

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2026
7:00 PM

The first regularly scheduled meeting of April 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page who led the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, and Becky Gorton. Great West Engineer Josh Sommer, Public Works Codi Heikkila, George & Karolyn Wood, Parker & Darin Osterman, Jay Kendall, & Jessica Hansen were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

The minutes from the March 18th meeting were moved to approval as written by April Wells and seconded by Corbin Keaster. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote and will be posted on the City of Belt website.

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 and warrants were mailed out.

The complaint log was reviewed; no complaints were received at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion PER update Great West Engineering. Josh Sommer, engineer from Great West Engineering, gave an update for a projected next phase of the water project. Josh showed the council a map of potential areas to focus on during the next phase. With this next phase there would not be any ARPA money, and the City of Belt would be ineligible for MCEP funding. There would be other sources of funding for this next phase, it just takes a bit to get applied for additional funding. If accepted the construction would not begin until 2028. Josh also presented one-million, two-million-, and three-million-dollar options. The council has invited Josh Sommer to come back to the next meeting on April 15th with an idea of how much construction can be done with the three different options. A special meeting was scheduled for April 22, 2026, at 7PM for the public to come a voice their opinions/concerns to the council and engineers. Clerk/Treasurer Kirby will post a notice at City Hall, Post Office, town website, and twice in the Great Falls Gazette (8th & 15th). The second topic discussed was FY25 Audit Review. Jodi Campbell, MT League of Cities & Towns, joined via telephone to review audit findings, audit comments, and answer questions from the council. Jodi Campbell informed the council that she and Kirby are working to correct the findings and comments found by the auditor and clean up the accounting side of the computer system. Topic three and for was consideration Lease Capitalization Resolution 824 & Capitalization Resolution 825. Both are updated policies where the federal government upped the capitalization amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Corbin Keaster moved to approve both Resolution 824 & Resolution 825 as written, and Becky Gorton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Discussion-Darin Osterman, annex of lots below "B" hill into the city of Belt. Darin Osterman, Jay Kendall, and Jessica Hansen all presented the idea of annexing the lots into city limits of Belt. Their focus on presenting this evening was to see if the city would be interested in this idea, going forward expanding Belt for the better. Osterman is hopefully planning on splitting the 6 acres into 8 to 10 lots. The council had questions pertaining to the capacity of the lagoon, water lines, is all this feasible with the city's growth policy. Kirby will research the city's growth policy and NCI's lagoon construction drawings and report back to the council. The final topic under new business is the discussion/consideration of port-a-potties for the park. Clerk/Treasurer Kirby presented the board with 4 options: Rocky Mountain Portables, Cascade Portables, Brown Trout Portables, and Rootin Tootin

Poopers. The council reviewed all the quotes and April Wells moved to approve two portables from Rootin Tootin Poopers, Bob Williams seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion/Consideration city/county ordinance (nuisance dog). The second of three readings and voting happened this evening. Mayor Page read the nuisance dog city ordinance with the new proposed addition aloud to the council. Michelle Stinson moved to approve of the new ordinance as written, and April Wells seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The final reading and Mayor vote of approval or rejection will be April 15 2026. Review/Discussion current Fire Service Agreement between city of Belt and Belt Rural Fire Department. The Belt Rural Fire Department was again unable to attend this evening, so nothing was discussed.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila informed the council of quotes from Home Depot on lumber to rebuild the bleachers at the baseball fields would be around \$544/bleacher. He also is getting lagoon pool 1 sludge test done to make sure the city is still in compliance. It is free testing.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Bob Williams informed the rest of the council that he will not be at the April 15th meeting. April Wells asked about a roll off dumpster from Republic for spring cleanup. Mayor Page will contact Republic and get that set up. April also mentioned having public works Codi Heikkila cut back/cleanup the chokecherry bush that is overgrown in the alley between Pizza Pro and the school. Paul Heikkila talked about building houses around the Dike in the flood plain. The only stipulation is that it must be built in the existing footprint of the previous home.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: N/A

MAYOR'S INPUT: Mayor Page attended a meeting this afternoon at the library and was told by librarian Gladys Rayhill that she will be attending a future council meeting to speak with the council.

PUBLIC INPUT: N/A

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Corbin Keaster seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to & submitted by Clerk/ Treasurer Kellen Kirby