

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD January 20, 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 persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Dannen Johannes. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis (via zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Kirk Ivankovich
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	<p>The mayor asked the 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, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Rick White abstained from voting. Motion passed.</p> <p>The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 5, 2026, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Rick White abstained from voting. Motion passed.</p>
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of January 2026 was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1 st half of January was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, 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. Tim Mayo asked about the wreck one of the fire trucks was in and whose insurance would be handling it. Rich responded that the person who hit the truck insurance would be responsible. Rick White asked if the person had been cited. Rich stated no but he will be soon.
POLICE	The Police Chief was not present but did provide a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Peyton let the council know that the city was awarded the Tim Sheehy funding bill. The city will receive \$825,000.00 funding for the 12 th Street Sewer Project.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.

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CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Dennis Holten and Tim Mayo congratulated Cherrie on her appointment to the Board of Directors for MMIA.
DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION	Dennis Holten stated that he had a discussion with Peyton on the Concession Stand improvements.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	Mayor mentioned that there will be a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on January 29 th at 10am at City Hall to discuss the upcoming season at Granite Peak. Tim Mayo asked about the PAWS organization that has been running the concession stand for the last few years. He wanted to know if they would be contributing to the improvements at the concession stand. Cherrie explained that the city would install water to the building and PAWS would be responsible for any interior building improvements.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Mayor announced the 2026 Committee designations and asked the council if everyone was ok with the committees they were assigned to. All responded yes.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 892-2026 adopting the Public Records Request Policy. Tim made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Kelly Ault. Kelly asked if this was something new. Cherrie explained that the city did not currently have a policy on record requests and that there was new legislation on this matter and thought it was time that the city adopted a policy. Cole Waltner asked why it was necessary when the MCA already has policy on record requests. Ryan Addis explained that even with MCA the city needs to establish a policy to set the charges that will incur when some request records. Cole also asked where all the city records are housed. Cherrie stated that she just found out recently that there are records housed at the Museum in town but per MCA all records should be housed with the city. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the Special Use Permit for Drivin for a Cure Car Show at Railroad Park on August 15, 2026. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Rick White; 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 the appointment of Kirk Ivankovich to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term of 3 years. Dennis Holen made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Kirk stated that he had a postcard he found in his house to give to the museum.</p>

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	<p>Approval of the revisions made to the City Procurement Policy. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Kelly Ault; 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 the Professional Service Agreement between the City and The Grounds Guys in the amount of \$24,924.21 for mowing of the Cemetery. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Rick White. Dennis asked how much the price increased from the last agreement. Peyton stated the increase was 4%. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Construction Agreement between the City and Heart 7 in the amount of \$7,927.50 for installation of water and holding tank at the Concession Building at Granite Peak Park. Dennis made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Cole Waltner. Rick asked if these improvements were a one-time thing. Peyton stated yes. Tim asked if this improvement would be tied into the sewer system. Peyton stated no. Peyton explained that this would be holding tank. In the future there might be sewer brought to the park if restroom facilities were built. Dennis mentioned the city's current Capital Improvement Plan and putting restroom facilities at the park is in the plan. Kelly asked where the money would come from for this project. Cherrie stated it would be general fund money that has been earmarked for parks. 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 Task order 34 from Interstate Engineering for the completion of a new Capital Improvement Plan for the City. Current CIP expires June 2026. Option 1 in the amount of \$32,500.00 or Option 2 in the amount of \$59,400.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve Option 1, seconded by Rick White. Dennis asked what the differences were between options 1 and 2. Cherrie explained the differences. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
<p>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p>	<p>The mayor mentioned a meeting that he had with the county commissioners to discuss the county and city financially supporting the visitor center. The county commissioners agreed to fund \$12,500 per year if the city would match that amount. Cole asked if the visitor center would stay at its current location. The mayor said yes. Kelly asked about the grant that the visitor center currently receives. The mayor stated that there would be something on the agenda for approval at the next council meeting.</p> <p>Kirk Ivankovich welcomed the mayor and thanked all the staff and volunteers that help in the community.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holton, roll call all yea votes.</p>

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JOE MORSE, MAYOR



CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

