

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2026
7:00 PM

The first regularly scheduled meeting of February 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page who began with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Travis Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, Becky Gordon, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, & April Wells. Corbin Keaster was not present. Cascade County Sheriff Deputy Corporal Alec Lugo, Great West Engineering Josh Sommer, Library board member Twyla Jones, Library Director Gladys Rayhill, Public Works Codi Heikkila, Republic Services Phil Ideson and Belt Schools Superintendent Joe Gaylord were all present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Corporal Lugo brought the council to the attention of updating the city ordinances pertaining to nuisance dogs. He presented what is currently written and what the county states under the same ordinance. Corporal Lugo will email Clerk/Treasurer Kirby with the information and Kirby will forward it all to all the council members to look at before changing things. Republic Services Phil Ideson was present at the meeting to answer questions from anyone about receptacle movement on various locations in town. The reason for moving receptacles from the alley to the street was due to safety concerns for their drivers and trucks due to tight alleys, propane tanks, and log pile. There have been no complaints from the public yet since the switch.

The minutes from the January 21st meeting were moved to approval as written by Becky Gordon and seconded by April Wells. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were moved to approval by Paul Heikkila and seconded by Michelle Stinson. The claims/warrants were approved by unanimous vote.

The complaint log was reviewed; no complaints were received.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of the 11/29/1984 deed transferring land from Belt School to City of Belt. Belt Superintendent Joe Gaylord was present to talk on this and the current deed and map showing that the land the old fire hall sits on was transferred from Belt School to the City of Belt. The only issue was it was not properly registered with the county. April Wells stated that since she was going to Great Falls tomorrow 02/05/2026 she would take it in and get in properly registered. The next item was discussion of the alley on the east side of the school football field. This alley belongs to the city and needs to be cleaned up which includes mowing and having the trees/bushes cut back so a utility truck can get through it if needed. Next item on the agenda is consideration new tires for the municipal dump truck. Public Works Codi Heikkila presented numerous quotes on new tires. These quotes were from Highwood Service Station, Tire Rama, Gil's Point S, and Les Schwab. The council looked through all the different tires and quotes and decided to get 14-ply Michelin

tires from Highwood Service Station. Paul Heikkila made the motion to purchase the tires from Highwood Service Station and Becky Gordon seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Great West Engineering Josh Sommer was next to present a contract amendment proposal. The current formal agreement ended February 3, 2026. This new proposal is to extend through the end of the project. The project will continue this spring with chip sealing and other patch work. April Wells made the motion to extend the contract through the end of the project and Michelle Stinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Josh Sommer will bring the new contract to the February 18th meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby presented the considering Dynamic Accounting for payroll and tax forms. Kellen Kirby used Dynamic Accounting to prepare 2025 W2s for everyone and it was brought to the attention that they can also do payroll/tax preparation. The council wanted to table this discussion to get more information from Black Mountain Software, who have a payroll program built into their software. The City of Belt already uses Black Mountain but does not utilize the payroll program. Consideration for Great Falls Gazette yearly subscription. This subscription would run \$290/year. The council also wanted to table this consideration to get more information and comparison with the Great Falls Tribune when it comes to public notices and legality. Clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby will talk with Great Falls Gazette owner and get more information and present it back to the board at the next meeting scheduled for February 18th. The last item under new business was consideration for Cascade County Interlocal Agreement. A new contract was sent via email to bch@3rivers.net from the Cascade County Deputy attorney the evening before the meeting. The council was under the assumption that the City of Belt and Cascade County were to be in arbitration and not to be presented with a contract. Mayor Travis Page will call the city of Belt attorney Andy Newcomer and find out what is all going on. The council agreed to this step and Mayor Page will report back.

OLD BUSINESS: This section starts off once again with review of current fire service agreement between City of Belt and Belt rural Fire District. Clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby pulled some numbers from two different utility companies and presented the numbers. For electricity for the fire hall through NW Energy, it runs \$22.05/month and for Woodhall Distributing over a three-year period it averaged out to be \$317.19/fill. Paul Heikkila did some figuring on the square footage of the building and at \$1/foot it would be \$23,000. At this time the Fire agreement stated 4.5 mills are given to the fire department from the City of Belt. They are requesting a mill levy increase to be on the next ballot in November. With these new numbers and research, Travis Page will be reaching out to the fire department to invite them once again to a meeting and have a full discussion. The final topic under old business was discussion of county contributions to the library. Library director Gladys Rayhill and board member Twyla Jones stated that in 2020 interlocal agreement it gives the city library \$51,000/year; \$25,500 in July and January. Gladys stated that the county has been very late with these payments and it's very difficult to purchase new books and whatever else is needed to operate when the checks are so late. She also stated that there has been no increase since she started years ago. Gladys requested the council to contact the county and request more money for the library. Mayor Page agreed to investigate it but

with it being on the county level there really isn't much he or the council can do to push for more money or timely payments.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila asked about an update on the hayfield and the old little square bales that were left up there. The current gentleman wishes to continue his lease as he is currently in year two of his 7-year contract. Codi also asked about the meter reading up at the Water Treatment plant. They are supposed to have a meter above ground for simple readings but instead Codi must crawl into a manhole to get said readings. Lastly Codi asked about the whereabouts of the MSDS book. Paul stated it has to be up around the shop somewhere, Codi stated he would look for it up there.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Michelle Stinson asked clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby about KiAi McBride and how that was all going. KiAi will be in the office on Wednesday February 11th, and the office will be closed during this time to get all the financials ironed out. April Wells mentioned certain potholes in town that need attention. Codi Heikkila stated that he would get them repaired. April also asked about the new sander. Codi Heikkila stated that the sander was ordered two weeks ago and should be ready to install any day now, either this week or next week. Paul Heikkila mentioned that the state highway department was contacted about the sidewalk leading to and off the bridge. The bridge sticks up about an inch and a half higher than the sidewalk. Paul found plastic ramps that would be bolted to the sidewalk on Amazon. Codi will order this tomorrow morning with the approval from Mayor Page.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT- N/A

MAYOR'S REPORT- N/A

PUBLIC INPUT- N/A

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Michelle Stinson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to and submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby