

The regular meeting of the Town Council was held March 9, 2026, in the Council Chambers at 6:30 pm. A review of the claims took place at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Andrew Hanson

Councilors: Stephanie Quick, Kelly Dillon, Bessie Spangler, Shirley Iwata, Bailey Moree,

Brenda Schneider, Clerk/Treasurer

Rodney Goins, Public Works Superintendent

Scott Dodd, Fire Chief

Ryan Funke, Sheriff

Eric Lindauer, Deputy

Absent Councilor Gordon Albert

Citizens: Sherry Goins, Dan Clemts, Linda Shiflett, Jan Allen, Janeen Willis, Craig Usher, Cody Goins, Tyrone Blanco

There being a quorum present Andrew Hanson, Mayor, called the meeting to order. Andrew Hanson, Mayor, asked for additions/corrections to the minutes of February 9 regular meeting. Kelly Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026, regular meeting; Bailey Moree seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Hanson read a letter from Lorie Cotter regarding crosswalks at Illinois and 4th Ave E, sidewalks and safety for kids walking near the elementary school and walking to and from school.

Mayor Hanson read a letter from Larry Staats of Elkhorn Mountain Construction LLC regarding a plan to restore and unite the entire historic Superior School block into a community and commercial hub. Mr. Staats expressed interest in discussing the possibility of including the Town's property, which includes the Fire Hall and Town offices, in the plan. The letter did not include contact information. The Clerk will attempt to locate a contact phone number, and Mayor Hanson will reach out to Mr. Staats to obtain additional information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyrone Blanco of City Service/Valcon reported that vehicles have been parked in and blocking the driveway located between the Fire Hall and the Old School building, where their office is located. He asked about posting "No Parking/Do Not Block Driveway" signs on the fence near the Fire Hall. Tyrone also stated that crash bars need to be installed in front of the propane dispenser located in front of the office on 3rd Ave E. Tyrone will coordinate with Scott Dodd regarding the signage and with Rodney Goins on the placement of the crash bars and their distance from the street.

Linda Shiflett and Jan Allen stated they are working on installing flower baskets on the bridge again this year. The location of the previous flower baskets was discussed. The baskets were last used in 2020 and belonged to Swan River Garden and Nursery. The flower baskets were returned to the nursery at the end of the summer. The brackets used to hang the baskets remain on the bridge light poles. Ernie Ornelas will need to be contacted regarding the hangers for the baskets.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Bailey Moree read the February Animal report. Staff received a call from dispatch regarding an aggressive dog at large by 4th and Arizona. Upon arrival, nearby residents report the bull terrier being aggressive, loose and going after their chickens. Staff located the owners who reported the dog had escaped. They were advised that any further incidents will result in a citation for dog at large and/or vicious dog and to keep the dog confined at all times.

Stephanie Quick read the February Water report. All routine sampling and testing completed. Staff have been planning some preventative maintenance to an original water line along Mullan Road west. A plan was made to shut off and abandon an old 2-inch water line before it caused big problems along Mullan Road. Staff hired Reveal excavation for the work. After obtaining the required permits, staff assisted with the excavation. Best made plans to locate the water line, saddle, and corp valve were unsuccessful after 6 hours of trying. The maps that were drawn in 2011 are not accurate, nor correct, or in any way helpful in solving our problem. Staff will continue to develop a plan of action to finish this job. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Shirley Iwata read the February Court report. 6 Initial appearances, 6 status hearings, 4 Omnibus hearings, and 3 Order to Show Cause. Driving while suspended and speeding. Sheriff Funke reported that there were 335 calls in February. Traffic stops are up. Sheriff Funke is still looking into a cheaper alternative for signs for 4th Ave E and waiting for a response from the sign grant applied for last month. Deputy Toby Sutton is off field training and on his own. He has put in a lot of hard work. The Sheriff office is now fully staffed with road deputies. 2 of our deputies are getting certified for our new Taser 10. This will provide excellent in-house free training for our deputies. Taser 10 has 10 different shots, not just 2 probes. The Sheriff's Office was part of a vehicle pursuit that came over from Shoshone County, Idaho. We were able to get the one male occupant detained without incident. He was later taken to Shoshone County on a felony warrant.

Kelly Dillon read the February Streets report. The snow removal equipment has filed a HR complaint for neglect and ignorance! Let it snow. Scott Dodd inquired whether Search and Rescue could temporarily store their snowmobiles, trailer, and vehicles at the Town maintenance yard. Search and Rescue recently received a donated trailer and two donated snowmobiles and will provide any necessary coverings. Rodney Goins, PWS, indicated he is agreeable to the request.

Andrew Hanson read the February Parks report. Spring cleanup plans are being made. The irrigation system at Timberman Park will need repairs. The main line was compromised in a few locations during the water service line installation to the headworks building. Staff have begun to compile a list of materials needed for the repairs. The park is a work in progress!! We have had numerous conversations with Diamond Construction regarding the final repairs to the park to finally return it to its normal self again. The ball fields, fencing, and irrigation system restoration continue daily.

Scott Dodd read the February fire department report. Responded to 7 calls. 4 Rural, 3 Municipal. We have begun our Cycle to do a full IFSTA FF1 Training (2 Years) This will allow FSTS and MSU to come in and certify our firefighters who are unable to attend Academy but still have a desire to further their training status and become Certified Firefighters. February turned out to be more unusual in the other way. With a lack of winter weather, Highway calls were at a minimum. Thank you! We started demolition of the old kitchen and began the remodel. Appliances arrived and I was able to pick up most of the cabinet order. Unfortunately,

there has been a delay with 2 of the bottom base cabinets but they are scheduled to arrive on the 12th. This means we should be able to complete the remodel prior to our next Council meeting! Craig Usher reported that the Fire Department was recently approved for a technology mini grant through State Farm and have received 5 used laptops. Thank you, Craig! These will be used for furthering our learning center upstairs and a great addition. Accompany with our soon to be Internet upgrade and there will be space and opportunity for even more online training and learning abilities.

Bessie Spangler read the February sewer report. All routine sampling and testing are completed. Staff conducted approx. 3 locate requests for the month. The wastewater treatment facility continues to run as normal!!! Routine sampling continues and the numbers are still good! The headworks building has roof trusses and sheathing installed and is backfilled!! Work has begun with the interior systems, the trough, grate screen, flow gates and exterior walls. Electrical and plumbing begin soon. Staff have completed the installation of the 300-foot water service line that will provide water for the headworks, hydrant at the lift station, and wash water to the UV building. Several curb stop valves are in place, and a new meter pit is installed which will be the new water supply to the concession stand. Work continues!! Staff assisted Bill from Superior Septic with a sewer issue at a residence on Maple Ave. Staff flushed the line in the alley as preventative action. Bill was able to clear the blockage in their service line. Staff continue to routinely flush and monitor the sewer liner on Osprey Drive.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Diamond Construction is finishing backfilling and grading around the headworks building and restoring road access to the lagoons, and grouting manholes. Diamond has been removing wall bracing, framing the roof, installing the screen and compactor in the headworks building. In the next couple of weeks, interior wall curbs will be poured, roof sheathing, weather barrier, and interior walls will be completed. Subcontractors will be able to start electrical, plumbing, and HVAC for the headworks building. The town continued to work on installing their 2” water service to the site.

BNSF-RAILROAD CROSSING—IRON MOUNTAIN

Town staff and members of the Council met with representatives from BNSF Railway, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and Fire Chief Dodd to discuss the railroad crossing at Iron Mountain Heights Road. Plans are moving forward for the installation of crossing arms and warning lights, which will provide a significant safety improvement for the crossing. During the meeting, a question-and-answer session was held to clarify the scope of work, including what tasks will be completed, which entities will be responsible for them, and how costs and long-term responsibilities for the crossing will be handled once the project is complete. It was confirmed that the Town will not be responsible for the previously anticipated \$64,000 cost for the upgrades. Instead, funding will come from MDT Section 130 Funds. BNSF Railway will cover the labor and equipment costs associated with the installation of the crossing surface and the relocation of the crossbuck signs. The Town will be responsible for providing traffic control during construction of the improved crossing surface and for installing a W10-1 railroad warning sign on the north approach. As part of the project, the Town will be required to enter into a signal/surface tri-party agreement with the State and BNSF Railway. The State has

provided a sample agreement for review. One section of the agreement states that the Town would be responsible for paying for repair or replacement of the signal and activation equipment if damage occurs and the responsible party cannot be identified or does not pay. Concerns were raised regarding the Town's potential financial responsibility for such damages. The Clerk was directed to forward the agreement and related information to the Town Attorney and MMIA for review. Kelly Dillon noted that the County currently has an agreement with the railroad regarding crossings. Additional research will be conducted.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

The Council discussed the Capital Improvement Plan. The item was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

PARK PLANS REVIEW AND UPDATE

Council discussed the Comprehensive and Master Park plans. Council will review the park plans for additions, amendments, updates, etc.

ADA COMPLIANT SURVEY AND PROCEDURES

The Council discussed the ADA Compliant Survey and procedures. The item was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE CAR SHOW REQUEST TO CLOSE STREETS

Dan Clemts requested approval to close 2nd Ave E from River Street to the alley by the Fire Hall and 3rd Ave E from River Street to Cedar Street for the car show on June 6, 2026. Also, request permission to use town picnic tables as in the past. Council discussed the request and car show plans. Kelly Dillon made a MOTION to approve the request to close 2nd Ave E from River Street to the alley by the Fire Hall and 3rd Ave E from River Street to Cedar Street for the car show on June 6, 2026; Shirley Iwata seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

WARD III COUNCILOR-- RESIGNATION

Mayor Hanson read a letter of resignation from Gordon Albert as Ward 3 Councilor. Bessie Spangler made a MOTION to accept the resignation of Gordon Albert; Bailey Moree seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent. The appointment will be on the April agenda.

WEAPONS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS—UPDATE ORDINANCE

The Council discussed amending the Town's Weapons in Public Buildings Ordinance to align with current Montana state law. Sheriff Funke presented a draft ordinance to amend the existing ordinance. The current ordinance is outdated and does not reflect state law. Shirley Iwata made a MOTION to approve drafting an ordinance to amend the existing Weapons in Public Buildings Ordinance and submit the draft to the Town Attorney for review.; Kelly Dillon seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

PAY MATRIX UPDATE

The Council discussed updates to the pay matrix to reflect changes to Grade 1 due to the increase in the minimum wage. Effective January 1, 2026, the minimum wage increased from \$10.55 per hour to \$10.85 per hour. The remainder of the pay matrix was adjusted accordingly, with each grade receiving a \$0.30 per hour increase. Kelly Dillon made a MOTION to approve the updated pay matrix effective July 1, 2026; Stephanie Quick seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

CLEAN UP DAY

Council discussed Clean Up Day. Last year Clean Up Day was May 17, 2025, from 9 am to 12 pm. We need to confirm with Donald Mellen if he will take the appliances and scrap metal as in the past at no cost to the Town. If not, the Council needs to consider not allowing appliances and scrap metal due to the high cost of disposing of them. Kelly Dillon made a MOTION to set Clean Up Day on May 16, 2026, from 9 am to 12 pm; Bailey Moree seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangler-aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

LEGAL None

CLERKS BUSINESS

DEPUTY CLERK RETIRING

The Clerk reported that Ruth Gordon, Deputy Clerk, will be retiring at the end of August 2026. Need to start the process to fill the position and time for training by Ruth. Council discussed the position. Staff reviewing and updating the job description. Planning to start advertising for the position April or May.

Prepared minutes.

Upload meeting recording to website.

Updated Utility customer accounts as needed.

Prepared and mailed utility bills.

Posted daily receipts and made daily deposits.

Prepared and mailed past due and remaining balance utility letters.

Transmitted and posted the ACH utility payments.

Prepared and mailed final UB customer bills.

Prepared Agenda and Notes from the Clerk.

Uploaded Agenda to website. Posted Agenda.

Prepared and delivered council packets.

Prepared claims and checks.

Prepared payroll and reports and ACH.

Prepared monthly Tax vouchers and receipts.

Enter checks in the Wells Fargo positive pay as part of the fraud protections.

Updated software.

Updated Website

Grant searches.

Updated Agenda Subject Index

Uploaded Minutes to website.

Completed cash reconciliation for SVFRA.

Prepared Cash reconciliation and financial reports
Sewer Project Funding meetings.
Working with an agent on the Workers compensation insurance application.
Receipt and post SRF loan proceeds for the sewer project.
Work with auditor on audit.
Receipt and post Draw 4 CDBG grant for Food Bank project.
Prepared claim and check for CDBG Draw 4 for the Food Bank project.
Completed and mailed quarterly newsletter. Uploaded newsletter to website.
Auditors in the office.
Submitted application for casual event coverage to MMIA for Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers.
Audit Exit Conference.
Weed letters prepared and mailed.
Submitted CDBG grant Draw 5 (final) for Food Bank Project to the State.

The Clerk reported that the auditors have completed the audit for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 and will be preparing and submitting the final report soon. An exit conference was conducted with the Mayor, Council members, and the Clerk/Treasurer. Due to the amount of federal funds received this year, the Town underwent both a regular audit and a Federal A-133 audit. The audit was clean, with no findings reported.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shirley Iwata made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as presented Town Claims 39274-39326 in the amount of \$200,919.76 on March 9, 2026. February Financial Reports, February Cash Reconciliation, February Pledged Securities, February Journal & UB Vouchers, February Budget Report. Bessie Spangler seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick-aye, Bessie Spangleraye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council Shirley Iwata made a MOTION to adjourn until the next regular meeting April 13, 2026; Stephanie Quick seconded. MOTION passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 1 absent. Roll Call: Kelly Dillon-aye, Shirley Iwata-aye, Stephanie Quick -aye, Bessie Spangler -aye, Bailey Moree-aye, Gordon Albert-absent.

Andrew Hanson, Mayor

Attest:

Brenda Schneider, Town Clerk