

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,  
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD February 17, 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 persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis (via zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
<b>SIDELINE IN PERSON</b>	Marsha Olson and Lisa Westervelt
<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	NONE
<b>REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED</b>	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the February 2, 2026, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There was a correction needed to add Rick White to Officers Present in the minutes. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting with correction, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>SHUT OFF LIST</b>	The shut-off list for the month of February 2026 was presented to the Council. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>APPROVAL OF CLAIMS</b>	The claims list for the 1 <sup>st</sup> half of February was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
<b>PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	NONE
<b>FIRE DEPT.  POLICE  PUBLIC WORKS  ATTORNEY  CITY JUDGE  CLERK-TREASURER</b>	<p>The Fire Chief was present not present and did not provide a report.</p> <p>The Police Chief was present and provided a report. Aaron discussed the idea of creating a Day Use Policy for Itch-Kep-Pe Park in the winter months. There was discussion on the topic and Cherrie stated that staff would work on a Policy to present to council.</p> <p>The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Peyton discussed the Confined Space Resolution to council. Cole Waltner commented on how great the ball fields look at Granite Peak Park.</p> <p>The City Attorney was present and provided a report.</p> <p>The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.</p> <p>The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Cherrie discussed the Health Insurance early rate increase letter that she received from MMIA.</p>

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<b>DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION</b>	NONE
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:</b>	NONE
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS-</b>	Cherrie presented the council with the minutes from the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting that was held on January 29, 2026. She also let council know that all agendas, minutes and recordings of all committee meetings are available on the city website.
<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>	NONE
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<p>Approval of Task Order 35 from Interstate Engineering to furnish Design and Funding Administration Services for the 12th Street Sewer Crossing Project in the amount of \$50,000. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the task order, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Contract Amendment No. 1 between the City and Heart 7 for water service repairs to increase the not-to-exceed amount from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the contract amendment, seconded by Dennis Holten. Peyton gave a brief progress report on the water repairs being completed and the need for the increase in funding. Dennis and Peyton discussed the type of piping in the ground and the benefits of it. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the Special Use Permit for the Stillwater Balloon Rally organized by the Columbus Fire Rescue Association on May 29th through May 31st. Contingent on county approval and proper proof of insurance. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Kelly Ault. Cole asked if the event would have the same schedule as last year. Marsha Olson responded yes. Marsha stated they were still finalizing the parking area but other than that all is ready. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p><b><u>AIRPORT</u></b></p> <p>Approval of Assignment of Lease from Cows Around to Bison Air LLC. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the lease, seconded by Danen Johannes; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of entitlement transfer to West Yellowstone Airport - Woltermann Memorial has \$212,505.00 due to expire this year, transferring the expiring amount to Yellowstone Airport. Danen Johannes made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>

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<b>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</b>	NONE
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holton, roll call all yea votes.



JOSEPH MORSE II, MAYOR



CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

