

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2026
7:00 PM

This evening started with Mayor Travis Page leading everyone in attendance in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. Ordinance 2026-01 Prohibiting Honeybees within City Limits Public Hearing was first on the agenda. Mayor Page opened it up to public comments. With no public comment, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:01 PM. Mayor Page then opened public hearing for Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Budget. Jodie Campbell, MT League of Cities & Towns, was going to attend the hearing via telephone but due to other conflicts in her schedule she was unable to join. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby briefly went over the revenue & expenditure portions of the budget and the estimated cash report. The budget is cleaned up from previous years, by the removal of unnecessary accounts and putting money aside for future projects. With no comments from the council and/or the public the meeting will remain open until taxable and mill levy numbers are added to the budget, at which point the August 19th meeting the Final Budget will be presented voted on whether to approve or deny.

The first regularly scheduled council meeting of August 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page. In attendance were Mayor Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members Paul Heikkila, Bob Williams, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, & Becky Gorton. Michelle Stinson was not present. Others in attendance were Public Works Codi Heikkila, Great West Engineering Josh Sommer, Cascade County Sheriff's Office Corporal Alec Lugo, and Marla Mital.

The minutes of the July 15th meeting were read by all present council members and moved to approval as written by Paul Heikkila. The motion was seconded by April Wells. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote. The minutes of the July 27th Special Council Meeting were read by all present council members and moved to approval as written by Becky Gorton. The motion was seconded by Paul Heikkila. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Both sets of minutes will be posted on the City of Belt website.

Does any council member have any conflict of interest with any agenda items? Yes, Becky Gorton has a conflict of interest with Marla Mital Park Bench. With this conflict of interest, Becky will not be voting on the topic.

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were moved to approval by Paul Heikkila and seconded by Corbin Keaster. Paul requested that a reimbursement invoice be sent out to the Little Belt Cowboys Association for a claim/warrant that was paid by the city and not by them. The invoice will be mailed out tomorrow morning. All claims/warrants were approved by unanimous vote, and warrants will be mailed out.

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

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Discussion/consideration Josh Sommer Great West Engineering; Resolution 827 CDBG-PF Grant- Josh Sommer gave the council an update on the water project with work from JR Civil beginning once again. United Materials was in Belt last week and completed the chip sealing. Josh reviewed the punch list items and stated the JR Civil will be in Belt tomorrow correcting the items on the list. The light pole replacement will be in town mid-August. Valley Drive sewer repair is under way as it was found to be JR Civil's fault for the crushed sewer line causing backup. This cost will be covered by JR Civil. As for the asphalt stockpile removal, two quotes have been given Shumaker and M&D. Council member Paul Heikkila stated that since it was negligence on JR Civil, they should have to pay half the cost of the removal. Josh said he will approach JR Civil with this and continue to fight for the City of Belt. Phase 2 water improvements next steps are to sign CDBG Certification for Application, pass resolution to authorize submission of a CDBG Grant, and

schedule 1st of two public hearings somewhere other than Town Hall. The CDBG application is due by October 31st (\$750,000 grant). RD application due in September (\$1,944,800 loan/\$1,591,200 grant). Josh Sommer, Ki-Ai McBride, and Kellen Kirby will continue to work together to get things completed on time for all deadlines. April Wells moved to approve Resolution 827 CDBG-PF Grant as written and Corbin Keaster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Mayor Travis Page will sign Resolution 827 and Kellen Kirby will email it back to Josh Sommer. 2. Discussion/Consideration JR Civil Project update- No one from JR Civil attended the meeting. 3. Discussion/consideration Marla Mital Class of 1986 Park Bench- Marla presented to the council a picture of a cement bench with a plaque that states "BVHS Class of 1986 Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be" to be placed in Castner Park. Paul Heikkila moved to approve the cement park bench being placed in Castner Park and it was seconded by April Wells. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. 4. Discussion/consideration Asphalt pile removal 2 quotes M&D and Schumaker- Cobin Keaster moved to approve M&D Construction to clean up the asphalt pile and to follow up on the concrete that is mixed in. Paul Heikkila seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Discussion/consideration Robin Franzen DiamondMapping- Back at the July 15th meeting Robin Franzen from Montana Rural Water presented DiamondMapping to the council. It was tabled until this evening's meeting. DiamondMapping is a digitally used program that maps the town/city's curb stops, manholes, hydrants, and anything else the user wants to map around the town/city. DiamondMapping costs \$21/month or \$252/year. Paul Heikkila moved to approve DiamondMapping, Corbin Keaster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. 2. Discussion/Consideration New Bee Ordinance 2026-01- With the public hearing earlier this evening, and no public in attendance to speak on the new ordinance, the new ordinance came up on final vote amongst the council. April Wells motioned to approve new bee ordinance 2026-01, Becky Gorton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote and the new bee ordinance 2026-01 prohibiting honeybees within the city limits of Belt will go into effect September 5th, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Codi Heikkila, Public Works Director, asked the council about water meters. Since the town is not using them at this point can we remove them? The council responded with no, they cannot be removed as it was part of a grant. Tree trimming around Castner Park with a high lift from Strobels. Codi discussed the potential waste of poo bags at one of the dispensers around the park. He also discussed the city sending a certified letter to a resident on Upper Row about their yard and garbage thrown about. A certified letter will be drafted tomorrow and with approval will be sent out.

COUNCIL REPORTS: N/A

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Kellen spoke about the budget being near completion, just waiting for tax levy numbers to complete it. The final draft will be ready for the August 19th meeting. Kellen also spoke of rumors going around town and putting a stop to them. The consistent rumor going around town is that he and Mayor Travis Page are leaving office at the end of the year. This is untrue as Kellen or Mayor Page have no intention of leaving office.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Travis Page stated that since this is a new fiscal year he had every council member read through and sign their copy of council member's duties and responsibilities. Mayor Page also signed a copy of Mayor duties and responsibilities. These signed copies will be added to each of their files.

PUBLIC INPUT: N/A

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 8:20 PM. The next meeting will be August 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to & submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby