Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

April 20, 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, and Leonard Woehler. Mike Duval was absent.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Angela Selby, Michael Shirley, Hunter Roberts, Kathy Morgan, Linda Brunckhorst, Barb Selk, Axel Rios, Mark Curry, Bryan Sondeno, Marty Wallach, and Aaron Freed.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/6/26 Regular City Council Meeting and the 4/13/26 Special City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Kathy Morgan from Big Timber Trail Network updated the Council on the trails network. They are getting ready to break ground on the first phase of the network. She said access to the trail will be at the city campground. They are using grant money to pay for the first phase. She shared tentative plans on all the trails they hope to do.

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 present.

Martin Wallach from Goat Ranch Hospitality presented the encroachment agreement for Goat Ranch Hospitality at 37 McLeod Street. Jim Lippert stated that he received a copy of the agreement which he reviewed and it looks good to him. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the encroachment agreement for Goat Ranch Hospitality, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Jim Lippert shared information to the Council and public about the Montana Water Court notices the city received. He stated that he spoke with Colleen Coyle about representing us in the Montana Water Court. She stated that she would have a conflict of interest in doing that and will not be able to represent us. Jim will have up to five names of water court attorneys to present to the council along with some additional information including what they charge, their education, and experience. He also stated that the Council approved selling one million gallons of water to Crazy Mountain Ranch. A couple of days later he received a call from an employee of CMR requesting information about our water system. In order for CMR to buy the city water the DNRC has to have information about the source of the water. Jim stated that he doesn't think it is prudent for the city to respond due to the fact that it is the same claim that we received the objection for. He thinks we should wait to respond to DNRC until we have an attorney hired and can have them determine what we should do. He did point out that the Council did approve to sell water to them. Councilman Davis is hesitant to move forward until we have approval from the DNRC to sell the water to them. Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst asked who the objections came from. Mark Curry asked if the attorney fees could be passed on to the purchaser of the water claim.

Jim Lippert presented a draft letter of support for Crazy Mountain Renewables with one amendment. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the letter of support for Crazy Mountain Renewables as corrected, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Public Comment: Hunter Roberts thanked the Council for the letter of support and invited them to watch a documentary called "Buy Now."

Councilmembers Baird and Woehler of the City Hall Building Committee shared the rankings from the request for qualifications submissions they received. The top three firms are:

- Collaborative Design Architects
- Greg Bunton Architecture
- Cushing Terrell

They will now schedule interviews with these three firms and then bring a final recommendation to the Council.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, explained the possibility to withdraw from the Workers' Compensation Program through MMIA. Right now, the city has a negative net position in their account and she recommended waiting until the city receives the net position information for FY26 before the city decides to withdraw. There would be no advantage and no distributions to the city if they withdraw at this time. Councilwoman Baird made a motion not to withdraw early from the MMIA Workers' Compensation Coverage program, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Hope also presented two additional lifeguards to be approved by the Council. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the additional two lifeguards for 2026 – Mason Myrstol and Victoria Ronneberg, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Hope presented the 3rd quarter FY26 Budget Report for review and questions. Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst asked if the pool boiler repair was under warranty.

Hope presented the pledged securities report for the 3rd quarter of FY26. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the pledged securities report, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of March 2026, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Public Comment: Bryan Sondeno has a serious public safety concern in town. He is concerned about the poor visibility of the intersection at 1st Avenue and McLeod Street. He would like to suggest a no parking zone from the alley to the corner of the intersection on all sides. He would like no parking signs installed and the curb painted yellow. He thinks the city can do that without consulting the highway department because you are not changing the flow of traffic. It only impacts parking. Councilman Woehler agreed however he feels we need to check and make sure that the businesses are not using those as required parking for their building. Mayor Ferguson stated there needs to be some speed enforcement on 1st Avenue by the Sheriff's Department. Councilman Davis suggested a four-way stop. Councilwoman Baird suggested a mirror be placed to see what is coming. Mayor Ferguson also suggested installing a stoplight.

Council Concerns: Councilman Davis stated that the city bought a machine to fix the potholes and the weather has been nice, but no potholes have been fixed. Mayor Ferguson stated that the city crew has been busy working on the streets project. Councilman Davis stated that they have only been doing the

streets project for a couple of weeks, yet we have had a lot of days with nice weather. Mayor Ferguson will pass this along to the Public Works department. Councilman Woehler stated he will be gone for the May 4th City Council meeting.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer