wages during the dredging work. The burn pile needs to be addressed with burns scheduled for this week. The plow will be removed from the dump truck, and the flagpole is broken and in need of a new rope.

Recorder Report: Gallons Used: 1,008,074. No Freeze Credits Issued this month. Emily Hart noted she is behind on administrative tasks and requested volunteer assistance to help save on staffing costs. Tasks include filing, organizing, cleaning, stamping envelopes, and folding water bills.

Mayor's Report: The lowest Bid Received upon Bid closing on April 4, 2025 at 2PM was Team Construction for \$891,860.00. A meeting with the architectural group is scheduled for April 15th at 6:00 PM. On April 16th, the Mayor will not be attending the Union County Commissioners meeting to request funding for the City-Wide Clean-Up; Councilor Clause and Councilor McClure have agreed to attend in his place. Councilor Brown is the point of contact for the Clean-Up Day event. The Mayor has been in communication with Union County, who stated they are unable to pay for ECO blocks but are willing to haul and set them. Councilor Dias raised the question of why the City should be responsible for the cost of the blocks.

New Business:

Elizabeth Turner, known as "The Compost Chick," is considering the purchase of five acres zoned Industrial to relocate her composting business. She is requesting permission to keep 50–100 chickens at the new location. It was noted during the meeting that she does not currently hold a business license for the City of North Powder. Councilors Dias and Councilor Clause recommended holding a special meeting at a later date, following her visit to City Hall to obtain the appropriate license. It was also noted that Ms. Turner currently has more goats than permitted by ordinance, which allows a maximum of two goats per owner. No water or sewer is needed on the property at this time. She would like to bring more jobs to North Powder, possibly 5-10 jobs in the next 2-3 years.

Rosemary Wickham submitted a request to be exempt from sewer charges, stating that her property is vacant and the well has been shut off. It was noted that the City is unable to shut off sewer service. Councilor Dias stated that sewer billing is intended to support the infrastructure, regardless of occupancy. Councilor Dias made a motion to deny the request. Councilor McClure seconded the motion, which passed with Councilors Clause and Brown voting in favor.

Jim Wright from the North Powder Rural Fire Department addressed the Council regarding a rumor he heard that the old fire truck may not be transferred to the Fire Department if the City chooses not to keep it. He stated that, to his recollection, a past meeting included an understanding that the fire truck would go to the Fire Department. However, he later heard that the City intended to retain ownership.

Mr. Wright noted that the Fire Department has been storing, insuring, and maintaining the old fire truck, and they currently use it for parades. The department would like the opportunity to restore it. It was clarified that the City of North Powder owns the truck and has no plans to dispose of it at this time. Emily will locate and review the contract related to the fire truck for further clarification.

The Mayor requested Council approval to complete the temporary library space, with an estimated remaining cost of approximately \$1,500.00. Councilor Dias inquired why the City, rather than the Library, would be covering the cost. The Mayor clarified that the space is part of the City Hall building. Councilor McClure made a motion to approve the expenditure, and Councilor Clause seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Councilors Brown and Dias voting in favor.

Old Business:

The City is still seeking volunteers to participate in the Ordinance Review Groups. Each Council member has been assigned a section of the municipal code, resulting in a total of six review teams. The goal is to evaluate the current ordinances, identify outdated or obsolete information, and recommend necessary updates. Community participation is encouraged to help ensure the ordinances reflect the needs of North Powder.

Wastewater Update covered in the Public Works Report. Council moved to complete job and issue final pay.

Council Comments: None

Meeting adjourned: 8PM

Minutes Prepared by
Emily Hart, City Recorder
4-17-2025