

## Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

May 4, 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 Mike Duval. Len Woehler was absent.

City Staff: Monica DeCock, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Undersheriff Ron Swanson, Mike Shirley, Angela Selby, Mark Curry, Sarah Gregie, Craig Gregie, Jason Hauge, Jamie Hauge and Aaron Freed.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/20/26 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Sheriff Ronneberg stated that there were 259 complaints, 6 cases, and 17 citations for the month of April 2026. The department had their first car fatality of the year. Sheriff's Office took possession of a new patrol vehicle; they are back on schedule and can start with one vehicle each year. A lot of the officers have gone to training in the last couple of months. The Sheriff's Office is getting a lot of scam complaints and victims of scams. Councilman Duval asked what was meant by back on schedule to one vehicle a year. Sheriff Ronneberg explained that they would be back to retiring one of the active patrol vehicles with the retired vehicle going to the reserves or being sold at Sheriff's Auction. Councilman Davis asked vehicles or trailers that do not have current plates on them, who's responsibility is that, on Fourth Avenue there is a big rusty trailer looks rather junky. Undersheriff Swanson stated that is the junk vehicle person. Mayor Ferguson stated he has talked to Lana King, she is kind of responsible for ordinance enforcement and he has not heard back from her. Sheriff Ronneberg explained once they are notified, they have seventy-two hours to have them removed before the junk vehicle person removes them and he thinks it is Brian Sondeno. Undersheriff Swanson will follow up on the trailer. Public comment: Mark Curry asked about the semi on Second Street that has a plate on it but no tags. Craig Greggie stated there are a couple of vehicles on Seventh Avenue and Busha Street with expired tags from 23-24 and one of them got crushed by a tree, a black Chevy Avalanche. There are also two abandoned trailers or campers just at Bridger Creek.

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, stated that West~~er~~ Tech was on site all last week. All hardware and software has been updated for running the water treatment plant and the wastewater system. The new SCADA system is in, a new secondary alarm system and more levels of security. Kris said nothing to report for sewer. The department has been working on the streets to get ready for pavers and they are scheduled for the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. While the paving contractors are here they will have them do some patching in where they have dug up for sewer lines. Kris stated they have done some patching with the bagged patch. The department is going to be starting to get the pool cleaned up and ready with-it

opening May 27th. They were unable to burn when it was previously planned for due to forecasted winds. Kris said he received an email from Bomber Mountain and they will be here mid-June for demolition of City Hall.

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.

Jason Hauge provided a brief personal history and presented a quote from Key Insurance for Workers Compensation Coverage. He had reached out to four brokers including Montana State Fund which is who they decided to go with, as they are the only ones that will cover city employees. If the council accepts this quote it will go into effect July 1, 2026. Jason gave the Council a description of what the workers' compensation would cover. Councilman Davis asked if this would be approved at a future meeting.

Sarah Gregie asked that the city replace one tree at her 413 E 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue residence. She presented a quote for one burlap tree. They put in for a free tree with the Tree Board, but they were denied due to street not being completed and the boulevard not being defined at this time. Councilman Davis asked if this is one of the streets where curb and gutter is going to be going in. Sarah stated the cost of the tree is going to be \$715.50 through Blakes Nursery. Mayor Ferguson stated he went and looked at it and the tree was right on the curb and according to city code the care of the tree is the responsibility of the landowner. Councilman Davis asked how long the trees had been there and the size of the tree. Sarah is requesting a burlap tree rather than a sapling; she looked at what she would be comfortable with paying herself. Councilwoman Baird asked if Sarah would be willing to split the cost of the tree with the city. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to split the cost of the \$715.50 with Sarah to cover the cost to replace the tree, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Kris Novotny stated Bomber Mountain sent a letter to the city requesting an extension of the City Hall Demolition Contract. Kris said we proposed an extension until June 30, 2026. He said they are aware of the timeline for the extension, and he spoke to them today and they would be starting mid-June. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the First Amendment to City Hall Demolition Contract, seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve Claims, Payroll and Overtime for April 2026, Seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment:

Councilman Duval asked if the engineering would be discussed at all. Mayor Ferguson advised the Building Committee will bring their recommendation to the Council at a later date.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilwoman Baird, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm seconded by Councilman Duval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.



Justin Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Monica DeCock, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer