

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,  
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD January 5, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

<b>COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT</b>	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Joe Morse began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. The council members present were Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
<b>SIDELINE IN PERSON</b>	Joel Morantan, Jennifer Raudo, Zack Kunze, Aubree Henderson and Amanda Granson
<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	NONE
<b>REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED</b>	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes (yes), Kelly Ault (abstained), Tim Mayo (abstained), Cole Waltner (yes), and Dennis Holten (yes), Motion did not pass. Minutes will be presented again on January 20, 2026, council meeting for approval.
<b>SHUT OFF LIST</b>	NONE
<b>APPROVAL OF CLAIMS</b>	The claims list for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of December was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Joel Moranton, Vice President of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on the Future of the Stillwater Visitor Center. Tim Mayo asked about the grant that the chamber receives. Joel explained the grant. Cole Waltner asked if the city currently helps fund the visitor center. Joel stated no. Cole asked about the current location of the visitor center and if there was talk about moving. Joel stated that the plan is to keep it where it is. Tim Mayo asked who would pay for the renovations. Joel stated that the chamber would pay for the renovations.
<b>FIRE DEPT.</b>	The Fire Chief was not present and did not provide a report.
<b>POLICE</b>	The Police Chief was not present but did provide a report.
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Tim Mayo asked about the water situation at Itch-Kep-Pe Park. Peyton explained the situation. Dennis Holten and Cole Waltner both agreed that they didn't mind that campers were filling up their campers with the water. Both agreed that there needs to be some monitoring done on the situation. Kelly Ault asked if the water was clean drinking water. Peyton stated yes.
<b>ATTORNEY</b>	The City Attorney was present and provided a report.
<b>CITY JUDGE</b>	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.
<b>CLERK-TREASURER</b>	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report.

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<b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</b>	NONE
<b>DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION</b>	NONE
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</b>	NONE
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>	NONE
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<p>Approval of Proposal from Air Controls in the amount of \$6,933.00 for replacement of heating coil for air handler to include new piping, insulation valves and unions. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Approval of Annexation Plan for land owned by Columbus Volunteer Rural Fire District #3 – Tract S27, T02S, R20E, C.O.S. 231879, TR IN NENW. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 891-Annexing Land owned by Columbus Volunteer Rural Fire District #3 – Tract S27, T02S, R20E, C.O.S. 231879, TR IN NENW. Tim Mayo made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Approval of Pay Application #2 to Aaqua Drilling for the Heritage Well Project in the amount of \$50,975.10. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the Pay Application, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Approval to elect Tim Mayo as the new Council President – nominated by Dennis Holten. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the election, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Tim Mayo abstained. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval to remove Webb Mandeville and Bob Fitzgerald from the city's bank account and add Joe Morse and newly elected Council President Tim Mayo. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the removal and addition, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p>
<b>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</b>	NONE

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<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Dennis Holten made the motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. seconded by Tim Mayo, roll call all yea votes.
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JOE MORSE, MAYOR

*Cherrie L McAlexander*  
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CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

