MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD September 21, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M.

COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Morse started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. The council members present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes. Staff members present were Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, Chief of Police Aaron Uecker, City Attorney Ryan Addis and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander. Fire District Chief Rich Cowger was present.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Pam Aumueller, Drea Obert, Joel & Judy Moranton, Keith Meyer, Kayla & Sharon Flemetis, Myrna Lastusky, and Amity Rembold
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2026, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Tim Mayo 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, Kelly Ault and Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of September 2026 was presented to the Council. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1st half of September was presented to the Council. Danen Johannes made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	Myrna Lastusky and Amity Rembold presented plans for a Dog Park near Granite Peak Park. There was discussion on the size, location, price, rules, benefits, signage, property use, drainage and regulations. They are seeking approval from the council for the location and maintenance of the park once built. Dennis and Tim both stated that they like the idea. Ryan suggested that the parks committee get together and get all the details buttoned up before final approval is presented to council. Joel Moranton with the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce presented a Miniature Golf Course Concept at the Stillwater Golf Course. Joel is seeking the city's approval of the concept since the city owns the property. There was discussion on the land lease between the city and Stillwater Golf Course and zoning issues. The council is not opposed to the idea. Ryan suggested getting a plan together for council approval. Ryan also stated that he wouldn't worry about the lease.
FIRE DISTRICT	The Fire District Chief was present and provided a report.
POLICE	The Police Chief was present and did not provide a report. Aaron stated that one of the police cars went down and the repairs will be more than the car is worth. Aaron will be switching his capital fund money from completing the second phase of the gun range to purchasing another police car.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report.

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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
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	Approval of the purchase of a police vehicle not to exceed $75,000.00. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Rick White. Danen Johannes asked what vehicle Aaron was looking at. Aaron replied that the vehicle is a Ford Explorer. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Approval of Professional Service Agreement with Tru Pipe Inc for $40,000. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Approval of Special Use Permit for the Trick-or-Treat on October 30th on 5th Street from 3:00pm to 7:00pm sponsored by Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Approval of Special Use Permit for a Gathering Place at the Parade of Lights event on December 5th sponsored by Beartooth Bible Church. Rick White made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. Approval of the Notice of Award for the Pool Rehabilitation in the amount of $734,754.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the rehabilitation, seconded by Kelly Ault. Dennis mentioned that Interstate Engineering didn't do that great at estimating the cost and we are over budget. Cherrie stated that the city budgeted $770,000 for the project and the new budget is over $850,000. Cherrie said that the additional funds will come out of the general fund or capital improvement fund. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed. **AIRPORT** Approval of commercial lease termination – Powell (Hangar Lot 5, Blk 1). Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the termination, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.

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	Approval of new non-commercial lease for Mullhall Family Trust (Hangar Lot 5, Blk 1). Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the lease, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Approval of selection of Engineering firm for Airport Development Projects: KLJ Architectural and Engineering Services. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the selection, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Kelly Ault asked about potholes in town. Peyton stated that the fiber optic holes will be taken care of before winter. Kelly mentioned some other areas besides the fiber optic holes. Peyton said those would get addressed too. Danen asked about the lagoon/golf course road. Peyton said that one will be over $80,000 and will have to go to bid but is on the list to get repaired. Danen also asked about the lines in front of the Whistle Stop. Peyton said he is working on it and will have to reach out to the state because the old lines will have to be grinded off. He stated that the company that did them wrong has ghosted him. Dennis suggested getting hold of Zack with the sate and see about getting the road paved wider and straight. Peyton said he will look into that. Joel stated that he had approval from Next Era to provide a $5,000 donation for the drinking fountain and $5,000 for the flagpole at the veteran's wall.
ADJOURNMENT	Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holten, roll call all yea votes.

JOSEPH MORSE II, MAYOR

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER