

Regular Council Meeting
Town of Valier Town Council
Valier Civic Center
October 13, 2025

Mayor Glenn Wunderlich presided.

Council Members present: Steve Nelson, Janelle Nelson, Bob Cannady, and Rick Tomsheck

Town Staff present: Stephanie Sullivan Clerk/Treasurer and Josh Clifford public works

Guests Present: Chris Grotbo, Carol Green, Josh Reed, Sheriff Skorupa, Deputy Gaub, Richard Widhalm, Mary Kuka, Holly Gordon, Grant Malinak, Nita Tomsheck, Kyle, Craner, and Cathy Christiaens

Mayor Wunderlich brought the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Mayor Wunderlich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wunderlich called for any corrections or additions to the September 8, 2025, regular town council meeting minutes. None heard. Alderman Tomsheck moved to approve the September 8, 2025, regular town council meeting minutes. Alderman S. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comment.

Josh Reed, school superintendent for the Valier Public Schools, gave a brief update on what's been going on at the school and some upcoming events.

Richard Widhalm commented on the fact that he has been hearing that the water rates were going up double and wanted some clarification. He also commented on the misleading article in the Valerian about the shortfall of the reserve account for the 2011 loan taken out for the new water tower.

3. Law Enforcement Report.

Sheriff Skorupa gave a brief update on the Sheriff's Department.

4. Library Report.

Chris Grotbo was present to give a brief update on what's going on at the library.

5. Public Works Report.

Josh Clifford gave the water report. The Town pumped 3,915,000 gallons of water for the month, for an average of 126,290 gallons per day. Bulk water sold 62,100 gallons for month. The water sample was good for the month. The water levels in the wells are about average for this time of year.

6. Mayor Wunderlich presented the council with the union contract for approval. Alderwoman J. Nelson made a motion to approve the union contract. Alderman S. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution #212 – Intent to increase water rates, was presented to the council for approval. Alderman Tomsheck made a motion to approve Resolution #212. Alderwoman J. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously

RESOLUTION #212

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VALIER, MONTANA

OF INTENT TO INCREASE WATER RATES

FOR THE USERS OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, under Section 69-7-101, Montana Code Annotated, the Town has the power and authority to regulate, establish, and change as it considers proper, rates, charges, and classifications imposed for utility services to its inhabitants and other persons served by the municipal water system. Rates, charges, and classifications must be reasonable and just; and

WHEREAS, based on a recent review of the municipal water system, the Town does not meet the net revenue requirement for bonds previously issued and to cover all operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the water rates have not been increased since 2018 to keep up with the increasing operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the Town to collect sufficient revenues to repay the Bonds and to pay the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the Town's Water System (the "System");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Town Council of Valier as follows:

Section 1. Current Rates: The current monthly rate is \$33.95 per one Equivalent Dwelling Unit ("EDU").

Section 2. Equivalent Dwelling Units: The Town previously adopted the equivalent dwelling unit methodology for imposing rates and charges, which is based on the size of the line servicing each connection. A ¾ inch service, which is the standard service for single family residential users, is 1 EDU. The following table shows the number of EDUs for each size of service:

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>No. of Hookups</u>	<u>EDUs per Hookup</u>	<u>Total EDUs</u>
¾"	336	1.00	336.00
1"	3	1.79	5.37
1 ½"	3	4.00	12.00
2"	3	7.14	21.42
TOTAL	345		375.09

Section 3. Rate Increase

The Town intends to charge users of the System a monthly base rate connection charge of \$38.95 per EDU, effective as of November 26, 2025. Each user of the System is charged a monthly base rate connection charge to pay the costs of operation and maintenance of the System and debt service on the Bonds and establish appropriate reserves. The proposed new Monthly Charge for the use and availability of the System, based on the figures in the table above, is as follows:

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Cost per EDU</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
¾"	38.95	1.00	38.95
1	38.95	1.79	69.72
1 ½"	38.95	4.00	155.80
2"	38.95	7.14	278.10

This represents an increase of approximately 14.72% for a single-family residential dwelling with a ¾" line.

Section 4. Usage Charge: The current charge of \$1.99 per one thousand gallons of water usage will increase by .25 making the new cost \$2.24.

Section 5. Public Hearing: A public hearing on the rate increases for the System shall be held on November 10, 2025, commencing at 7:00 PM at the Civic Center, 514 Montana Street, Valier, Montana.

Section 6. Notice: The Town Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to publish or cause to be published a copy of a notice of the passage of Resolution #212 in the Valerian newspaper on October 22, 2025; October 29, 2025 and November 5, 2025 by law and to mail or cause to be mailed a copy of said notice to all persons who own property in the Town and to all customers of the Town at least seven (7) days and not more than thirty (30) days prior to the Public Hearing. The mailed notice must contain an estimate of the amount that the property owner or customer will be charged under the proposed rate increase.

Section 7. Effective Date of Resolution: This resolution shall be immediately filed with the Town Clerk/Treasurer and shall become effective upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Valier, Montana, and approved by the Mayor of said Town this 13th day of October, 2025.

AYES- 4

NAYES- 0

ABSTAIN- 0

ABSENT- 0

Glenn Wunderlich, Mayor

Attest: _____

Stephanie Sullivan Clerk/Treasurer

8. Resolution #213 – Prosecutorial assistance in ordinance enforcement cases, was presented to the council for approval. Alderman Tomsheck made a motion to approve Resolution #213. Alderman S. Nelson Second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously

TOWN OF VALIER
RESOLUTION # 213 – 2025
AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE
IN ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT CASES

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Attorney has been requested to provide general prosecutorial assistance periodically throughout the fiscal year for the purpose of enforcing Ordinance violations within the Town of Valier; and

WHEREAS, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a special Town of Valier attorney be appointed to assist in the prosecution of ordinance matters; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valier is authorized to employ counsel to prosecute violations of the law and Town of Valier ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Pondera County Attorney has agreed to act as a Special Deputy Town of Valier attorney; THEREFORE,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

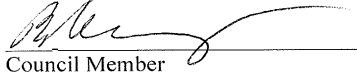
That the Pondera County Attorney, Shari M. Lennon and other qualified attorneys in her employ, shall be appointed as special Town of Valier attorneys for the Town of Valier for the purpose of assisting in prosecution of ordinance violations that may arise from September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and that she can fulfill the functions required for ordinance enforcement.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:

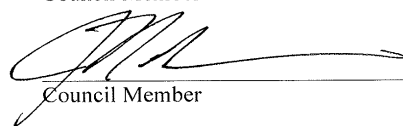
That under the terms of this agreement, no fee will be charged for attorney time provided by the special attorney, however witness fees and expense, jury costs, and other normal costs associated with the prosecution will be the Town's responsibility.

Adopted this 13 day of October, 2025 as moved by Council Member Tomsheck, seconded by Council Member S. Nelson, and passed on a unanimous vote of the full council. Effective on passage and approval.

TOWN OF VALIER


Council Member


Council Member


Council Member


Council Member

ATTEST:


Clerk, Town of Valier

9. The Justice of the Peace submitted two options on how the town wants to handle court in Valier couple different options when it comes to everything.

- a) Valier can be put under Full Court (this is the system that most of the courts in the state use) as its own city and have the ordinances there this will take a couple weeks from the IT people involved. This will separate the Valier ordinance fines collected and have a check sent to the town Monthly. A Bank account will need to be made, and Valier will more than likely have to pay for some of the processes (Different Sheriffs office tickets, a court room, Computer for Judge, and a few other things I believe) Most complex
- b) Valier can be put under Pondera County in Full Court and have the Tickets they write now with a check box of Valier and the ordinances wrote as a sub section when we do the end of the month bank reconciliation. (We have 23 categories we send out to including victim whiteness advocates, Montana police academy and others) Valier would just be another line item. This would be the easiest and cheapest for all parties. The city ordinances would just be put in the same as new MCA codes get put in. Again check sent monthly.

Discussion about where court can be held or how to have court in Valier can be held after we get a direction on where to go with he first part.

After a brief discussion the council decided on option B. Mayor Wunderlich called for a motion to accept the Justice of the Peace proposal. Alderman S. Nelson made a motion to accept the proposal. Alderwoman J. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent Items:

A. Regular Business Claims: Mayor Wunderlich called for a motion to pay the bills, check#34274-34331. Alderwoman J. Nelson made a motion to pay the bills. Alderman S. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Licenses:

JB Asphalt applied for a business license with the Town of Valier. Mayor Wunderlich called for a motion to accept the business license permit. Alderman S. Nelson made a motion to accept the building permit. Alderman Tomscheck second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Permit to Build:

1. Ivan Irwin wants to build a storage shed on his property at 682 Minnesota Ave. Mayor Wunderlich called for a motion to accept the building permit. Alderwoman J. Nelson made a motion to accept the building permit. Alderman S. Nelson second. Mayor Wunderlich called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Council Concerns.

None.

12. Announcements.

Alderman Bob Cannady will be the new check signer replacing former Alderwoman Dodge.

Next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Monday November 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Valier Civic Center.

13. Adjourn.

There being no more business to come before the Town Council, Mayor Wunderlich adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

ATTEST:

Glenn Wunderlich, Mayor

Stephanie Sullivan, Clerk/Treasurer