

BELT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of February 2026 was called to order by Travis Page who began with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Travis Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, Becky Gorton, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, & April Wells. Corbin Keaster was not present. Belt Rural Fire was represented by Pat Kleffner, Bill Dawson, John Romanesko, Jeff Dawson, and Ben Bock. Jeff Dawson and Ben Bock also represented Belt Little League baseball.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

The minutes from the February 4th meeting were moved to approval as written by Michelle Stinson and seconded by Becky Gorton. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were moved to approval by April Wells and seconded by Paul Heikkila. The claims/warrants were approved by unanimous vote.

The complaint log was reviewed; no complaints were received.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion/Consideration full termination of as needed contract with Lynn Schilling. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby brought this item to the council for consideration. Kirby felt that he no longer needs Lynn Schilling helping in the office as he has other clerks from other towns in the state he can reach out to for assistance. Paul Heikkila stated that he felt that it may be good to just keep the contract with Lynn Schilling through the first quarter and revisit this topic the first meeting April. The rest of the council all agreed with this, and it will be revisited. The second topic was discussion/consideration Montana Municipal Institution. Again, Kirby presented this topic as it is a weeklong convention for Kirby in Billings May 3rd- May 7th. The week of school falls at the beginning of the month and during a council meeting week. The cost of the school is close to \$1400.00. Kirby presented a scholarship application to the council that would reimburse the city if accepted. The scholarship application deadline is March 1st. Paul Heikkila and Michelle Stinson felt it was a great learning opportunity for Kirby to attend but wasn't sure the city has enough money budgeted for Kirby to attend. The council felt it was a good idea for Kirby to submit the scholarship application and if denied the application then scrounge around to try and find the funds to send Kirby. Kirby and Mayor Page will complete the scholarship application and submit it as soon as possible. As for the council meeting scheduled during the week of the 3rd-7th, it will be rescheduled for the following week. The next topic under new business was consideration of Black Mountain Software Payroll. Kirby presented a new payroll program with our existing Black Mountain Software to help with payroll, state & federal payments, and tax documents at the end of the year. The new addition would cost \$765.00 for the conversion and setup and then \$2,335.00/year for maintenance and support. The city already pays Black Mountain Software \$6,397.00/year for the accounting, budget prep, and utility billing programs. The council voted NO to the addition of the payroll program and continue using Dynamic Accounting for W2s and other tax documents moving forward. Consideration for Great Falls Gazette yearly subscription was next up for discussion. Kirby presented this at the previous meeting in February, but it was tabled to get more information and to make sure it met the needs. Back on the February 4th meeting, Paul Heikkila wants to get more information and comparison with the Great Falls Tribune when it comes to public notices and legality. The next day following that meeting Kirby met with the owner of the Great Falls Gazette and got the information requested from the council. The information that was provided fits with what the council was looking for and at \$290/year for the

subscription it comes in a lot cheaper than the Great Falls Tribune. As for Public notices and legality, it meets all the requirements under Montana Code Annotated 7-1-4127 Publication of notice-content-proof. April wells motioned to approve the \$290/year subscription with the Great Falls Gazette and Bob Williams seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The next item under new business was consideration city/county ordinance- nuisance dog. After the February 4th meeting Kirby emailed all the council members the city ordinance and the county ordinance for nuisance dog. Tonight, the council all agreed that there should be a new amendment added to the city ordinances for nuisance dogs. The council requested that Kirby work with Deputy Lugo to construct an amendment and then once constructed, Kirby will email the council the new amendment. This topic was tabled for next meeting. The final topic under new business was discussion of Belt little league baseball. Little league baseball was represented by Jeff Dawson and Ben Bock. They came with questions pertaining to porta-pottys, garbage cans, fencing, weeds, field improvements, and tennis court batting cage. Jeff Dawson will get a couple of numbers to Kellen Kirby for the porta-pottys, and Kirby can reach out to find the best deal. As for garbage cans, Jeff Dawson felt that more is needed to keep the park looking nice during the season. He will investigate Rubbermaid or construct more out of 50-gallon drums, but the main topic was making sure they are emptied consistently. Fencing was brought up as an idea to protect children playing on the playgrounds near the fields but after conversations fencing just doesn't seem the best choice. Who covers liability for patrons in the park during games? Is it city or is it little league? Just questions Jeff Dawson brought up. The council wasn't sure of the answer either. The city does have liability insurance, but it becomes fuzzy with patrons attending games or patrons in the park during games. The weeds will be taken care of by public works Rick Hertz. Jeff Dawson and Ben Bock asked for permission from the council to do improvement/expand the field closest to the creek to bring the field up to standards to allow Belt to host Little League games. Michelle Stinson made a motion to make improvements/expand the ball field closest to the creek to bring the field to league standards. Paul Heikkila seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote. The council also gave permission for little league to convert the tennis courts into batting cages for the season. Making sure to lock up the tennis courts when not in use to eliminate any vandalism. Jeff and Ben agreed to this. Jeff Dawson and Ben Bock also brought up construction and con-ex for storage of all their equipment. It is a moveable small structure that will be put up near the pole barn. Jeff and Ben will investigate more into pricing but just wanted to bring it up and get the council's thoughts on the idea.

OLD BUSINESS: Review/discussion of current fire service agreement between City of Belt & Belt rural Fire District. After several council meetings bringing together figures and information tonight the council invited the rural fire department back for a more in-depth discussion. John Romanesko was the spoke person for the fire department this evening. 20 mills are still being requested as a total for the fire department. The taxpayers of the City of Belt are already being charged 4.5 mills. Another 15.5 is being requested to be put on the ballot for this coming election in November. John Romanesko roughly figures \$50-\$70 annually per taxpayer. John wants to get more concrete information from Trista the Cascade County Chief Financial Officer on taxable value of homes in Belt. The more information the City of Belt and the fire department can give to the community the better chance this may have when it comes to election night. Clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby will get in contact with Terry Thompson with Cascade County Elections and find out more of when things need to be completed and how much it cost to get things on the upcoming ballot.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT- N/A

COUNCIL REPORTS- Bob Williams spoke about the Railroad Tressel and how there were rocks on the road from above and that there were workers there. Bob wanted to know if there was anything important going on or just general maintenance. April Wells asked about the Sheriff's contract and if it was still in

litigation or what was all going on. Mayor Page has been in contact with the city attorney and the copy of the contract that was sent out was the current contract, but everything is still up in the air. April also let the council know that the land survey for the land given to the city by Belt School was not done correctly. The Cascade Clerk & Recorder would not certify the survey, so it needs to be redone and corrected. Paul Heikkila asked if there was any update or more information into county funding for the library. Nothing new has been brought up. The library is still waiting for their funding that was supposed to be deposited in January.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: Kellen Kirby updated the council on the progress he has been making with Ki-Ai McBride of Great West Engineering. Kirby stated that after working the Ki-Ai via telephone and through emails all funding with Great West Engineering, JR Civil, and Department of Revenue 1% is all balanced and caught up. The city of Belt is starting fresh from zero with new loan draws beginning to come in.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Mayor Page mentioned that he talked with Kristy Stroop from Cascade County Alliance for Youth to discuss a possible 3% tax on the Marijuana shop located here in Belt. More information is to come as Mayor Page continues talks with Kristy Stroop and the owner of the shop.

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 8:22 PM

Approved by Mayor Travis Page

Attested to and submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby