

Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

April 6, 2026

Mayor Ferguson opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Sheriff Ronneberg led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Jeff Davis, and Leonard Woehler. Councilman Duval was absent.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Angela Selby, Mike Shirley, Hunter Roberts, Mark Curry, Barb Selk, Anita Dore, Buster Bullock, Ryan Coffman, Bill Sward, and Aaron Freed

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Sheriff Ronneberg stated that there were 278 complaints, 10 cases, and 11 citations for the month of March 2026. Public Comment: Mike Shirley thanked the Sheriff's Department for the work that they do.

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

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, stated that WesTech will be onsite to upgrade the SCADA systems and computer software at the Water Treatment Plant. Kris would like to increase our maintenance budget and change the maintenance schedule to a three-year schedule to clean the sewer lines. He hopes this will help avoid backups in the sewer system. The department is finishing up excavating the streets for the street paving project. On 8th Avenue and Busha Street on the south side of the road there are three trees on the edge of the road and he would like the council to make a decision on whether or not the trees can be removed for the streets project. He asked them to take a look at the trees within the next few days. The burn permit was approved and the pile will be inspected on April 10th and then burned on April 22nd. Kris stated that we need to replace the roofing at the picnic shelter at Lions Club Park and there was other damage in the park that will need to be repaired from the windstorms. There was other damage to the library roof, flagpoles, pickup door and hood on the street roller. All of these have been submitted and approved by MMIA. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked for clarification on what can go in the burn pile.

Jim Lippert suggested that we postpone discussion with a lawyer for the Montana Water Court and instead have a closed meeting with the Council to discuss litigation strategy. Mayor Ferguson stated that the meeting will be publicly noticed as a closed session. Jim stated that he had a discussion with water law counsel and his opinion is that we need to have an attorney on board sooner rather than

later. He stated that the attorney would not be required to attend a hearing for months maybe years. He has information that he thinks is important for the council to understand. A special meeting will be held Monday, April 13th at 10:30am.

Buster Bullock representing Bullock Contracting asked to purchase bulk water from the city. They would like to purchase 1 to 1.2 million gallons of water from now until the first week of May. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the bulk water purchase by Bullock Contracting, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried with Councilmembers Baird and Woehler voting aye. Councilman Davis voted nay.

Ryan Coffman from Republic Services is planning the Spring Clean Up, Hazardous Waste Day, and Annual BBQ. The Council chose June 6th. The residents will be required to show a utility bill as proof to dump for free. The final performance bond for the totality of the contract will be ready mid-May.

Ryan Coffman stated that the draft memorandum of understanding is not quite ready. They will use the data Hope has provided so that the county weight credit will zero out each month. The final portion of the draft MOU still has to be approved and he hopes to have it at the next city council meeting to be voted on by the Council. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to table the draft memorandum of understanding with Republic Services for the county weight credit, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked if there would be a list of acceptable and unacceptable items for the Hazardous Waste Day.

Hunter Roberts with Crazy Mountain Renewables gave an update on his project. He is asking the Council for a letter of support from the City. Councilwoman Baird asked what he wanted in the letter of support. Jim Lippert will draft a letter of support for the Council to consider at the next meeting. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the letter of support for Crazy Mountain Renewables, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Aaron Freed from the Chamber of Commerce requested to be removed from the agenda.

Kris Novotny presented the Recommendation to Award for the Streets Project. Weave Construction was the low bidder at \$242,206. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the award for the street project with Weave Construction Company, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Kris asked the Council if they would like to replace the trees at Lions Club Park that were removed due to damage from the wind storm. MMIA will pay \$500 towards each tree or they will pay \$500 for stump grinding. Kris liked how it has opened up the park and recommended not replacing the trees. He said that law enforcement agreed. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked if the trees could be planted somewhere else. Aaron Freed is concerned about the next generation and thinks we should plant the trees. No motion was made.

Hope Mosness stated that the City received one request for qualifications response from Key Insurance in Big Timber. She asked the Council for approval to work with them in obtaining quotes for workers' compensation coverage for the City employees and volunteers. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve Key Insurance as our insurance agent for workers' compensation coverage, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Hope Mosness presented the list of lifeguards for the 2026 season. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the 2026 lifeguards list, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

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

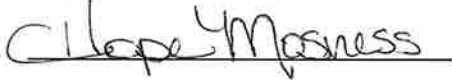
Public Comment: Mark Curry is in the planning stages of putting on an Oktoberfest on September 26, 2026. Mike Shirley asked Kris Novotny when he does the annual water reports. He asked if there was a list of chemicals that are added to the water and if he can get copy of the list. Aaron Freed added that the Chamber of Commerce is putting on a Fall Festival.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Woehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hope Mosness". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer

