

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

The first regularly scheduled council meeting of July 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page who led all in attendance in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members Paul Heikkila, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, & Becky Gorton. Corbin Keaster & April Wells were not present. Others in attendance were Public Works Codi Heikkila, Cascade County Sheriff's Department Corporal Alec Lugo, Belt Rural Fire John Romanesko & Ben Bach, & Harley Gorton.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

The minutes of the June 17th meeting were read by all council members and moved to approval as written by Michelle Stinson. The motion was seconded by Bob Williams. 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 Becky Gorton. 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: 1. Discussion/consideration DEQ wanting to use City Hall for a public meeting- DEQ emailed both Kellen Kirby and Mayor page requesting to use City Hall on Tuesday July 21st from 5-7:30pm for a public meeting pertaining to the water treatment plant. The council all agreed that it would be fine for DEQ to use City Hall, keeping a good relationship with DEQ. Kellen Kirby will say after working hours to let them into the building and set up and Mayor Page will come down after work and lock up when the meeting concludes. 2. Discussion/Consideration New Bee Ordinance reading #1- The first of two readings and voting happened this evening. Mayor Page read the new proposed bee ordinance aloud to the council. Michelle Stinson moved to approve the new ordinance as written, and Paul Heikkila seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The second reading and vote will take place July 15th, 2026, followed by the mayor's vote of approval or rejection. 3. Update Fire District- Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby informed the council that after talking with ambulance manager Gene Cantley, Belt Rural Fire is a fire district. John Romanesko and Ben Bach from Belt Rural Fire were in attendance and confirmed once again that they are indeed a fire district. Mr. Romanesko provided information to the council through print offs from the Montana Code Annotated 2023 which lays out a plan for the City of Belt to be annexed into the Belt Rural Fire District. The plan must include a timetable for annexation, a map of the boundaries of the rural fire district after annexation occurs, and the estimated financial impact of the annexation on the average taxpayer in the proposed district. As for the estimated financial impact, Mr. Romanesko stated that he would meet with Cascade County CFO and get the numbers for the upcoming public meeting that has yet to be scheduled. It was agreed between the Belt Rural Fire Department and the City of Belt that this sounds like a great deal for both parties and a new beginning/fresh start relationship. 4. Update Town of Cascade meeting- Mayor Travis Page informed that council that he and Kellen Kirby met with the mayor of Cascade to talk about a proposed contract between the two towns for law enforcement. No numbers were presented and/or discussed during this meeting. Mayor of Cascade wants to meet with us once again with a lot clearer picture and once that meeting happens Mayor Page and Kellen Kirby will bring back any and all information for the council to look over.

OLD BUSINESS: Update certified letter brush pile behind city shop - Kellen Kirby updated the council that he spoke with city attorney Andy Newcomer about the situation and Mr. Newcomer agreed to write up a cease-and-desist order. He typed it up and emailed Kellen to put on letterhead and have the mayor sign. Kellen put Mr. Newcomer's letter on letterhead and had Mayor Page sign it. Kellen then took it to the post office to mail as certified and receipt of pickup. This was done Monday June 29th.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila discussed possibly bringing in Robin Frazen to discuss this new mapping tool through Rural Water. This new digital tool maps all manholes, hydrants, curb stops, etc. Codi also discussed flushing the manhole behind the bank once/month as last week it had backed up again and it took two fire tankers to get it fully flushed. Codi also asked if he could look for a small utility trailer. Council member Paul Heikkila suggested that the trailer needs to be able to haul the skid steer if needed be.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Michelle Stinson wanted to get letters out for overgrown lawns and unmoved vehicles. Codi Heikkila & Kellen Kirby will take care of letters for the overgrown lawns and Corporal Lugo said he would talk with the owners of the vehicles. Paul Heikkila asked Kellen Kirby if he heard anything about the marijuana 3% tax. Kellen informed him that he was unable to contact Kristy Stroop but will keep trying. Kellen did talk with Teri Thompson from the Cascade County Elections office, and she stated that she hadn't heard of anything but would do some research into it and get back to him.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Kellen Kirby informed the council that the office will be closed on Tuesday July 7th and maybe 8th due to having surgery.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Page stated that he is just working with the Town of Cascade, but nothing has really happened thus far.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ben Bach asked about the Town of Cascade thing as he was unaware of anything. Mayor Page informed him that the Town of Cascade approached him for a meeting talking about law enforcement contracts between the two towns. Cascade seems to be moving forward with it but has not presented any figures to the City of Belt. Corporal Lugo informed the council that he is back on day shifts. Harley Gorton asked for more clarification of the fire district and impact on taxpayers. Mr. Romanesko clarified the confusion and said that it is up to the council members to do what they think is best for the City of Belt. Harley also informed all in attendance that with the strict fireworks restriction in Great Falls, an influx of people may be heading out towards Belt to shoot fireworks. This was great information for Belt Rural Fire to hear as well.

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bob Williams seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM. The next meeting will be July 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to & submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby