

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 15, 2026
7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of April 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page who led the group in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, Michelle Stinson, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, and Becky Gorton. Bob Williams was not present. Great West Engineer Josh Sommer, Public Works Codi Heikkila, Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter, Cascade County Sheriff Corporal Alec Lugo, Darin Osterman & Jay Kendall were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sheriff Slaughter spoke during this time. He is in the middle of a re-election bid and has come to tonight's meeting to answer any questions and speak on any concerns the council may have. Slaughter stated that he enjoys the town of Belt and appreciates the comradery, communication, and dedication the city of Belt has shown between the Cascade County Sheriff's office and themselves. Slaughter also answered questions pertaining to the sheriff's contract. Slaughter guaranteed that even without a contract at this time the service his office gives to the city of Belt will not change. Belt is still part of the county of Cascade and part of the county his office swore to protect. The sheriff's contract is between lawyers and when it comes to it the county commissioners have the final say.

The minutes from the April 1st meeting were moved to approval as written by Michelle Stinson and seconded by Becky Gorton. 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 April Wells and seconded by Corbin Keaster. 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 project projections Great West Engineering. Josh Sommer, engineer for Great West Engineering, presented to the council two options for the next phase of the Water Project. Both options include adding a new pressure reducing valve and water main replacement on the east side of Belt Creek. Option 1 is a 3.2-million-dollar project, adding the new pressure reducing valve and replacing 1st priority water mains. With option 1 there would be a \$4.72 monthly increase in billing. Option 2 is a 4.4-million-dollar project, adding the new pressure reducing valve and replacing all the remaining water mains on the east side of the creek. With option 2 there would be a \$12.26 monthly increase in billing. All this information can be seen and gone over at City Hall. On Wednesday April 22nd, the council will hold a special meeting for the public to come in and

ask questions and/or voice concerns. Great West Engineer Josh Sommer will be in attendance for this meeting. Sommer also requested a key to once again do a Draw Down test. This test was done back in January. The second topic under new business was the public hearing for the Amended Budget FY 24-25. During FY24-25 expenditure exceeded the budgeted amount and this public hearing was held for the public to come in and ask questions and/or voice concerns. With no questions or concerns from the public, April Wells moved to amend the budget FY24-25. It was seconded by Corbin Keaster. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Discussion Darin Osterman; possible annex of lots below "B" hill into the city of Belt. Darin Osterman presented to the council that he would now like to add 5 new lots and have city water for all potential new residents. When Osterman first presented it to the council 2 weeks ago, he was hoping for 8-10 lots with city water and sewer. The current lagoons cannot handle anymore volume being pushed into them. Osterman stated that we would put in a 6-inch main line for city water and when a lot is sold, he would plug it into the new main line. He also stated that he would put a new fire hydrant at the end of the new main line. Osterman was asked to come to the May 13th meeting to show a potential design of his project and follow-up. The final topic was discussions about surplus sales and pricing. The council had the opportunity to look at the items Public Works wanted to put into a surplus sale. Council members Paul Heikkila and Corbin Keaster suggested holding a 10-day silent auction of the items here at City Hall. The highest bidder at the end of the 10 days would win the item and have the next day to claim the item or it would go to the next highest bidder. All the council agreed with this suggestion and clerk/treasurer Kirby and public works Heikkila will work on setting this up. It will potentially begin in May.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion/Consideration City/County ordinance (nuisance dog) 3rd reading. The final of three readings and mayoral vote happened this evening. Mayor Page read the nuisance dog city ordinance with the new proposed addition aloud to the council. Since this had passed the previous two readings with unanimous vote, Mayor Page voted to approve the new ordinance and signed it into effect. The new ordinance is now posted on the City of Belt website and city hall bulletin board. It will come into effect May 1, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila asked if Belt residents need numbers on the front of their homes. Homes need to be numbered, and Sheriff Slaughter stated that he would put out a public notice addressing this issue. Codi also brought up getting recommendations for pumpers to clean out a manhole on Valley Drive. This manhole backs up due to debris but after more research the line is crushed after construction, so Codi was again going to talk with Josh Sommer and present him with a video of the scoping of the line showing the crushing that could hold JR Civil liable.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Michelle Stinson asked about the removal or notice posting on the trailer that has been parked on the street near her house for the last two months. Corporal Lugo wrote down the information and will be in contact with the owner. Paul Heikkila asked about the roll off dumpster for city cleanup. It was supposed to be delivered today but it hasn't. Mayor Page will once again contact Republic and inquire about the whereabouts.

Paul also mentioning inviting the Little Belt Cowboy's Association to the May 13th meeting to discuss the bathrooms and upcoming rodeo. Paul also mentioned reaching out to Steel Etc. Filipawitz for a possible donation to rebuild/buy new bleachers for the baseball fields. Corbin Keaster asked about the flagpole in the park. At the moment, there is no flag flying but kids were playing and swinging on the rope. Paul Heikkila stated that he was able to secure the rope for the time being.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Kellen Kirby reminded the council that he will be gone to training/school May 3rd-7th in Billings. The scheduled council meeting for the 6th of May is being pushed back a week to May 13th.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Page has been sick the past week but was able to get ahold of Republic about the roll off dumpster for city clean up and to told it would be delivered today but it wasn't so Mayor Page will contact Republic again and get more information.

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 8:20 PM.

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to & submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby