BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21ST, 2026
7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled council meeting of October 2026 was called to order by Council Chairman Paul Heikkila, who led all in attendance in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance for this evening's meeting were Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, Council members Paul heikkila, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, April Wells, Corbin Keaster, and Becky Gorton. Mayor Travis Page was not present. Public Works Codi Heikkila and Great West Engineer Josh Sommer were also present. Members of the community in attendance included John and Elizabeth Masonovich, Cindy Nault and husband, Diane Heikkila, Marla Mital, Tonya and Robbie Permann.

The minutes of the October 7th meeting were read by all council members and moved to approval as written by Michelle Stinson. 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 MEMBER HAVE ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH ANY AGENDA ITEMS? N/A

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were gone through and signed by all council members and moved to approval by Corbin Keaster. The motion was seconded by April Wells. 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: Josh Sommer- Asphalt pile update; 9 Anaconda St. issues- Josh Sommer from Great West Engineering gave an update on the asphalt pile stating the M&D Construction has pulled out from cleaning up the pile and wasn't performing the duties stated in the contract. They screened the asphalt from the pile but took the screened dirt to another location here in Belt, which was not supposed to happen. In the contract it states that M&D were to screen out the asphalt and concrete chunks and haul them off, leaving the screened dirt for the city to use. Josh stated he will reach out to Schumate Construction once again and see if they are still interested in doing the job correctly. Josh Sommer will survey the pile once again before contacting another company to finish the cleanup. With 9 Anaconda Street, the landowner is disputing the $11,000 bill that was sent to him from JR Civil. The landowner connected his sewer line into an old, abandoned line and when it backed up, he blamed JR Civil for crushing the line when they were working on water lines in the area. JR Civil came back and investigated the area and determined that it was virgin ground, so they are not responsible for the backup. It is the council's decision that the landowner and JR Civil solve this issue between them. JR Civil contracts with United Material, who will come in and repave the area in front of the cabin on Castner Street. This job is covered by JR Civil's own cost. The paving at 9 Anaconda Street and work at 3rd Ave. South and Main is still to be determined. Josh Sommer is in talks with United Material about them providing a quote to do the job themselves instead of contracting with JR Civil. Josh will present his information at the next council meeting on November 4th. 2. Discussion/Consideration: JR Civil Sewer Service Warranty: Josh Sommer presented this information to the council. It is a one-year extension to the service warranty. The warranty extension applies only to sewer services and sewer mains within the areas disturbed by the waterline work. The extended warranty period does not restart with each repair and will expire on October 14, 2027, which is two years after the substantial completion date of the project. Corbin Keaster motioned to approve the extended service warranty. The motion was seconded by April Wells. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Chairman Paul Heikkila signed the extended service warranty, and Kellen Kirby will email the signed copy to Josh Sommer. 3. Discussion/Consideration: Water Project Phase 2- Kellen Kirby brought this topic to the council's attention, stating that since the two public hearings for the CDBG Grant have been completed and as part of the application process the council needs to vote to continue or not continue with Phase 2 of the water project. Bob Williams made the motion that the City of Belt move forward with the CDBG Grant application for Phase 2 of the Belt Water Project. The motion was seconded by April Wells and the motion was approved by unanimous vote. 4. Discussion/Consideration: Montana Rural Water Apprenticeship Program: Kellen Kirby presented information about this program to the council. Kellen was able to get information from program coordinator Cody Marez. This is a 2-year program that consists of 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and 288 hours

of Related Technical Instruction (classroom training). This program costs the city $0 in tuition and is open to start right away. After 1,000 hours of OJT and 70 hours of RTI the apprentice receives $5,000 and the apprentice's mentor receives $2,500. The town will receive $10,000 for any employer that signs up and has one active apprentice. An additional $5,000 is awarded to the town after 2,000 hours of OJT and 144 hours of RTI are completed. The council would like more information about this program and would like to table this topic to the November 4th meeting. They would like to invite Program Coordinator Cody Marez to that meeting to ask unanswered questions/concerns. Kellen will reach out to Cody and invite him to the November 4th meeting. 5. Discussion/consideration: Diane Heikkila-Dyke plowing/signs/waivers- Diane heard that there had been an issue with members of the community plowing the walking path on the Dyke after the last snowstorm. She stated that many community members use the walking path throughout the day. After the recent snowstorm, council member April Wells plowed the dyke walking path and was told by Mayor Travis Page to seize and desist from the activity as stated by April Wells during this meeting. There are no motorized vehicles posted on the dyke and for liability reasons. Mayor Page was not in attendance at this evening's meeting to give his point of view as to why he asked April Wells to stop. Eight members of the community were in attendance for this evening's meeting and were all in support of allowing public to continue with the upkeep on the Dyke walking path, as Public Works Codi Heikkila is busy with other plowing duties around the town. Council member Michelle Stinson stated that plowing the dyke is done by volunteers, using their own vehicles, own gas, taking time out of their own schedules to help; it shows they take pride in their community.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: Montana Rural Water in putting on an educational class about new water testing procedures. This class will be held in Helena on November 20th. Codi Heikkila intends to attend this class and take notes for Patrick Hertz who is unable to attend. There is also a large beaver dam in the dyke damming up the creek. Codi has talked with FWP about this and will attempt to remove the damn.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Michelle Stinson-sewer project in the alley behind the bank, wanted to know if it had been put out for bids. Kellen stated that he would reach out to Josh Sommer about how to do all this tomorrow morning. Bob Williams-N/A; April Wells-batting cage nets are still up and need to be removed as the heavy snow damaged the fence. Kellen will get ahold of Jeff Dawson in the morning and get him to remove the nets. Corbin Keaster-N/A; Becky Gorton-N/A

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Kellen will be gone to Missoula on Monday October 26th at 1pm and will return Thursday morning October 29th, for a conference which he will be teaching at as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT- N/A as mayor was absent from this evening's meeting

PUBLIC INPUT- N/A

There being no further business to attend, council member Corbin Keaster motioned to adjourn the meeting, Michelle Stinson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next meeting will be on November 4, 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