

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**  
**TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA**  
**Elk's Lodge**

**Council Present:** Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice (via Zoom), David Bacon, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Timber Baceski Clerk/Treasurer, Eric Barsness HPO, Roger Williams PWD

**Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Duke Gilman, Kal Poole, Tanya Engle, Jack Waller, Scott Petersen

**Public Present on Zoom:** Kelly Rasmussen

**1) Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Justin Gatewood, Mayor

**2) Mayor and Commissioner's Reports/Comments:**

- a) Mayor Gatewood congratulated Duke Gilman on his position as Madison County Commissioner and welcomed him to the community.
- b) Councilmember Grice gave her gratitude to Roger Williams and Eric Barsness for taking care of snow removal in Virginia City.
- c) Mayor Gatewood thanked the volunteers who participated in the various Christmas events in Virginia City.
- d) Mayor Gatewood noted that he is saddened and disappointed by the allegations brought forward against Elijah Allen, former Executive Director for the Montana Heritage Commission. He added that he and the Town will be reserving any kind of judgment until the legal and judicial process is followed.

**3) Public Comments**

- a) Tanya Engle mentioned that the Elk's Lodge will be having a board meeting on Friday at 3:00PM to decide on whether or not to continue Brunch & Bingo.
- b) Jack Waller invited the public to attend the Elling House Chautauqua on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Elling House Board wants to build a larger audience.

**4) Clerks Report:**

Clerk Timber Pruett has been working to prepare for the annual voluntary audit, which will be a slower and longer process this year. Clerk Pruett has also been preparing W2's and 1099's for the 2024 tax year. Presentation of the 2024 Resort Tax data will be ready for the February Town Council Meeting.

#### **5) HPO/HPAC Report:**

HPO Eric Barsness reported that he has spent a lot of time working with Kelly Rassmussen and doing drawings for exterior details. HPO Barsness has found more potential locations for historic streetlights and has mapped out those possibilities. HPO Barsness spoke with Jeff Cleverly about getting the streetlights built, and he expressed interest.

#### **6) New Business:**

a) Appointing the Mayor & Council President

**MOTION:** To appoint Justin Gatewood as Mayor of Virginia City. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Kacey Smart. **The question was called.** Justin Gatewood recused himself from the vote. The motion passed by voice vote, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

**MOTION:** To appoint David Bacon as Council President. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Amy Grice. **The question was called.** David Bacon recused himself from the vote. The motion passed by voice vote, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and Justin Gatewood in favor. None opposed.

b) Site/Zoning Permit Amendment – Rasmussen (House)

**MOTION:** To approve the amendment for the Site/Zoning Permit – Rasmussen (House), with the caveat that Kelly Rasmussen uses girds in the windows per HPAC's request. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

c) First Reading of Draft Ordinance 01-2025 to Regulate Short-Term Rentals within Town Limit

i) The Council discussed various aspects of the Draft Ordinance, including the fee for a STR Business License, the Good Neighbor Policy, and potential inspections.

--- RECESS CALLED AT 8:20PM ---

--- MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 8:23PM ---

**MOTION:** To table the First Reading of Draft Ordinance 01-2025 to Regulate Short-Term Rentals within Town Limits and have until a special meeting is held in two weeks. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by Kacey Smart. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

d) Public Nuisance Board Appointees

i) The Public Nuisance Board was established in 2007, and is composed of one member from the Public Works Board, one member from the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, one member from the Town staff, the Fire Chief, and one member from the public.

**MOTION:** To appoint Roger Williams (of the Public Works Board), Eric Barsness (of the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee), Timber Pruett (of the Town staff), Butch Frediani (Fire Chief), and

**Jack Waller (of the public) to the Public Nuisance Board.** Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.**

**e) Water and Sewer Rate Commission**

**i)** Water and sewer rates for the Town have not been reviewed in over a decade. Costs have increased since then, and an active Water and Sewer Rate Commission is needed to look at our rates and determine if the Town needs to increase or decrease rates. The Town will advertise openings on the commission for two weeks. Members must actively pay water and sewer.

**f) Local Government Review Commission – Alternate Presiding Officer**

**i)** Mayor Gatewood is currently sitting as the presiding officer for the Local Government Review Commission and is seeking an alternate. The commission meets every two weeks, and the presiding officer must be an elected official.

**MOTION:** **To appoint Kacey Smart as the alternate Presiding Officer for the Local Government Review Commission.** Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.**

**g) Arbor Day Proclamation**

**MOTION:** **To approve the Arbor Day Proclamation.** Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Kacey Smart. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.**

**h) Update on ARPA Water Project**

**i)** The Town is purchasing a utility truck and a trailer.

**7) Public Works Report:**

PWD Roger Williams reported that he's taking an inventory of tools to fill the utility truck. He has spent a lot of time in the office, working on filing and organizing. PWD Williams mentioned that the new pumps will be installed soon. He has also been maintaining equipment and plowing snow.

**8) Consent Agenda:**

**a) Minutes from December 5, 2024 Council Meeting**

**i)** Changes to be made:

- Change "Justin David Bacon" to "David Bacon"

**MOTION:** **To approve the Minutes from December 5, 2024 Council Meeting as amended.** Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Kacey Smart. **The question was called.** **The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, David Bacon, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and Amy Grice in favor. None opposed.**

**b) Invoices and Checks December 2024**

**MOTION:** To approve the Invoices and Checks for December 2024. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

c) Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks December 2024

**MOTION:** To approve the Accounts Payable, Receivable, Adjustments, and Electronic Checks December 2024. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Kacey Smart, and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

d) Bank Reconciliation for October 2024

**MOTION:** To table the Bank Reconciliation for October 2024. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

e) Great West Draw

**MOTION:** To approve the Great West Draw. Motion made by Justin Gatewood; Seconded by David Bacon. **The question was called.** The motion passed by voice vote, Justin Gatewood, Amy Grice, Greg Jorczyk, Kacey Smart and David Bacon in favor. None opposed.

**9) Public Comment:**

None.

**10) Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To Adjourn. Motion made by David Bacon; Seconded by Justin Gatewood. **The question was called:** Motion was passed by voice vote, all in favor. None opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Justin Gatewood  
Mayor

Timber Baceski  
Clerk Treasurer