

TOWN OF HUDSON
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
333 S Main Street
HUDSON, WY 82515
March 10, 2026

Mayor Oler called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was announced.

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

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

Audience: Amber Nation, John Nation, Louise Barker, Davette Mock, Mike Dabich, Marilyn Robinson

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA: Mayor Oler requested an amendment to the Agenda to add under New Business a discussion on the Generator Grant and a discussion on Utility Rates.

Motion to Amend the Agenda was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tony Scott was scheduled to speak to council but was not in attendance.

Louise Barker spoke to council regarding conflicts her family is having with Mr. Scott. After listening to Mrs. Barker, Mayor Oler stated that while it is frustrating for her family, it is a civil matter between the parties and there is nothing the town council can do about their conflicts.

CONSENT AGENDA items I, II, and III

I. MINUTES:

Correction/approval of the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of February 17, 2026

II. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Correction/approval of the Financial Report for February 28, 2026

II. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Correction/approval of the payment of bills for March 2026

*Motion to approve consent agenda was made by Councilman Zeke Bonella and seconded by Councilman Brady Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

Mayor
Clerk/Treasurer
Water Treatment Plant
Maintenance

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Mayor Report for the month of February 2026

Flood Mitigation: The kickoff meeting with Headwaters Economics and HDR Engineering went well, they have already started gathering all the information needed to assess and begin the modeling options for the Hudson Draw. I will update you as I get information.

Sewer PER: The public hearing on our Wastewater PER was held on February 17. Two residents showed up and information and needs were described, questions were asked and the final step will be town council deciding the alternatives to choose for in the final report to use for grant applications. The EPA still will weigh in, which will help with federal grant pursuits.

Water/Sewer Rates: The Midwest Assistance report on utility billing rates presented at the public meeting on February 17 was overwhelming. I believe we will be able to come up with a gradual increase plan to present to the Public that won't overwhelm them. It will be a difficult task, but I am hopeful by the time we have a public meeting, I can prepare easily understood handouts with information supporting why we must raise the rates. I also will work on cleaning up and creating consistency on all the current billing rates. People won't like it no matter what we do.

WAM Conference: A great amount of information was shared, I touched base and reached out to local legislators regarding voting on pending legislation, and I attended break out sessions including one with the Department of Audit. My hope is by reaching out to our local, state, and national legislators, the Town of Hudson will be put in a better light when I start to ask for funding for our projects. Our local/state legislators came through for the Wyoming Municipalities in their support of HB107, the replacement option for direct distribution. The end result is Hudson will receive an estimated additional \$20k during fiscal year 2027. It was a good win for us.

Budget Information: Kathy and I will work on a proposed budget for our meeting on March 24. I gained information at WAM which will hopefully help us with our F66 Audits in the future.

Software program for Town Hall: The schedule to start the training and installation is the first half of March. I am looking forward to implementation and seeing the results in increased productivity and ease with all employees.

DWSRF Loan: I received the sad news that we cannot use the remaining SLIB loan funds for the high priority items identified in our Level 1 Water Study. We will start close out of the loan and relinquish the remaining funds. The good news is we won't owe as much money and our annual payments should be significantly less than the amortization included in the original loan documents.

Level II Water Study: I submitted our Level II Water Study application to the Wyoming Water Development Commission. I believe I should hear which Engineer will be assigned to our application within a couple weeks. I hope George Moser will be selected as he has intimate knowledge of Hudson from our Level 1 application process.

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There's been more, but these are the highlights. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Sherry

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT

February 2025

For February being the shortest month of the year, we crammed a lot into it. The first part of the month was spent updating job applications, new hire paperwork, and preparing more employee manuals. I also processed the necessary paperwork to cancel Jesse's insurance since his departure and completed regular first-of-the-month duties including bank reconciliations and financial reports.

Wedge Fike assisted with getting the Starlink system ordered and we are waiting for the new phones to arrive so we can transition to the updated system.

Jake Lara facilitated an all staff meeting to kick off our new ReWorx programming. We reviewed our workflows for each department and worked on how it will all come together to better streamline our procedures. He scheduled second meetings with each department to help get an even better idea of what will help us be more efficient.

Lyle Hughes was hired as our new Maintenance employee. I spent several hours onboarding with him and getting his paperwork in order including verifying information for insurance and retirement.

Sherry and I met several times throughout the month to review the budget and determine the necessary transfers to ensure adequate funding for expenses. Since we had a busy schedule for our Town Council night with a Public Meeting, Public Hearings for Liquor Licenses and Right-of-Way vacation, and our regular Town Council Meeting, there was a lot of paperwork to prepare.

Once the meetings and hearings were completed, we mailed out the accounts payable, sent out letters and invoices for the liquor License renewals, and began preparing for the meter reading and utility billing activities.

Harry and Lyle were able to get the meters read quickly despite having to do it via the wi-fi workaround. Our new tablet arrived the day after Harry and Lyle did the meter readings so I will get online with Xylem and Sensus to get the tablet configured for next month's readings. It should be a lot less cumbersome when we can do it via the cloud in March.

I spent more time than usual getting payroll completed given the employee change and getting Lyle set up in the system.

We have been renting out Town Hall on a regular basis and just signed a church group for weekly Sunday use. Word is getting around of what a great venue we have available to the community.

Our office still struggled with the bug that has been going around, and Betty was out sick for several days. Despite her fighting off germs, she PASSED the required Public Officer Training! Congratulations, Betty!

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Overall, Town Hall was remarkably busy this month. Let's hope for the wind to die down and keep praying for the moisture we need!

Maintenance Report

February 2026

Week of Feb 16th-20th overview.

Introduction to operations, equipment, facilities management etc. with Harry leading the way. Clean organize maintenance shop, de-clutter etc. Meet with personnel involved in training me in my duties such as Seth Wood from town of Dubois, involving wastewater lagoon practices, setting up emails accounts passwords etc. Emptying at parks, cemetery, town-maintained properties. Mostly organizing maintenance shop and gaining familiarity with shop

Week of Feb 23rd-27th overview.

Stripped signs of hardware for cemetery markers, acquire hardware prep-drill signs for installation. Grid off cemetery into blocks and install signs in designated locations according to map. Make signs from rubble in tree dump to direct patrons on appropriate spots to dump yard debris. Pick up wind blown trash around fenceline at yard waste site. All other duties such as security checks on parks cemetery and lagoon etc. were performed daily as well. Begin installing posts and signs at cemetery. Maintaining security checks and daily maintenance as well. Snow removal on Thursday as well, becoming familiar with equipment used in that activity.

FEBRUARY 2026 WATERPLANT REPORT

All daily, monthly maintenance was done at the water plant for the month of February 2026 as per O. and M. Manuels. All pumps and wells were rotated bi-weekly for redundancy. All daily tests and values were done and recorded. Chemical levels were checked daily. Scada backup was rotated on the first of the month and the backup returned to off site location in the town hall. Harry has been the on-call person since Jesse left doing all weekday and weekend call outs, and work orders as well as weekend operations since his departure and for the unknown future till our new employee is trained and up to speed with procedures at the WWTP and WTP and has his contact hours/licensing.

February 2nd begin going through and attempting to clear Jesse from all computers, SCADA, SCADA CORE call out list and phones. Sent in February SWTR 5600183 report to E.P.A. Also, February Bac-T test for 665 South Ohio was taken and delivered to the Lander lab. The monthly test kit for the WWTP was delivered by Fed-Ex. These samples were performed and taken to Fed-Ex in Riverton the same day for delivery to Energy Labs in Casper.

February 4th a Clean in place was performed on L.P.M. #1 and passed all requirements of the procedure. Feb 5th received notice of receiving monthly samples from Energy Labs. E.coli test was taken on the 5th and delivered to Riverton lab. Attended a Reworx meeting with fellow employees. Purchaser of the old backhoe called and set Monday the 9th to pick up backhoe. Locates for 257 South Indiana preformed. Rural Water rep Brian visited the WTP. Feb 9th Bac-T results sent into region 8 E.P.A. Teems meeting attended with the Mayor.

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Ordered CL2, Citric Acid, LP-C 4, to be delivered on the 10th. Josh from Ferguson is to visit and will set date with me and new hire in future to attempt rebuild/repair vs replace, last two fire hydrants for the town. Feb 12th E.coli test taken and delivered to Riverton lab.

Feb 16th new hire Lyle Hughes started and Seth in from Dubois to start training for WWTP. Brian Linton was in to help Lyle attain his operator number from State of Wyo. Eric Cox in to set Lyle up on WTP computers. Ordered Lyle Sacramento course for WWTP license. Lyle registered for conference in April. Water meters read on the 24th. WTP put into production via remote on the 24th for fire on 2nd and Main Street at 22:15 hrs.

*Motion to approve Department Reports was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

WASTEWATER PER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Mayor Oler would like to discuss the review and analysis chart for the project and select alternative options for the Wastewater PER.

Mayor Oler explained the options for selection to Council. The options were presented for each section, and, after discussion of each, below are the options that council voted on:

COLLECTION SYSTEM: Option number 2 – Replace the trunkline.

LIFT STATION: Option number 3a – Grinder Lift Station

GENERATOR: Option number 2 – Obtain a new generator. Mayor Oler stated that the grant she applied for was potentially approved at no cost to the town.

CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEM: Option number 2 – Basic System. Councilman Brady Hamilton would like to investigate the cost estimates further.

EFFLUENT WEIR STRUCTURE: Option number 3 – Replacement of the structure.

AERATION SYSTEM: Option number 3 – Replacement. Mayor Oler informed council members of the blower motor that has stopped functioning. Councilman Hamilton stated this has been an ongoing issue with the lagoons for the fourteen years he has been on the town council.

Mayor Oler summed up the application parameters for obtaining a \$5.8 M loan from SLIB with a potential 75% forgiveness rate. Councilwoman Helen Gordon would like to know what other municipalities are doing for their utility repairs.

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NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 858 – AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF THE OKLAHOMA AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY, BLOCK 65, HUDSON WY – SECOND READING

*Motion to approve Ordinance 858 – Second Reading was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-04 – A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF HUDSON, WYOMING TO PLACE THE QUESTION OF THE THREE-QUARTER PERCENT (3/4%) SALES AND USE TAX FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT TO EXCLUSIVELY SUPPORT GROUND AMBULANCE, COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE, AND PUBLIC GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Mayor Oler presented the Resolution to Council for discussion explaining that the resolution is only to put the question on the ballot for voters to decide.

After a lengthy discussion, motion to approve Resolution 2026-04 was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion passed three aye votes and one nay vote.

AMENDMENT ONE TO THE LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WYOMING STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE TOWN OF HUDSON – DW251: Mayor Oler gave an update to council on the Loan repayment schedule for the Meter Project stating that there will likely be another amendment made after the town relinquishes the unused funds back to the state.

Motion to approve the Amendment to the Loan Agreement was made by Councilman Brady Hamilton and seconded by Councilwoman Helen Gordon. Motion passed.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT: Mayor Oler presented the Contract with WAM to provide accounting and bookkeeping services to the town. This is a significant cost saving for the preparation of our F-66 yearly report, not to mention other financial services provided.

Motion to approve Independent Contractor Agreement was made by Councilman Zeke Bonella and seconded by Councilman Brady Hamilton. Motion passed.

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LIVESTOCK PERMIT:

Brady Hamilton as landowner on behalf of
Lilly Hamilton & Justin Whelan
141 S Indiana
6 Chickens

Councilman Brady Hamilton abstained from voting on this matter.

Motion to approve Livestock Permit was made by Councilman Zeke Bonella and seconded by Councilwoman Helen Gordon. Motion passed.

LIVESTOCK PERMIT: (Renewal of April 2025 Permit)

Jerrica Flom
124 N Indiana
3 Horses & Flock of Chickens

*Motion to DENY Livestock Permit was made by Councilman Zeke Bonella and seconded by Councilwoman Helen Gordon. Motion to deny was approved.

GENERATOR GRANT: This matter was discussed during the Old Business discussion on the PER Wastewater system.

UTILITY RATE INCREASES: Mayor Oler informed council members of the upcoming changes and public meeting for Utility Rate Increases that are necessary. The first item she wanted to get support on was to discontinue the \$0.50 increase every six months.

Councilwoman Helen Gordon moved to support the discontinuation of the resolution to increase water and sewer rates by \$0.25 each on an every six-month basis. Councilman Brady Hamilton seconded motion. Motion in support passed.

Mayor Oler then shared the draft of proposed increases to utility rates and an option to give a discount to residents who meet income guidelines. After a lengthy discussion, three of four councilmembers were not in favor of a discount program at this time given the need to get our rate compliant with state laws. It was further agreed that the utility rates be set by resolution each fiscal year.

Councilman Zeke Bonella moved to approve the proposed utility rate increases as written. Councilwoman Helen Gordon seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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REMINDER OF BUDGET WORK SESSION FOR MARCH 24, 2026 @ 6:00PM

Clerk Kathy Shoopman reminded councilmembers of the upcoming Budget Work Session.

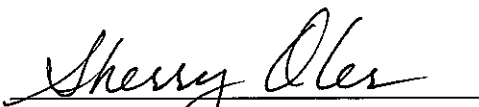
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Helen Gordon and seconded by Councilman Kevin Kummer. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

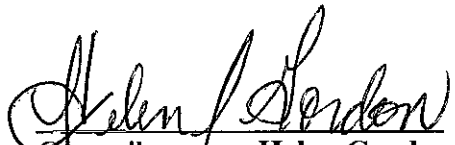
Attest:

Approved:

Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Shoopman




Mayor, Sherry Oler



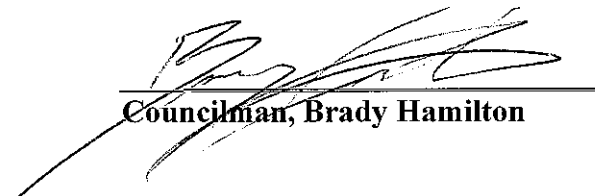
Councilwoman, Helen Gordon



Councilman, Kevin Kummer



Councilman, Zeke Bonella



Councilman, Brady Hamilton