

BELT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 3, 2025

7:00 PM

The first regularly scheduled meeting of December 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James M. Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Kellen Kirby, Council members included Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Michelle Stinson, Corbin Keaster, and Becky Gorton; new incoming mayor Travis Page, Public Works Codi Heikkila, and Cascade County Sheriff Deputy Alec Lugo.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The minutes of the November 19th meeting were moved to approval by Sally Miller and seconded by April Wells. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

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

The Complaint Log was reviewed. No complaints were filed at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration-Little Belt Cowboys Association Agreement closure/completion; During the November 19th meeting, the Little Belt Cowboys Association spoke about the contract between them and the City of Belt pertaining to the bathrooms on the rodeo grounds. The contract stated that the City of Belt with help from the Little Belt Cowboys Association would build a wall and get new sinks and toilets installed in the bathrooms. The sinks and toilets are here but not installed at this time as it needs a professional plumber to install them, stated by Little Belt Cowboys Association representative Dave Anderson. The wall has been built. With all this the Little Belt Cowboys Association feels that their contract obligations have been fulfilled. Both council members Paul Heikkila and Corbin Keaster felt that until the final installation of the sinks and toilets are completed the contract has not been fulfilled. It was also their suggestion that the Little Belt Cowboys Association needs to be held responsible for finding and paying for the licensed plumber and getting this project wrapped up. As of this meeting, the contract that is in place will remain until the project is fully completed.

OLD BUSINESS: Review of current Fire Service Agreement between City of Belt & Belt Rural Fire District was the first topic of discussion. Acting chairman John Romenesko agreed during the November 19th meeting to email clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby a copy of the current agreement so that it could be sent out to all the council members and in-coming mayor Travis Page for review. Kellen Kirby has yet to receive this email. Kellen Kirby will continue to look through file cabinets and drawers to attempt to locate the current agreement. Mayor Olson stated that the Fire Department will continue to service the City of Belt and stated that the Fire Department was willing to extend the agreement one more year with amendments to make things fair. Mayor Olson suggested looking into what it would all take to increase the mills and get this on the ballot for November so the citizens of Belt can vote on whether they approve or deny the increase of mills. Council members and Mayor Olson suggested figuring out and getting an assessment of the old fire hall building, utilities of such buildings, and cost of water used to fill the trucks to see if what the fire department is asking is reasonable or needs further discussion. This topic will remain on upcoming agendas for further discussion.

The next topic of discussion is the consideration of sander options for the Municipal dump truck. It was moved contingent of funds from the Department of Commerce with the modifications/conversion of the current sander, retro fitting it with a gas motor during the last meeting. Mayor Olson stated that he has been in contact with the Department of Commerce and should be getting roughly \$32,000 in reimbursement money for the HB 355 SLIPA grants. Clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby will investigate and work with Black Mountain on budget amendment, showing new income coming into the general fund and dispersing it to the proper accounts.

The last topic of discussion under old business was strategic plan update/report. Please see attached strategic plan.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila asked what all public work should do with vehicles that haven't moved in a period that also have expired plates on them. Cascade County Sheriff Deputy Lugo stated that Public Works can go and create a list of these vehicles and report them to dispatch so that an officer can come and run the plates and VIN number and get in contact with the owners. At this time the officer will ticket the vehicle and if not moved in a certain period the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. Codi Heikkila agreed to begin creating the list and getting the ball rolling by getting these vehicles moved. Codi also brought up issues he had with the council voting to convert the old sander and not spending a little bit extra on a new model that is guaranteed to work. Codi stated that with years of neglect the old sander is rusted out and he feels that converting it to a gas is just putting a band aid on and new issues will happen. Contingent of reimbursement funds, Codi suggested spending an extra \$4,000 and getting a new stainless-steel sander from Normont that is guaranteed to last much longer. The mayor and the council will wait to see how much money comes in from the reimbursement and then make their final decision.

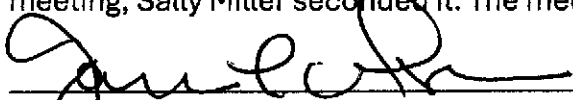
COUNCIL REPORTS: As Sally Miller's 14 years of being a council member comes to an end, she stated that as I leave, I leave knowing that the City of Belt is in good hands. Mayor Olson thanked Sally for everything she had done for the City of Belt it was all greatly appreciated. All council members agreed with Mayor Olson. No other council members had anything to report.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Olson spoke with Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter and was informed that the Justice of Peace will no longer have court hearings here in Belt so Laurie Cary will be doing proceedings here. She has no problems with that decision. There is no word yet pertaining to the sheriff's deputy contract. Also, according to our contract with Republic Services there will be an increase of 4% effective 01/01/2026. Just a reminder, the meeting scheduled for 12/16/2025 will be moved back an hour and start at 6PM to give time for dinner and celebration at the brewery.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sally Miller seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.



Approved by Mayor James M. Olson



Attested to and submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby

**Strategic Plan Annual Review
2025**

**City of Belt, Montana
3 December 2025 / 7:00 p.m.**

1. Review Vision Statement:

"HISTORIC BELT - - A Small town with large character!"

2. Review Mission Statement:

"To maintain a small thriving community that ~~is~~^{is} a desirable place to live, work, recreate and retire by providing a clean and safe environment, quality services and infrastructure, and by supporting sources of recreation."

- 3. During the 2023 Strategic Plan Annual Review, the City Council determined it was time to completely update the city's 5 year Strategic Plan. A new Mission Statement was adopted, focusing more on community environment, services, infrastructure and recreation. New Focus Areas were selected along with long term goals and objectives.**

4. Strategic Plan Review:

1. Infrastructure:

- a. Water Works – new pumps at wells, water project
- b. Sanitary Sewer
- c. Sidewalks, Curbs and Storm Drains
- d. Roads and Alleys
- e. City Facilities

2. Services:

- a. Parking
- b. Administration
- c. Communication
- d. Public Works
- e. Snow Removal

3. Financial Health:

- a. Financial Education
- b. Budget Review
- c. Cost Efficiency Measures
- d. Revenue

4. Community Well Being:

- a. Clean and Safe Environment
- b. Recreation
- * DEQ Mine Draining Remediation Project

5. Land Use:

- a. Subdivision Regulations
- b. Zoning Regulations
- c. Annexation Plan *No Current*
- d. Growth Policy (updated 2025)

5. City Employees:

1. We currently have 4 City Employees:

- a. **Clerk / Treasurer:** Kellen Kirby
- b. **Public Works:** Codi Heikkila and Rick Hertz
- c. **Belt Library:** Gladys Rayhill

2. We currently have 3 Contracted City Employees for services:

- a. **City Judge:** Lauri Cary
- b. **City Engineer:** Josh Sommer (Great West Engineering)
- c. **City Attorney:** Andy Newcomer (Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick)

3. We've had 4 new employees since we met for the last Strategic Planning Meeting:

- a. **Public Works:** Aaron Strine (resigned), Rick Albers (left during probation period), Rick Hertz (Seasonal) and Codi Heikkila (Full Time)
- b. **Clerk - Treasurer:** Kellen Kirby

4. Mayor and 6 Aldermen (Two from each Ward)

This year was an election year for 3 Aldermen and the Mayor

Incoming Mayor: Travis Page

Incoming Alderman: Bob Williams (Ward 2)

Belt Valley Chamber of Commerce: Jessica Hansen

Park Board: Rolf Johnson

Belt Museum - Rolf Johnson

Belt Theater - Jim Olson