

## Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

March 16, 2026

Mayor Ferguson opened the Regular City Council 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: Angela Selby, Mike Shirley, Norene Brown, Dan Smart, Ryan Langhus, Nathan Myrstol, Lana King, and Aaron Freed

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2nd Regular City Council Meeting as amended, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

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

Kenny Shirley from L and J Construction asked the council to approve a large bulk water purchase for the project they are doing for the Montana Department of Transportation in Big Timber. They will be working on the bridge over I-90 on the Main Boulder Road. There are two phases and each phase will use about 25,000 gallons a day for 5 days, and then about 5,000 gallons for the next 5 days. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the bulk water sales for L and J Construction, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried with Councilmembers Baird, Duval and Woehler voting aye. Councilman Davis voted nay.

Aaron Freed, director of the Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce asked permission to close 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Anderson Street to Hooper Street for Sweet Grass Fest from Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm to Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the street closure for Sweet Grass Fest, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Lana King asked the council for permission to close 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from McLeod Street to Anderson Street and then Anderson Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 8am to July 5<sup>th</sup> 8am for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. They are also asking permission to let off fireworks from the city hall lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and McLeod Street. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the street closure request and use of city lot for fireworks for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration as long as the city lot is available, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert contacted the title company for the land value and cost of insurance for the second water tank. He suggested \$75,000 for the 6.1 acre lot we are exchanging with Mimi Cremer. The lot we would be receiving from Mimi Cremer would also be \$75,000 which was agreeable to Mimi Cremer as well. Councilwoman Woehler made a motion to approve the land value for the title company at \$75,000, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert asked the Council to approve the land survey for the second water tank site so the mayor can sign it and have it filed with the clerk and recorder's office. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to

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approve the land survey for the second water tank site, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Baird presented a Request for Qualifications for the Architectural/Engineering Services for the new City Hall building. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the request for qualifications for architectural/engineering services for city hall building as amended, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Jim Lippert stated that there is an objection to our claim for municipal water. He stated that he contacted an attorney that he has had some experience with. Her name is Colleen Coyle. She has her own firm out of Bozeman and has 14 years of experience with water rights and the water court. He stated that those who filed the objection are not trying to shut off the city's water but make the city defend its claim and use of the water. He suggests that at our next Council meeting Ms. Coyle come via phone and the Council can ask her questions. Mayor Ferguson stated that the city needs an attorney that knows and understands water rights and that can help us in the hearing process to reach a consensus agreement. Jim Lippert stated that they will give us time to try to reach an agreement before a hearing is needed. Public Comment: Norene Brown stated that we should not give any of our water away and use the possible west end expansion as the reason.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of February 2026, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment: None

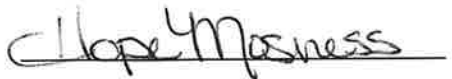
Council Concerns: Councilman Woehler stated that Greg Bunton is voluntarily making a description of the new city hall building to give to the contractors for the bidding process.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.



Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer