



CITY OF MILES CITY

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Council Chambers and online at zoom.us

Zoom ID: 4062343462 | Passcode: 59301

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Grenz led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Councilmember Dan Scott
Councilmember Ed Pulecio
Councilmember Rick Huber
Councilmember Jeni Losey
Councilmember Cody Steiner
Councilmember Kevin Thomason
Councilmember Brooke Bartholomew
Councilmember Don Simpson
Mayor Chris
Grenz

Also present were City attorney Dan Rice, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Interim Fire Chief Ed Kanduch, Dispatch Director Lyne Anderson, Building Inspector Gabe Martinsen, Custer County Commissioners Jason Strouf, Kevin Krausz, and Jeff Faycosh, and City Clerk/Recorder Mary Rowe.

1. ELECT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilmember Scott nominated Brooke Bartholomew, Seconded by Councilmember Losey.

Councilmember Thomason nominated Rick Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.

Mayor Grenz asked for a show of hands for Brooke Bartholomew and four were raised, with Pulecio, Bartholomew, Thomason, and Steiner voting no.

Mayor Grenz asked for a show of hands for Rick Huber and three were raised with Scott, Huber, Losey, Bartholomew, and Simpson voting no.

Mayor Grenz congratulated Brooke Bartholomew as Council President.

2. REQUEST OF CITIZENS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenda Little, 219 S. Jordan, welcomed the new Council Members and Mayor. She also thanked Dwayne Andrews for his service and sorting out the mess he was dealt.

Jerry Muggli, 417 Merriam, asked to discuss his industrial site lease. Mayor Grenz let him know the industrial site leases were on the agenda and can be discussed then.

3. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES/COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES 2025 1204

Motion made by Councilmember Pulecio, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

B. Regular City Council Minutes 2025 1209

Motion made by Councilmember Scott, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

C. Special City Council Minutes 2025 1216

Motion made by Councilmember Thomason, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

D. Finance Committee Minutes 2025 1204

Motion made by Councilmember Scott, Seconded by Councilmember Bartholomew.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

4. SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Planning Board Meeting January 20th @ 6pm

5. APPOINTMENTS

A. City Attorney - Dan Rice

Deputy City Attorney - James Carr

Motion made by Councilmember Pulecio to reappoint Dan Rice, Seconded by Councilmember
Simpson.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson.

Motion made by Councilmember Losey to reappoint James Carr, Seconded by
Councilmember Pulecio.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber,
Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember
Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

B. Public Service Committee

Human Resources Committee

Public Safety Committee

Finance Committee

Mayor Grenz appointed Council Members to the committees as follows:

Public Service Committee- Losey, Simpson, Scott, & Pulecio

Human Resources Committee- Bartholomew, Steiner, Huber, & Losey

Public Safety Committee- Thomason, Scott, Losey, & Simpson

Finance Committee- Bartholomew, Huber, Steiner, & Pulecio

C. Board of Appeals - Noah Mahan

Planning Board - Robert Hutchings

Planning Board - Steve Palmeri

Planning Board - City Council Member

Zoning Commission -Leif Ronning

URA/TIFD - Tom Clarke

Health Board - City Council Member

Airport Commission - City Council Member

Economic Development Board - City Council Member

911 Board - City Council Member

PPI Committee - City Council Member

Local 600/Labor - Mayor and City Council Member

Solid Waste Board - City Council Member

Mayor Grenz asked for volunteers for the non-standing committees that have a council member assigned to them. The following assignments were made:

Board of Appeals - Noah Mahan

Planning Board - Robert Hutchings

Planning Board - Steve Palmeri

Planning Board - Ed Pulecio

Zoning Commission -Leif Ronning

URA/TIFD - Tom Clarke

Health Board - Brooke Bartholomew

Airport Commission - Kevin Thomason

Economic Development Board - Dan Scott

911 Board - Brooke Bartholomew

PPI Committee - Jeni Losey

Local 600/Labor - Mayor Grenz and Cody Steiner

Solid Waste Board - Rick Huber

Mayor Grenz requested a consent agenda for agenda Item C.

Motion made by Councilmember Simpson to use consent agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson.

Motion made by Councilmember Simpson to appoint all members under item C, Seconded by Councilmember Thomason.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

6. STAFF REPORTS & OTHER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chief Colombik presented two citizen awards to Tanner Cahill and Robert Washington for their heroic actions in apprehending fleeing suspects connected to a DUI, stolen vehicle, and hit-and-run.

Inspector Martinsen stated that on March 1st, 2026 the building department will be issuing all siding permits and will be doing both residential and commercial mechanical inspections on July 1st, 2026.

Interim Chief Kanduch informed Council of the new "safe haven" baby box that is going to be installed at the fire department. Since it is currently under construction, the one exterior wall design was rearranged a little to accommodate the box. He explained that it is a significant cost, but is fully funded by the pregnancy outreach clinic.

Director Anderson noted that the baby box alarm will also sound at dispatch alerting them that the box is being used. She also presented stats for last year, pointing out that call volume is continually increasing year after year.

A. Planning Department Staff Report

B. NOVEMBER 25 BUDGET REPORTS

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

8. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Grenz presented a handout and stated that with the city struggling financially we need to annex the industrial site leases. Also looking at bringing the businesses on Haynes Ave into the City limits. He recommends investing excess monies from the water & sewer funds into a STIP account. He stated we could get approximately \$242,000 in interest with the Board of Investments 4.71% interest rate. He ran a report from the water department and noted 17 pages of businesses in Miles City, so we need to get on charging for business licenses. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce has 1.5 million dollars in grants available to smaller cities. He instructed the Fire Department and Police to Department to apply so we don't miss our chance. The fire department may be able to apply for a coal board grant for a new fire vehicle, since the police have exhausted their coal board grants for new vehicles.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4655 - A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO §7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2025-2026 TO INCREASE THE BUDGETED AMOUNT IN VARIOUS FUNDS FOR VARIOUS UNBUDGETED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. (Finance Committee Recommends Approving).

Mayor Grenz opened the public hearing, called for opponents three times and proponents three times. Hearing none, the hearing was closed.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4655 - A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO §7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2025-2026 TO INCREASE THE BUDGETED AMOUNT IN VARIOUS FUNDS FOR VARIOUS UNBUDGETED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. (Finance Committee Recommends Approving).

Motion made by Councilmember Scott, Seconded by Councilmember Thomason.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4658 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY, MONTANA, AUTHORIZING CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA, TO ADMINISTER THE ISSUANCE OF BURN PERMITS THROUGH THEIR ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM.

Interim Chief Kanduch along with Cory Cheguis with Custer County Fire explained that they both are issuing burn permits now, but the county utilizes an online platform that is very user friendly and allows messages to go directly to fire and dispatch through. It makes sense to have them all in one place.

Motion made by Councilmember Thomason, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

- B. Discuss Industrial Site Leases

Mayor Grenz explained the tax benefit of annexing the industrial site in to the city limits. Attorney Rice stated that it is city owned, so there is no one to protest it, but Joel and himself will look into the process.

There were questions as to who is and will be responsible for maintaining the roads. After a brief discussion it was decided that it could be added as an extension of services into the leases.

Jerry Muggli asked if he could renew his lease, to which Contract Planner Nelson replied that he would reach out to him.

- C. Discuss Allocation of Cannabis Tax

Mayor Grenz recommends putting the cannabis tax revenue into capital improvement funds for future purchases/developments. If it is in capital improvement funds then we could use that money as a match when applying for grants.

Councilmember Pulecio agreed with putting into a capital improvement fund and also noted that it could be used to cover legal fees or annexation.

- D. APPROVE TIFD AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,316.00 OR 60% OF THE PROJECT TO ERIN THORMODSGARD FOR REPLACING FACADE, DOOR, WINDOWS, AND METAL SIDING AT 114 N 7TH STREET.

Motion made by Councilmember Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.

Councilmember Losey has concerns about how this item meets the criteria and how the decisions are being made. She wants to ensure that the funds are being used appropriately.

Councilmember Bartholomew asked that the applications come with the recommendations.

Clerk Rowe suggested assigning a member of council to be the city representative on the TIFD Board. Councilmembers Bartholomew, Pulecio, and Losey all volunteered.

Motion to postpone until next meeting made by Councilmember Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Bartholomew.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

- E. AWARD TIFD AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,000, OR 50% OF FINISHED PROJECT COST TO MILES CITY YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (MCYBA) FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT, FACADE PAINTING, EXTERIOR LIGHTING UPGRADES, AND AWNING REPLACEMENT.

Motion to postpone until next meeting made by Councilmember Scott, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

12. ADJOURNMENT

Public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of this meeting can be presented under Request of Citizens, provided it is within the jurisdiction of the City to address. Public comment will be entered into the minutes of this meeting. The City Council cannot take any action on a matter unless notice of the matter has been made on an agenda and an opportunity for public comment has been allowed on the matter. Public matter does not include contested cases and other adjudicative proceedings

Motion made by Councilmember Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Thomason.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Scott, Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm