



TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 19, 2025- 7:00 P.M.

1500 Palomino Avenue,

Bar Nunn, Wyoming

- 1) **Roll Call:** Mayor Peter Boyer called the meeting to order on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called, which determined the presence of a quorum.
Present: Mayor, Peter Boyer. Councilmembers: Steven Clark, and Dan Sabrosky.
Video Conference: Councilman Tyler Martin.
Excused: Councilman Tim Ficken
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Town Council and all present stood in service to the United States Flag and pledged allegiance to the United States of America.
- 3) **Minutes of August 5, 2025:** Moved by Steven Clark, seconded by Dan Sabrosky. The motion carried without dissent to approve the minutes for August 5, 2025.
- 4) **Payables List for August 19, 2025:** Moved by Dan Sabrosky and seconded by Steven Clark. The motion carried without dissent to approve the payables list of August 19, 2025.
- 5) **Financial Reports: Balance Sheet, Detailed Income Statement & Trial Balance for the period ending July 2025:** Moved by Steven Clark, seconded by Dan Sabrosky, and carried without dissent to approve the Financial Reports for the period ending July 2025.
- 6) **Resolution 2025-16 “A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF CASPER FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES”** Moved by Dan Sabrosky, seconded by Steven Clark, and carried without dissent to approve Resolution 2025-16.
- 7) **JDC Investigations LLC Introduction:**
Mayor Boyer introduced Aaron Shatto, owner of JDC Investigations and retired investigative sergeant with the Natrona County Sheriff’s Office. Shatto provided a detailed explanation of his process for conducting background checks and candidate vetting.
He explained that the process begins with a review of employment history, references, and available online information, followed by an “integrity interview” lasting from one to four hours depending on the candidate. Topics covered include drug and alcohol use, criminal history (both detected and undetected), family background, financial responsibility, and employment records. Agencies set their own disqualifiers, such as marijuana use within the past year or harder drug use within five years. Verification of documentation such as driver’s license, birth certificate, Social Security card, and military discharge records (DD-214) is performed, and a credit report is obtained to assess responsibility.
Following the interview, Shatto and his investigators contact spouses, family members, references, employers, and coworkers to verify history and character. Social media accounts are reviewed for concerning content. Reports are then compiled for the requesting agency, with recommendations on whether the candidate is fit to serve. In higher-level vetting processes, the scope expands to include 20–30 contacts, particularly former subordinates and supervisors, to assess leadership style, stress management, and integrity. Shatto noted he has been performing such investigations since 2008 and has completed thousands, averaging around 100 per year through his company. He acknowledged that while disqualifying issues are usually

found, agencies sometimes hire against his recommendation, which in some cases has led to problems within a year.

- 8) **Attorney's Report:** A written report was submitted. Attorney Patrick Holscher was present for questions or comments from the council. He noted he had nothing further to add.
- 9) **Engineer's Report:** A written report was submitted. Town Engineer, Ray Catellier, PE was present to answer questions or comments from the council.
Engineer Ray Catellier updated the council on the deteriorating section of sidewalk discussed at prior meetings. Conversations with contractors confirmed that the concrete is likely failing through its full depth rather than just at the surface. To confirm this, he recommended drilling several four-inch core samples at different points along the stretch. The coring will allow staff to determine whether the underlying material is still solid or if it is crumbling throughout. If the concrete is sound, a protective coating can be tested; if not, replacement will eventually be required. Catellier noted the testing will be inexpensive, and the holes can be refilled the same day with sack concrete to restore the surface.
- 10) **Fire Department Report:** A written report was submitted. Fire Chief, Eugene Zahara, was present for questions or comments from the council.
Fire Chief Zahara reported that Brush 11 was returning from a wildfire assignment in California, generating approximately \$17,000 in reimbursement to the town, and would soon be available again for national dispatch. Another firefighter had also completed a 42-day deployment in Alaska serving as equipment manager and ground support unit leader.
Zahara then discussed the annual fire and life safety inspection at Bar Nunn School, which identified eleven minor deficiencies, such as non-compliant fabrics over light fixtures. He emphasized that the issues were minimal and would be easily corrected before school resumed.
- 11) **Public Works Report:** A written report was submitted. Head of Public Works, Dustin Smart, was present for questions or comments from the council.
Public Works Director Dustin Smart expanded on his written report. He recommended adding picnic shelters at Antelope Park to provide shaded gathering areas and reduce wear in the grass corridor between the parking lot and splash pad. Mayor Boyer directed Smart to work with Engineer Catellier to obtain cost estimates for council's consideration in either the current budget year or next.
Smart further reported that Superior Signs offered to stripe Bar Nunn's streets this year at no charge, using paint already purchased by the town, as a gesture to establish a working relationship. Council expressed appreciation and approved the offer.
On water infrastructure, Smart stated that staff continue updating service line records in line with the EPA's lead service line rule. Several previously unknowns have now been confirmed as non-lead. Hydrants are being flushed, though full flow testing will resume once firefighting staff and equipment return from deployment. These tests are critical for ISO reporting and fire rating purposes. Mayor Boyer also asked staff to investigate a citizen's complaint of low water pressure on Silvertip to determine whether valves may have been left closed.
- 12) **Parks and Recreation Report:** A written report was submitted. Parks and Recreation Committee Chairwoman, Virginia Wharton was present for questions or comments from the council.
She reported that a community survey had been posted to Facebook to gauge resident interest in a fall farmers market. She also announced that the annual Trunk-or-Treat event would be held on October 25, with the specific time still to be determined. In addition, she shared that she is also gauging public interest in hosting a haunted house competition as part of the fall festivities.
- 13) **Petitions & Public Comment:** Mayor Boyer opened the floor for public comment, reminding attendees of the five-minute time limit.

Jan Schoolcraft, Bar Nunn resident, opened public comment by raising a concern about street striping. She noted that Evansville and Mills still receive striping services from Natrona County when the towns provide paint, and questioned why Bar Nunn was no longer included in that arrangement. She speculated that the

change might have occurred during the tenure of a prior maintenance head and asked council to investigate. Schoolcraft also urged councilmembers to speak more loudly during meetings, explaining that residents seated in the back of the chamber had difficulty hearing discussions.

Matt Keating, Casper resident and parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima, spoke in favor of the Radiant Industries proposal. He compared the project to the Manhattan Project of the 1940s, saying America had once raced to develop nuclear technology for survival and now faced a similar race in artificial intelligence, quantum mechanics, and national defense. He argued that energy security was critical to keeping the United States competitive and that Radiant could provide long-term benefits to Wyoming, including jobs, tax revenue, and opportunities for future generations. Keating emphasized that residents should focus on progress and possibility rather than fear.

Robert Kwasnicki, Bar Nunn resident, read a prepared statement in opposition to Radiant. He cited specific provisions of Bar Nunn Town Code that prohibit nuclear waste storage in industrial districts and stated that the project would be inconsistent with both the letter and intent of local law. Kwasnicki urged council to represent the health and safety of Bar Nunn residents over outside corporate interests, reminding them of their oath of office. He concluded by calling on the council to reject any annexation or zoning changes that would enable Radiant to operate in Bar Nunn.

Lee Ann Newquist, Bar Nunn resident, asked for clarification on conflicting statements in prior council minutes regarding the town's ability to provide or deny utility services to Radiant. She referenced the February 4, 2025 minutes, which suggested the town could deny water and sewer service, compared with the August 5 minutes, which indicated the town might not have discretion to do so.

Mayor Boyer explained that denial of service was technically possible but carried risks.

Attorney Pat Holscher expanded on the issue, stating that the town, as a municipal utility provider, cannot arbitrarily decide which customers to serve. If Radiant complies with zoning, annexation, and code requirements, the town would generally be obligated to provide utilities in the same manner it provides them to other lawful businesses. He explained that government entities are prohibited from "picking winners and losers" without a defensible, legal basis. While denial of service could be attempted, it would almost certainly result in litigation, and unless the town could point to specific health, safety, or capacity-based reasons, the courts would likely side with the applicant. Holscher emphasized that council must weigh the financial and legal exposure of defending such a denial against the town's broader responsibilities to its taxpayers.

Kayla Wolosin, Bar Nunn resident, provided a financial review of the town's last seven years, pointing out that while income has generally kept pace with inflation, expenses have increased sharply in the last two years due to major undertakings such as the water system and community center. She cautioned against committing to further obligations until the full operating costs of the community center were known. Wolosin said it was the council's responsibility to balance community improvements with long-term financial stability.

Dan Wolosin, Bar Nunn resident, spoke against the Radiant proposal, emphasizing that Wyoming's values are built on integrity, accountability, and neighbors looking out for one another. He argued that Radiant had not demonstrated those values, citing canceled meetings, evasive answers on safety and waste, and inconsistent public and private messaging. Wolosin stated that annexation is not automatic and must serve Bar Nunn's best interest, not a California corporation's bottom line. He warned that rezoning agricultural land to industrial use for Radiant would violate both the council's oath of office and state law, which already restricts nuclear waste storage. He also criticized Radiant's plans to mass produce reactors without a live test, and their failure to provide clear answers on handling high-level waste, saying the company sought to place all risk on Bar Nunn while retaining the reward.

Wolosin then questioned a red dot on the town's zoning map, located below the water tower. Councilman Steven Clark clarified that the parcel was zoned B2 Highway Business. At Wolosin's request, Engineer Ray Catellier read the formal description of the classification, which is intended for high-traffic commercial uses such as automobile services, restaurants, churches, banks, hotels, and other retail or service establishments, with conditional uses including public utilities. Wolosin thanked the council for the clarification, noting that other areas might also fall under that category.

Samantha Fowler, Casper resident, voiced strong opposition to Radiant's proposal. She said the company had already broken trust with the public by canceling scheduled meetings and avoiding direct answers when safety and waste questions became difficult. Fowler argued that annexation exists to benefit residents, not outside corporations, and warned against using town resources to accommodate a private venture that has not been forthcoming with its intentions. She emphasized that honesty and transparency should be prerequisites for any company seeking to locate in Bar Nunn, and Radiant had failed on both counts.

Lisa Leon, a newer Bar Nunn resident, drew on her personal experience living near nuclear plants in other states. She cited the National Academy of Sciences, noting its conclusion that there is no truly safe level of radiation exposure. Leon expressed deep concern about exposing the community to potential long-term health effects, especially for children. She described Wyoming as a place she and others had moved to for safety, natural beauty, and peace of mind, and said it would be irresponsible to compromise that by welcoming nuclear waste into the town's borders. Leon urged the council to think in terms of generational impacts rather than short-term economic gain.

Amy Womack, Natrona County resident, spoke in favor of Radiant. She argued that many concerns expressed against the project were rooted in outdated fears tied to older nuclear technology. Womack insisted that advanced nuclear systems are far safer, and that Wyoming should seize the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovation. She said rejecting Radiant would send a message that Bar Nunn was unwilling to grow with the times, and urged the council to adopt a forward-looking mindset that embraces new technology and positions Wyoming as a leader.

William Wallace, Natrona County resident and University of Wyoming graduate, also supported Radiant. He explained that one of Wyoming's biggest challenges is retaining its young people, who often leave in search of high-paying technical jobs. Wallace argued that Radiant could provide exactly those kinds of opportunities, and that rejecting the project would be shortsighted. He strongly defended the safety of dry cask storage, comparing it favorably to common risks like landfills or industrial waste sites. Wallace also reminded the council that Wyoming's economy is already built on outside corporations, and rejecting Radiant simply because it is California-based was inconsistent with the state's reliance on other external industries.

Mitchell Groskopf, Natrona County resident, focused on financial considerations. He explained that Wyoming's \$5 per megawatt-hour nuclear tax flows directly to the state, not to local municipalities, meaning Bar Nunn would not see significant benefit from that revenue. Instead, the town would mainly rely on property and sales tax. Groskopf also warned that if Radiant were to operate under a foreign trade zone, those local tax revenues could be reduced or eliminated, leaving the town with service obligations but little financial return. He cautioned the council to carefully consider not just the promises of economic development, but the structure of tax law and whether the town would actually see meaningful revenue.

Debbie Franklin, who said she is not from Bar Nunn but lives in the vicinity, spoke in opposition to Radiant. She described growing up near a nuclear plant in Hermiston, Oregon, which she said leaked into the land and water despite officials assuring residents that everything was safe. Franklin stated that years later the effects became undeniable, with widespread harm to wildlife, human health, and property values. She warned that even a small leak can spread over miles and become catastrophic. Franklin emphasized that she has children and grandchildren living in this area now, and feared that any accident could cause lasting damage to the whole community. Having lived through such impacts firsthand, she said she was firmly opposed to the project. When asked by Mayor Boyer for the plant's name, she said she did not recall, only that it was near Hermiston.

Michael Newquist, Bar Nunn resident, firmly rejected the characterization that opponents of Radiant were motivated by fear. He said residents were informed, independent, and committed to defending their community. Newquist argued the project was both unsafe and unlawful under existing restrictions and emphasized that the burden of risk would fall entirely on Bar Nunn residents. He also criticized the lack of microphones during the work session, which he said prevented residents from clearly hearing deliberations. Looking more broadly, Newquist warned that Radiant's promises of jobs were hollow, as artificial intelligence and automation would likely displace workers rather than provide lasting employment.

Rozmaring Czaban, Natrona County resident, read from a prepared statement questioning whether a binding contract with Radiant existed, noting Councilman Sabrosky had previously suggested the town could face litigation if it withdrew support. Councilmembers confirmed that no contract had been signed.

She argued that the council expressed support for Radiant without first holding properly noticed meetings for public input, citing the May 6, 2025 minutes recording unanimous backing of a recommendation letter to the Wyoming Business Council. Czaban said this created a conflict of interest, adding that she had evidence of Councilman Martin privately voicing additional support in text messages. She contended that with multiple members publicly supporting Radiant, the council could not act impartially on annexation or zoning matters. Czaban further warned that annexation for the purpose of rezoning would impose infrastructure costs on taxpayers while violating zoning's intent to protect public health and welfare. She argued the project is unlawful under current zoning and state law restricting nuclear waste storage, and cited a 1983 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (*Pacific Gas & Electric v. State Energy Commission*) affirming states' rights to restrict nuclear development on economic grounds.

As she continued, Mayor Boyer advised that her five minutes had expired and cut off further remarks.

Jason Foley, Bar Nunn resident and journeyman electrician with experience at Idaho National Laboratory, said that while nuclear work can be performed safely in controlled environments, he opposed placing such a facility two miles from town. Foley stressed that handling nuclear fuel before it is placed in dry casks presents risks that have not been adequately addressed. He also warned that federal regulation of the site would be intense and could limit local control, burdening the town with oversight responsibilities it was not prepared to handle.

Laura Redmond, Bar Nunn resident, began by finishing the written statement of Rozmaring Czaban, noting that the council had provided no factual economic benefits to justify Radiant's proposal and warning that its actions could be perceived as partial or conflicted.

She then thanked the council for following up on her earlier concern about sidewalk conditions, adding that she was willing to allow testing near her own property if needed.

Redmond next referenced the Wyoming Business Council's recently released grant list, reading from the entry for the *Radiant Micro Reactor Utility Infrastructure Project*. She reported that Radiant had requested \$25 million to extend water, sanitary, and storm sewer lines to its facility and 584 acres of adjacent land, along with a new entry road, parking lot, and office building to be leased to the company.

She cautioned that since no national repository exists for nuclear fuel, any spent fuel would remain onsite. If Radiant failed, the property would be contaminated and unusable for future development, preventing growth to the north. She closed by urging the council to weigh the long-term risks.

Mike Schoolcraft, long-time Bar Nunn resident, reflected on his years of regular attendance at council meetings. He encouraged newer participants not to lose interest once the Radiant issue subsided, stressing that civic engagement should be ongoing and not limited to moments of controversy. Schoolcraft said the health of the community depends on consistent public involvement, and he urged neighbors to remain engaged in local government regardless of outcome.


Cathi Carr, a former Bar Nunn resident now living north of Casper, closed public comment by urging the town to provide more public education on the Radiant proposal. She said the project would affect not only Bar Nunn but the wider region, and residents throughout Natrona County deserve access to information and opportunities for input. Carr encouraged the council to host additional meetings, workshops, or forums so the community can make fully informed decisions.

14) Council Business:

- A. Regional Water Report: Councilman Dan Sabrosky reported on the Central Wyoming Regional Water Board's meeting. He clarified that Bar Nunn's water comes from the Platte River in summer and the Fort Caspar well fields in winter. The meeting was routine, covering financials and legal updates, but planning continues for a major upgrade to the ultraviolet disinfection system that will replace the

current EPA-mandated system. This project is expected to begin within one to two years and will involve significant cost.


- 15) **Executive Session:** Mayor Boyer adjourned the regular session and entered Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.
Moved by Steven Clark, seconded by Dan Sabrosky, and carried without dissent to enter the Executive Session.
- 16) **Reconvene Regular Council Session:** Mayor Peter Boyer reconvened the regular council meeting at 9:01 p.m.
Moved by Steven Clark, seconded by Dan Sabrosky, and carried without dissent to reconvene the regular council meeting. No action was taken.
- 17) **Adjournment:** Moved by Steven Clark, seconded by Tyler Martin that there being no further business for the meeting of August 19, 2025, be adjourned, at 9:02 p.m.



Peter Boyer, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)





Kalista Schwarzrock, Town Clerk-Treasurer