



CITY OF MILES CITY

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Council Chambers and online at zoom.us

Zoom ID: 4062343462 | Passcode: 59301

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Grenz called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Grenz led the Council into the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Councilmember Dan Scott
Councilmember Ed Pulecio
Councilmember Rick Huber, arrived at 6:03 pm
Councilmember Jeni Losey
Councilmember Cody Steiner
Councilmember Kevin Thomason
Councilmember Brooke Bartholomew
Councilmember Don Simpson
Mayor Chris Grenz

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Interim Fire Chief Ed Kanduch, Dispatch Director Lyne Anderson, Deputy Clerk/Payroll Officer-Minute Recorder Tamara Ellsworth.

1. REQUEST OF CITIZENS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Felstehausen, 1505 Comstock commented that based on the budget shortfall is there someone in office that can submit grants or have a grant writer. Mayor Grenz agreed and explained that we do not have a grant writer and currently our City Directors are in charges for applying for the grants necessary for their needs, he also discussed possibly having the City Treasurer become the grant writer.

2. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES/COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. Regular City Council Meeting 0127 2026

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

B. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES 0205 2026

Motion made by Councilmember Thomason to approve with the corrections made to the minutes, Seconded by Councilmember Scott.

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

Councilmember Losey a correction to the Public Service Minutes to reflect that the Committee decided that the nuisance policy will continue as it is and that there was no recommendation for a budget line to the Animal Control Officer.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES 0212 2026

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

3. SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Council Chairperson Bartholomew announce a Finance Committee meeting on March 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm regarding Business Licenses.

- A. Fire Department Owner/Architect/Contractor (OAC) Building Meeting 2/26/26 @ 9:00am at Jackson Office Trailer on Fire Department Site.

4. APPOINTMENTS

- A. City/County Health Board

- Donna Faber (Council Appointed)
- Jody Menyhart (City & County Appointed)

Motion made by Councilmember Huber to appoint Donna Faber to the City/County Health Board, 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 Huber to appoint Jody Menyhart to the City/County Health Board, Seconded by Councilmember Scott.

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

- B. City Appointee - Donna Faber
At-Large Appointee - Amber Trenka

5. STAFF REPORTS & OTHER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Police Chief Colombik handed out to the Council updates on the Pigeon Control.

Dispatch Director Anderson gave reports on the 911 and that there will be a meeting on March 10th, 2026. Two of her Dispatchers Maci Laedke and Kasey Warner passed their 911 certifications with a 98% and congratulated them.

- A. January 2026 Cash Report

Mayor Grenz let the Council know that he has requested that the City Clerk Rowe start attaching a cash report for the Council to review. He explained that the Ambulance fund is in the red (\$77,000) and cash operating in red (\$365,000). The taxes have not been posted and Deputy Clerk Ellsworth advised that the Ambulance has not been reconciled up to current.

6. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Chairperson Bartholomew spoke in regards to the comment made by the Mayor Grenz in a previous meeting about defunding the Fire Department and explained that defunding is not the Council's desire. The Council does however feel that a restructure of how the Fire Departments scheduling, spending and funds do need to happen for the City budgets.

Councilmember Losey stated that due to all the Miles City Chatter and Facebook that it might be a good idea for the Council to have an external website application for the correct information to put on there. She stated that there would be no commenting from the Council but there would be links to reach out to the Council.

7. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Grenz would like the Council's permission to look into a Labor negotiator for the upcoming union negotiations. The Council unanimously agreed to this request.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4661 - 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 GENERAL FUND FOR UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURES.

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

- B. ORDINANCE 1401 - AN ORDINANCE REVISING CITY CODE SECTIONS 7-57 THROUGH 7-62 PERTAINING TO THE CITY OF MILES CITY URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

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

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 4661 - (*Second Reading*) 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 GENERAL FUND FOR UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURES.

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

- B. ORDINANCE 1401 - (*Second Reading*) AN ORDINANCE REVISING CITY CODE SECTIONS 7-57 THROUGH 7-62 PERTAINING TO THE CITY OF MILES CITY URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appoint Chris Grenz, Ren Gardner (School District Representative), and Jason Strouf (County Representative) to the TIFD Committee.

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

- B. APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE DEPUTY CLERK TO ATTEND THIS YEARS MMCT&FOA CONFERENCE

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

It was discussed by the Council that due to the budget constraints there is currently no funding for training this year.

- C. APPROVE REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE THREE G CONSTRUCTION LAND LEASE SITE

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

Jason Gergen, 3506 Box Elder Street stated that the improvements that he is requesting approval for is to widen the approach so he would be able to get all of his equipment on the land lease site. He has obtained permission from the County and Transco as well. This would be of no cost to the City as he would be using all of his own resources and equipment. Councilmember Steiner did ask that in case he no longer leases this site will those improvements stay, Jason Gergen said yes they are permanent.

- D. DISCUSSION IN REGARDS TO THE TWISTED VAPES BUSINESS LOCATED AT 317 YELLOWSTONE AVE

Casey Wootan, 320 Yellowstone Ave, is representing the group/residents of this area and announced the current concerns of this property being zoned as Commercial and the Twisted Vapes Business on that such property. There has been 2 burglaries with live gunfire, neighbors are living in constant worry about the safety of their neighborhood. When this property was presented at a Zoning Board to become commercial they neighbors of this area were under the impression/understanding from the owner of this land that it would remain as is, used for a construction/shop. With that impression they did not show up for the meeting and express any concerns. With the Twisted Vapes Business the foot traffic has increased. Matt Hanvold, expressed his concerns as well as his house is right next to the Vape shop and his childrens bedrooms are facing it, he made Council aware of the fears that his family has had due to the robbery and would like the Vape business to be closed. He also disclosed that there is constant noise such as vehicles outside parked before the business opens with their vehicle music playing loudly, there are neon lights that stay on

constantly. This business has taken the comfort, calmness and safety of the neighborhood. Casey Wootan asked the Council to please rezone this property back to its original zoning of residential.

City Attorney Rice and Planner Joel Nelson, stated that once a property is zoned Commercial and if it were to go back to a zoning committee for a Residential zoning the Twisted Vapes Business will be grandfathered in unless the business is discontinued or closed for a year.

Councilmember Steiner asked Chief Colombik about the gunfire, the lights, the music from cars playing isn't this not a Public nuisance and Public Safety issue. City Attorney Rice stated that the Police Dept would have to deem this business highly unsafe.

Casey Wootan and all the neighbors next worry is that the Vape business will move into the vacant One Health building or some other time of business that is not safe for neighborhoods or children. They expressed their deep dissatisfaction with the Zoning Committee and the City for allowing this to happen. City Attorney Rice and Planner Joel Nelson responded that at the time of the zoning change it was presented as a boundary change and the existing commercial shop was already there and the zoning committee was not made aware of a Vape business being opened.

- E. APPROVE PITNEY BOWES LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL (\$51.24 annual decrease from last contract amount)

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

- F. APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4664 - (*first reading*) A RESOLUTION APPROVING A REVISED " PARKS AND RECREATION POLICY AND FEE SCHEDULE" FOR THE CITY OF MILES CITY, AND PROVIDING FOR A HEARING THERON.

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

Councilmember Steiner is unsure what changes are being made to this Policy and would like more information. It was discussed that this is just a "first reading" and there will be plenty of time to gather that information.

- G. RESOLUTION NO. 4667 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER WITH INTERSTATE ENGINEERING TO ADDRESS CONTRACTOR COMMENT REVISIONS TO THE FLORENCE STACY MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN PROJECT.

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

Councilmember Huber had questions about the modified reduction in the fountain wall height. Public Utilities Director Speelmon stated that the original plan was a 4X6 size of marble panels, this ended up having to be a special order which would mean extra costs. So it was decided to go with the size that they have and that is why the modification to the wall height.

- H. RESOLUTION NO. 4668 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING A "CHANGE ORDER #001: ADDITIONAL COLUMN SUPPORT" WITH JACKSON CONTRACTOR GROUP, INC., FOR REPAIRS TO CONNORS STADIUM.

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

Chairperson Bartholomew gave the breakdown from the Public Works Director Malenovsky has given her of the funds that have been received. This is the have the columns sealed and painted.

I. APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4670 - A CITY OF MILES CITY CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE MILES CITY GROWTH POLICY 2025

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

J. APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4671 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #007 WITH JACKSON CONTRACTOR GROUP, INC. RELATED TO THE MILES CITY FIRE HALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

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

Councilmember Huber asked why this wasn't presented at the Special Council committee meeting held on Feb 18th, Charlie Lohoff, Jackson Contracting stated that they missed the deadline to provide the proper change order documents. Councilmember Huber asked if there will be more change orders, Charlie Lohoff advised that there is a contingency fund that was put aside so these change orders are the unknowns and there may be.

Councilmember Losey asked what the purpose for the water outlets, Charlie Lohoff said that as of right now there are no outside water outlets on the east side of building, versus having the need for this possibly later on down the road it makes sense to do now while in construction phase. Councilmember Losey would like clarification about the electrical, plumbing and why the 3 orders. Interim Fire Chief Kanduch and Charlie Lohoff gave explanations and reiterated that while in construction phase these are items that will or may be needed down then line, and due to contingency set aside its best to do now versus incur costs later.

K. REVIEW AND DISCUSS SPLASHPAD AND FROG POOL ENGINEERING REPORTS

Chairperson Bartholomew and Councilmember Losey discussed that there are maintenance issues arising with the Frog Pool and Splashpad, a previous Parks employee said the Frog Pool is leaking but when they had an analysis done there were no leaks found. Gave a review of the engineering report, Frog pool not leaking, no leaks found in the foundation of pool, there was a float that was stuck, noticed deferred maintenance to the Splashpad slides, they need to be waxed, these slides costs about 20k per slide. It was requested that the Council needs to be made aware of what steps to insure maintenance to these structures are being done and will be maintained.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm