

## Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

February 17, 2026

Mayor Ferguson opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00pm and Colton Carter led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Jeff Davis, Mike Duval, and Leonard Woehler.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Jim Lippert, City Attorney, Austin Thompson, Assistant Public Works Director, and Lana King, City County Planning Board

Public: Mike Shirley, Angela Selby, Marty Wallach, Barb Selk, Linda Brunckhorst, Anita Dore, Austin Standley, Marky Curry, Jamie Adam, Aaron Freed, Colton Carter,

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular City Council Meeting and the February 9<sup>th</sup> Special City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Davis made a motion of informal consideration for all agenda items for the 2-17-26 meeting, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Hunter Roberts did not attend the meeting.

Marty Wallach with Goats Only attended the meeting about an encroachment permit for 37 McLeod Street which is the former Thirsty Turtle building. They are going to resurface the whole building with a 7" stone and is asking the Council for approval to encroach on the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and alley side. They have approached the Department of Transportation for an encroachment and have received approval from them. On the alley side the handicap accessible ramp is already encroaching in the alley, they would like to redo it and extend the ramp out to the sidewalk on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Lana King, City/County Planning Board stopped and visited with Marty about the current encroachments and says everything looks good. Councilman Woehler made a motion to conditionally approve the Encroachment Agreement for 37 McLeod Street with a stipulation of having an approved engineering plan, seconded by Councilman Duval. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked if the trash truck would still have access to the alley. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Austin Standley, Colton Carter, Clayton Granger, and Garrett? asked for permission to keep sheep at Sweet Grass County High School. They would like to extend the time to eight weeks in the spring and four weeks in the fall. Public Comment: Lana King asked how many sheep would be at the school. Austin Standley replied about 10-15 ewes. Jamie Adam asked about the fencing used to keep the sheep. Mark Curry asked if the sheep would be bothered by machinery. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve having sheep at Sweet Grass County High School as proposed, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Austin Standley is looking into building an Animal Science building at Sweet Grass County High School. They are in the process of fundraising for the building to expand the program at the high school. It will be built on the school property which is in city limits. He would like to see an agreement with the city to be allowed to bring in animals at different times during the year so that they are following the city

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codes. Councilman Davis wants to make sure that the neighbors are contacted and approve of the building. He is concerned that if this is allowed that because our ordinance is so vague that other residents may want to have additional livestock as well. Jim Lippert would like to see it in the ordinances and will make it specific to the high school only. Lana King suggested looking at Public Lands and Institutions in the ordinances as well.

Austin Thompson presented information to the council on the costs for each elected official and city employee to have an email address using the website domain. Prime Inc. will charge \$150-\$200 to set up our email domain. Public Comment: Aaron Freed stated the chamber is looking at becoming a .org and he would like to see the government become a .gov.

Councilman Woehler gave the history on the City Hall project and presented two invoices from Greg Bunton Architecture for the work he has done on the new City Hall building. Councilman Davis is surprised by the invoices because he was told that this was going to be done for free and didn't realize that there was going to be costs involved and wish it would have been brought up for approval before the work had been done. Councilman Duval agreed. Councilman Woehler stated that it was his mistake and said Greg did not make it clear to him that he would be charging for this work. Councilman Davis stated we need to pay for the work he has done, but we need to make sure that we learn from this. Mayor Ferguson agreed that before moving forward with any costs to the city, it needs to be approved by the Council. Public Comment: Ricki Earl stated this should fall on the business owner and this is a bad business practice and there should have been a contract. Jamie Adam asked if the second set of plans came about because the county wanted to be part of this project. Linda Brunckhorst agrees with Councilman Davis that we need to pay him for the work he has done.

Hope Mosness stated that the council needs to approve the additional costs from Bomber Mountain Demo for the asbestos abatement at City Hall. Mayor Ferguson will follow up with Kris for clarification on the additional costs of the demolition. Councilman Woehler made a motion to table the estimate of additional fees from Bomber Mountain Demo, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Hope Mosness presented her recommendation on how to pay for the City Hall demolition costs. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve Hope's recommendation to pay for the City Hall demolition costs, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY26 Pledged Securities Report, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor Ferguson stated that the budget report is just informational and doesn't need approval. No motion was made.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of January 2026, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Councilman Duval stated it's hard to pay for the second plans for City Hall that came out of the blue. He stated the knowledge we had at the time is that we wouldn't be charged for it. Councilwoman Baird would like to have a conversation with him about what he will charge moving forward. Councilman Davis made an amendment to the approval of the claims for the second half of January 2026 except for claim 30968 to Greg Bunton Architecture for a total of \$13,500, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried with Councilmembers Baird, Davis and Duval voting aye. Councilman Woehler voted nay.

Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst asked if the city hall floor plan has been approved. She would like the city to consider keeping the flagpoles where they are. She said it was a very generous gift from the Community Thrift Shoppe and feels it is a slap in the face to move it. Ricki Earl stated that she finds it

silly that the city is nitpicking a contract for asbestos removal that is vital for the health and safety of the community and workers, but the city is willing to pay money for something without a contract. Jamie Adam says we need to split the cost for the second set of City Hall plans with the county.

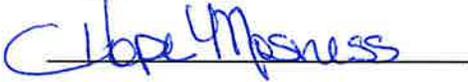
Council Concerns: Councilman Davis stated that he knows that Sheriff Ronneberg doesn't want to get involved with code enforcement and we have two people running for sheriff. Is there something we can do about it? He says Big Timber looks junky and we need to have the ordinances enforced. He would like to see a long-term agreement with the Sheriff's Department put in place to help enforce the codes. Jim Lippert stated that some of these items can be brought up to Lana King. Councilman Duval stated that we need to tighten up the code and have a good relationship with the new sheriff so we can make this happen. Public Comment: Mark Curry stated he has brought this up at the planning board meetings. He stated you can control it by giving tickets. He said we need to decide who is in charge of it and make it happen. Councilman Woehler stated that he is likely responsible for the City Hall floor plan charges because he asked Greg to give the City an invoice for what he has done. He wanted to clarify before the council meets with Greg.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.



Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer