

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 3, 2025

7:00PM

The first regularly scheduled meeting of September 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling; Council Members including Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, Michelle Stinson, and Becky Gorton; Deputies Combs and Lugo of the Cascade County Sheriff's Office; Flood Plain Manager Assistant Rolf Johnson, and members of the public including Travis Page, Tim Nault, Cindy Nault, and Cathy Hanson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deputy Alec Lugo introduced Deputy Combs who will be frequenting Belt on patrol shifts.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without change; the claims and warrants were approved.

The Complaint Log was reviewed with Council Member Miller requesting a timeline for JR Civil's repair of damage done to the town and to private property in the course of the water main construction project. Mayor Olson indicated that it would be forthcoming as he would be attending a construction meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS: The Council discussed the pros and cons of withdrawing from the NFIP. Following that discussion, the mayor read Resolution 823 (attached) proposing that Belt withdraw from voluntary participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Council Member Miller made a motion to reject proposed Resolution 823 and readdress the issue in October; that motion was seconded by Council Member Wells; Council Members Stinson, Heikkila, Keaster and Gorton voted opposed, and the motion was rejected. Following that round of votes, Council Member Keaster made a motion to approve Resolution 823 immediately with an effective date of October 15. That motion was seconded by Council Member Heikkila, with Council Members Gorton, Wells and Stinson voting in favor and Council Member Miller voting opposed.

The matter of approving and setting minimum bids for a list of surplus sale items was tabled since public works personnel Codi Heikkila was not present at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The Council continued an ongoing discussion regarding the unresolved law enforcement contract with the Cascade County Sheriff's Department. Following that

discussion it was decided to engage Dan Clark of Local Government Center MSU to go forward with HB333 mandated mediation and arbitration in advance of Oct 1st.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council Member Miller indicated that Bob Helsen had resigned from the Planning Board, urged the council to get a timeline for JR Civil repairing water main related damages, and asked that the possibility of increasing property taxes be addressed on a future Agenda. Council Member Wells requested that the streetlights on Castner be fixed while the city had the rental lift.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson reported that public works personnel Codi Heikkila had knocked the pole barn door off its tracks with the bobcat, but that there were no injuries and that the garage door company had been retained to make the necessary repairs. He went on to report that Amy Olson was resigning from the Belt Planning Board effective immediately and read her resignation letter (attached).

PUBLIC INPUT: Cindy Nault inquired what was going on with the new construction, street cuts, and digging on Bridge Street. Mayor Olson indicated that JR Civil has encountered some problems with a valve there and are making repairs.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.



Approved by Mayor James M. Olson



Attested to by Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling



Submitted by Lynn Schilling

RESOLUTION #823

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BELT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, HERE AFTER REFERRED TO AS THE NFIP, AND TO DISCONTINUE ENFORCEMENT OF FLOOD PLAIN BUILDING REGULATIONS AS DEFINED IN THE CURRENT FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE SUPPLIED TO THE CITY BY FEMA, THE ENFORCEMENT OF WHICH IS A CONDITION OF ENROLLMENT IN THE NFIP.

WHEREAS, the Town Council for the City of Belt has elected to participate in and has struggled with resources and manpower to remain a member in good standing, of the NFIP, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Belt has approved and adopted a Flood Plain Ordinance entitled Belt Floodplain Hazard Management Regulations, supplied to the city by FEMA and required for membership in the NFIP, which the city finds to be too extensive and too detailed to enforce fairly, legally, and efficiently with the manpower and funds available, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Belt has obligated no funds to Flood Plain Administration & Management for the fiscal year 2026 Budget, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Belt has expended \$10,000 in FY25 for flood plain efforts and contract help, and has employed extensive unsuccessful efforts through its employees, elected officials, and volunteer help to administer the Flood Plain Ordinance and comply with requirements of the NFIP;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Town Council for the City of Belt hereby formally supports the decision for the City of Belt to withdraw from the NFIP effective October 15, 2025.

Approved and signed this 3rd day of September 2025

APPROVED:



Mayor James M. Olson



Attest - Clerk

FROM THE DESK OF

amy olson

September 2, 2025

City of Belt
c/o Mayor Jim Olson
70 Castner St
Belt, MT 59412

Dear Mayor Olson,

I am resigning from the City of Belt Planning Board, effective immediately. Enclosed with this letter is a USB drive containing electronic copies of all documents generated by the Planning Board during my service as Executive Secretary.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Planning Board and to serve the City of Belt.

Sincerely,



Amy Olson