BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026
7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled council meeting of September 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page, who led all in attendance in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. The first meeting of September, scheduled for September 4th was canceled due to power outage and wild land fires around the town of Belt. In attendance for the September 16th meeting were Mayor Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members Paul Heikkila, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, April Wells, Corbin Keaster & Becky Gorton. Public Works Codi Heikkila, Cascade County Sheriff's Office Corporal Alec Lugo, Belt High School superintendent Joe Gaylord, Rolf Johnson & Belt Valley Bank representative Josh Larson were also all present.

The minutes of the August 19th meeting were read by all council members and moved to approval as written by Corbin Keaster. The motion was seconded by Becky Gorton. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote and will be posted on the City of Belt website.

DOES ANY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH ANY AGENDA ITEMS? YES, April Wells & Michelle Stinson have conflict of interest with new business-J. Gaylord school superintendent due to both working for/at the school.

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were gone through by all council members and moved to approval by Paul Heikkila. The motion was seconded by Michelle Stinson. The 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: Rolf Johnson Jail Museum-Rolf informed the council that the Jail Museum is now under new management and that they are looking into grants with the Strand Foundation to fix and replace the windows. Rolf also requested help from Public Works Codi Heikkila with a potential leak on the roof. Rolf asked if Codi could climb up on the roof and inspect areas where water could enter the building. Also asked if Codi would help with taking large, framed photos off the wall where the paneling is starting to bow due to possible water damage. Codi Heikkila and Rolf Johnson will be in contact with each other to set up a time for all this to take place. 2. Discussion: J. Gaylord school superintendent- Joe Gaylord brought to the attention of the council the long-standing handshake agreement between the school and the City of Belt. The hand-shake agreement states that the City of Belt can get diesel fuel from the school tank and in return the City of Belt plows snow, fills potholes and other issues that may arise. Gaylord requested that the street in front of the school and bus loop get some attention focused on the rough spots and holes. PW Codi Heikkila will focus on the problem areas, once he gets some hot mix from Great Falls. 3. Discussion/Consideration: Street Lights new white bulbs- April Wells presented to the rest of the council that the streetlights along Castner Street need to be one color. Some of the lights are yellowish and others are bright white. With the new pole that was installed, Public Works Codi got the information for the new bulbs that were installed in that pole and will get a rough estimate of how much it will cost to replace all the bulbs on both sides of the street. Mayor Page found a picture online of the street with yellow lights and AI with white lights. He shared both photos with the rest of the council. April Wells moved to approve the replacing of streetlight bulbs so that they are all one uniform color. The motion was seconded by Michelle Stinson. The motion was passed by unanimous vote, but color was still up for debate and quote on pricing. 4. Discussion/Consideration: Black Mountain Software Conference- Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby presented to the council this two-day conference held in Missoula, put on by Black Mountain Software (the computer system for accounting, utility billing, and payroll). The cost for the conference is $299 and $144/night for hotel equally $587. The conference is set for Tuesday October 27th and Wednesday October 28th. The conference is focused on training new clerk/treasurers' better ways to utilize their time and understanding the programs better. Also introducing new features for each application.

Michelle Stinson moved to approve, sending Kellen to this conference to further his education and gain new knowledge that will be beneficial to his position. The motion was seconded by Bob Williams. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. Kellen will register for the conference and book the hotel room tomorrow morning on 09/17/2026.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Dump truck needing repairs, such as power steering pump and horn. Someone is interested in the old kiosk that used to sit next to the bank. Pivot tires need to be replaced due to wear and tears; will get quotes on replacements and added to budget wish list for next year, FY 27-28. Will be retaking his sewer operating test 09/22/2026 in Helena.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Michelle Stinson-N/A; Bob Williams- N/A; April Wells- hardware for newly installed light pole needs to be put up so banner can be hung; garbage issues with Republic Services, dealt with by Mayor Page and Kellen Kirby; Paul Heikkila-N/A; Corbin Keaster- N/A; Becky Gorton- N/A

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Porta pottys from Rootin' Tootin Poopers will be picked up this week for the summer. Will continue to use this company next year starting the first week in May through after Labor Day.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Lights and new bulbs for Castner Street as different colored lights doesn't look great. Quotes for new lights will be presented at next meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: Corporal Lugo informed the council of his new upcoming schedule that will have him out of town, but Deputy Combs will be around town when Lugo is absent. Lugo also informed the council that there has been an uptick in fraud going through the county. Mainly its phone calls requesting money but one way to know its fraud is the caller will ask for gift cards. Mainly focusing on the elderly. Belt Valley Bank Representative Josh Larson informed the council of the sewer backup in the alley behind the bank. twice now the fire department and PW Codi Heikkila as flushed the line using two tender loads of water, which seems to have worked thus far. Will get CapCon to come in and scope the line, finding where it could be backing up from. PW Codi Heikkila will be in contact with CapCon tomorrow morning.

There being no further business to attend to, council member Corbin Keaster motioned to adjourn the meeting, Paul Heikkila seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. The next meeting will be on October 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

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Approved by Mayor Travis Page

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Attested to & submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby