

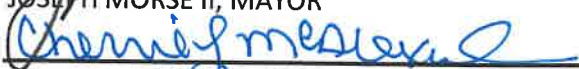
**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD February 2, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	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 Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Joel Morantan, Jennifer Rando, Aubree Henderson and Charlie Denison
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 20, 2026, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Rick White made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes (yes), Kelly Ault (yes), Cole Waltner (yes), Tim Mayo (yes), and Dennis Holten (yes), Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	NONE
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 2 nd half of January was presented to the Council. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was present and provided a report. Rich Cowger mentioned that in the last several weeks 7 people applied and interviewed for volunteer positions. Tim Mayo asked if the new maintenance guy is local, Rich replied that he is out of Park City. Tim also asked if he was going to take care of the pump certification and Rich replied yes.
POLICE	The Police Chief was present and provided a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Peyton added that the city needs to get the solid waste committee together at some point. Cole Waltner asked about entertaining the seasonal closure at Itch-kep-pe. Peyton said that we are getting more and more people dumping waste at the park. Peyton also mentioned that he has a camera installed to monitor activity. Dennis Holten said it would be a tough item for him to vote on because it is a place that everyone likes to visit.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.
CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE

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DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	Cherrie McAlexander mentioned that the Parks and Recreation committee met on January 29 th for a meeting. Cherrie said that she will have the minutes presented at the next council meeting.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of the funding request from the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$12,500.00 for the Visitor Center. Cherrie McAlexander mentioned that we did not budget for this funding. Dennis Holten asked if the city needed to make a budget amendment and Cherrie replied no, but we have money earmarked that can be used. Tim Mayo asked if the Chamber was staying where it is this year and moving next year. Joel Moranton chimed in to clarify that they are staying at the current building and talking about moving downtown next year. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the funding, seconded by Kelly Ault. Cole Waltner asked if this would be requested yearly from the city and county. Joel Moranton said that the county has hinted to funding for two years and that it is the chamber's goal to become self-sustainable. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Work Change Directive No. 4 for the Heritage Well Project. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of RFP for Cellular Advanced Metering Infrastructure System. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Tim Mayo mentioned that the city will need to approve funding for the Chamber of Commerce each year if they continue this route. Jennifer Rando said she called public works about locating her property line and putting in a curb on her property. Peyton said that she will need to get a surveyor.
ADJOURNMENT	Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.


JOSEPH MORSE II, MAYOR


CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

