

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD April 6, 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 Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis, and Clerk Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Joel Morantan, Steve Sullenriete, Scott Paul, Laura Wilson, Alexis Giesecker, Sandy Bethmann, Chad Fishell, Coralee Hicks, Jefferson Jacobs, R.M. Howard, Sarah French and Charlie Denison
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked Council if they had reviewed the minutes of the March 16, 2026, 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 Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	NONE
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 2 nd half of March was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo. Danen Johannes stated that the credit card statement did not include all the receipts for all the charges and reminded the department heads that they need to turn in their receipts. Kelly Ault asked if the city would be receiving restitution for the damage of the doors at Heritage Park. Aaron replied that all the paperwork had been sent in for restitution. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion Passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	Joel Morantan from the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation about long-term community development goals and manufacturing goals for Stillwater County. Roberta Howard and Sarah French gave a presentation on introducing native plants and flowers to the community garden and Granite Peak Park. Nemont and UtiliSource gave a presentation on bringing fiber to the city.
FIRE DEPT. POLICE PUBLIC WORKS ATTORNEY	The Fire Chief was not present and did not provide a report. The Police Chief was present and provided a report. The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. The City Attorney was present and provided a report. Ryan suggested that the city form a committee to review the Franchise Agreement for Nemont. Dennis Holten and Tim Mayo volunteered to be on the committee along with the PWD and Treasurer. Ryan stated he would also sit on the committee. Kelly Ault asked if there was any input from the community about this. The mayor stated that there was a meeting a few months back that he attended along with the county commissioners and several people from the community.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was present and provided a report. The judge stated that he was under the impression that a report was being presented to the council. When he

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CLERK-TREASURER	<p>figured out that was not the case, he decided that he would make sure a report was being presented and he would start attending the first council meeting of each month.</p> <p>The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Cherrie asked for feedback from the council on changing the meeting time to 6pm. There was a discussion and it was decided that at the next meeting there would be a vote to change the start time to 6:30pm on the agenda. Cherrie also asked for feedback on the health insurance employee benefit. She explained the benefits and the cost savings for the city. There was some discussion and it was decided that both options would be presented to the council for a vote at the next council meeting.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Approval of the Special Use Permit for Columbus MT Gives Block Party on May 8, 2026 from 2pm-10pm sponsored by Columbus Community Foundation. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Kelly Ault; 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 the Work Change Directive No. 6 for the Heritage Park Well Project. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the directive, seconded by Tim Mayo. Rick White asked if this pertained to the dry well. Peyton responded that this is for the good well. 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 appointment of Gary Timm to the Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term to expire April 30, 2029. Rick White made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Tim Mayo. Dennis asked if it was ok for Gary to be on the board because he lives outside of city limits. Ryan reviewed the MCA and there was no wording that stated a board member had to reside within city limits. The mayor asked all in favor say "I". All council members replied "I". motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Job Description and Announcement for the Utility Systems Operator. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the description and announcement, seconded by Cole Waltner. Dennis stated that he would like to see a local person be hired for the job. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis</p>

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	<p>Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Construction Agreement between the city and Heart 7 not to exceed \$25,000 for the installation of a culvert at Sherwood Park. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the agreement, 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 to purchase two new water fountains for Granite Peak Park for \$4,300 each. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Cole Waltner. Dennis asked if there were other options, like a water filling station because the price of these drinking fountains is expensive. Dennis stated he would like more time to think about this. Cole asked if the new fountains would have a spicket at the bottom like the old ones. Peyton said no. Cole stated that these fountains get used a lot. Tim asked if the price included installation. Peyton said no but it will not take much. Dennis made a motion to table the purchase of the water fountains, seconded by Rick; roll call for vote Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p><u>AIRPORT</u></p> <p>Approval of Joint Resolution No 2026-01 – updates and changes to solid waste management at airport and general update to signatures for current elected officials. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Rick White; 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 Joint City-County Airport Board Bylaws. – update to add “at large” category for board members and general update to signatures for current elected officials. Cole Waltner made the motion to approve the bylaws, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten and Rick White, all yea votes. Motion Passed.</p>
<p>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p>	<p>Dennis stated that someone had reached out to him about placing a park bench along the walking trail in town. Peyton said he had spoken to the person and gave them all the information they needed to get the bench placed where they wanted it. Rick asked about the lights that are to be placed at the veteran’s memorial at Railroad Park. Peyton stated that he was working on the lights and getting a flagpole installed as well. He was waiting on the tree trimmers to finish with the tree work. Rick mentioned the issue with the bad rail crossing in town and wanted people to reach out to BNSF to try to get it fixed.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.</p>

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Joseph Morse II

JOSEPH MORSE II, MAYOR

Cherrie L McAlexander

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER

