

Meadow Town Public Hearing Budget 2025

June 24, 2024
Meadow Firehouse
7:00 p.m.

*****THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED *****

Attendance: Mayor Gary Bishop, Councilmember Justin Jensen, Councilmember Sunny Guild, Councilmember Channing Stott, Councilmember Jim Beckstrand, Clerk Monica Dearden, Treasurer Haley Abplanalp, Lynn Bond, Zane Murnan, Ed Zmitravitch, Tony Cowley, Mark Cowley, Lloyd Robison, Andee Holdaway, Becca Frost

1. **Opening Ceremonies (three-minute limit):** Channing opened the meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. **Objective: The Meadow Town Public Hearing shall consist of a discussion for the new fiscal year budget for 2025:** Mayor Bishop welcomed everyone and shared the budget worksheet with those interested in looking it over. He gave a quick description of where the budget is at this point. He then asked if there were any comments or questions.

Tony Cowley referred to page 31 of the water contract and asked Channing if the required funds have been held in reserve. Channing replies that he believes that we have been. Tony explains the water project to the new council members and shares that in 2010 there was \$37,000 held in reserve. He estimated there should be upwards of \$200,000 at this point. These funds are supposed to be separate and accounted for separately also. Tony has been in contact with the Division of Drinking Water, Tony encourages the division to pursue a default. He shares the information that he received when he filed a GRAMA request last year and suggests that these issues show poor leadership. Mayor Bishop feels there it's possible that there is some confusion over the records and funds that we have. Tony says the next step is for the drinking water division to possibly officially declare default and the only reason that hasn't happened is because Tony hasn't pushed the time frame.

Tony had copies of his correspondence and Mayor Bishop offered him the opportunity to include them in the meeting minutes. He refused.

Mark Cowley comments on the same topic. He says that ignoring this issue is gross negligence and that the funds should be reestablished and should show on the budget and Meadow town should consult the water board with the changes. Justin asks for a copy of the contract and Tony tells him that Meadow Town should have the files.

Lloyd Robison asks where the expenditure money for the park comes from as they have no revenue, so where does that money come from. Mayor Bishop states that it comes from the General administrative funds and that the spreadsheets have differed over the years.

Zane Murnan asks what the difference between the revenue and expenditures are. Monica shares the figures with him.

Tony wants to clarify why the funds are important and how it pertains to not defaulting on the water bond. He feels that these funds should show on the budget as restricted funds. In 2008, the funds for this were borrowed from the electric fund and had lines in the budget. Justin asks when the bond matures. Monica figures that it would be about \$100,000 till pay off, which would be about three years. Jim Beckstrand has some questions and wonders if we could use some professional advice and feels that we should follow up to come under compliance. Mayor Bishop responded to Tony's accusation that after he made the same accusation last year, Mayor Bishop worked with the clerk and Channing to track down the line items in the budget to verify if we had restricted funds to cover the bond. He found that, yes we do have those funds in a restricted account, but since we have transitioned to Pelorus, those specific accounts do not print out on our working copies of the budget spreadsheet. Mayor Bishop also noted that this transition to Pelorus occurred while Tony was on the Town Council and offered him the opportunity to explain that decision to the current council members. Tony declined.

Zane asks when the water that the town purchased has to be proved up and if that is something that should be included in the budget. Channing thinks that they have 5-7 years.

3. **Closed Session (UCA 52-4-205 & 205) to discuss one or more of the following (if necessary): The character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual; collective bargaining; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares; the sale of real property, including any form of water rights or water shares; deployment of security personnel, devices or systems; investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; contract negotiations, the disclosure of which would be detrimental to the city's bargaining position.**
4. **Adjourn:** Channing makes a motion to close the public hearing and Sunny seconds the motion. All are in favor.

Monica Dearden
Meadow Town Clerk