

## Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

February 2, 2026

Mayor Ferguson opened the meeting at 7:00pm and 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, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Michael J Shirely, Hunter Roberts, Angela Selby, Denise Winjum, Mark Curry, Barb Selk, Anita Dore, Linda Brunckhorst, Aaron Freed, Justin Arlian, Sara Mast, Angie Moen, Lana King, and Norene Brown

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/19/26 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

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

Sheriff Ronneberg was not at the meeting.

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, was not at the meeting but submitted a written report in the packet. The Whistle Creek mainline relocation is complete. There has been some sediment in the Water Treatment Plant after the mainline was turned on. Everything has been cleaned out and fixed. There was a mainline sewer blockage which caused a basement sewer backup. A claim was filed with the city's insurance.

Hunter Roberts presented information on his business Crazy Mountain Renewables. He hopes to have a community meeting in August to allow the public to ask questions. He is just looking for community support right now. Councilmembers and members of the public asked questions. Hunter stated that this would be a private enterprise, and he is not looking for any financial support from the city, but he would like the Council to give him a letter of support. He also stated a letter would help him apply for grants. Mayor Ferguson asked the council to please consider a letter of support and they will vote on it at the next city council meeting.

Hope Mosness updated the council on the State Local Infrastructure Partnership Act grant funds that had been awarded to the city to remodel city hall and make it ADA compliant. She told the council that because that project cannot be finished and we are not using the funds to remodel an existing building; the grant funds will need to be returned to the Montana Department of Commerce. She also shared the total cost of the project and explained that it will be recorded as a loss on disposal for the city once the demolition takes place.

Councilman Woehler presented the plan for the new City Hall Building. Public Comment: Angie Moen, Aaron Freed, would like to see City Hall built somewhere else and for the city to sell the lot for a

business to move into the downtown area. Mike Shirley and Justin Arlian would like to see the city move forward on this plan for a new building. Councilman Woehler is waiting on some cost estimates before being able to move forward. Councilman Davis made a motion to reject cooperating with the County for the City offices, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert presented the Dornix Park Agreement for Council approval. He included the insurance language about dog bites that was discussed at the last meeting. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the Dornix Park Agreement, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert presented the first amendment to the Republic Services contract. The Council discussed having the performance bond reviewed on an annual basis. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked how the tonnage rates are verified, Justin Arlian stated that the council should put a penalty in the contract if Republic Services doesn't provide a performance bond within so many days. Jim Lippert suggested some language to put in the contract for the performance bond. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the first amendment to the Republic Services contract as amended, under 2)"Exhibit C, Performance Bond, once purchased and provided to City, shall be reviewed by city annually and if determined the current bond is insufficient, Republic shall increase the performance bond to an amount determined by the city within 30 days. Republic's failure to do so within 30 days of the execution of this first amendment or any time in the future will result in a credit to the city in the amount of \$1000 per day," seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Lana King asked the council to approve Guelda Halverson to the City/County Planning Board. Councilman Woehler made a motion to appoint Guelda Halverson to the City/County Planning Board, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor Ferguson stated that Council President Kerri Baird will need to be added to the signature cards at the bank in case of his absence. Councilman Duval made a motion to approve Council President Kerri Baird to the signature cards at the banks, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

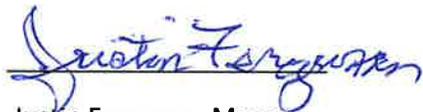
Hope Mosness presented information on the health insurance premiums for the city employees. Councilman Davis stated the increase would cost the city about \$1700 for the rest of this fiscal year and about \$5100 for the next fiscal year. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the increase in contributions in employees' health insurance program to \$1068, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the claims, payroll, and overtime for January 2026, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst stated that it has been really hot and dry and she was told to water her trees, and wondered if we could look at sewer averages for November, December, and January instead so her sewer average doesn't increase. Justin Arlian stated that they are going to be doing work in front of Catalyst for Change and Citizens Bank and would like to park where the Senior Citizen van is. Councilman Duval stated he would talk to the Hospitality House and then he and Justin will come up with a plan. Mark Curry asked how we measure our success and growth as a city? He stated that the

city does not have a plan coming into the new year. He wanted to know how we fix things that we walk by every day that are broken. Mayor Ferguson stated that during the budgeting process funding is set aside for projects that will be done. Councilman Woehler stated that someday the mine will leave and hopefully the west end expansion will happen and the city will receive sources of revenue from it. Mark asked if selling water to Crazy Mountain Ranch is still on the table. He thinks selling water for \$14 per 1000 gallons was too low. Mike Shirley stated that he likes Big Timber just the way it is. He thinks the city is doing a great job. Lana King stated the Lions Club turned 100 years old this year. She would like to get on the agenda to talk about doing some games to celebrate this. She would like to get approval to use the park for this occasion. She would like to know what the insurance requirements would be to be able to light off fireworks as well.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.



Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer