



CITY OF MILES CITY

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

January 27, 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 and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Councilmember Ed Pulecio
Councilmember Rick Huber-arrived at 6:04 pm due to prior meeting with Water/Sewer
Councilmember Jeni Losey
Councilmember Cody Steiner
Councilmember Kevin Thomason
Councilmember Brooke Bartholomew
Councilmember Don Simpson
Mayor Chris Grenz

ABSENT

Councilmember Dan Scott

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Utilities Director Tom Speelmon, Public Works Director Samantha Malenovsky, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Interim Fire Chief Ed Kanduch, Dispatch Director Lynne Anderson, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder Tamara Ellsworth.

1. REQUEST OF CITIZENS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Atchison, 7405 CastleRock, Colstrip MT with the SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation gave thanks to the City of Miles City for their continuation of contributions to the efforts of SEMDC and he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Grenz and the Council.

2. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES/COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. Regular City Council Meeting 2026 0113

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

B. Human Resource Committee Minutes 2026 0121

Motion made by Councilmember Bartholomew, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey,

Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

C. Finance Committee Meeting 2026 0121

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

3. SCHEDULE MEETINGS

4. STAFF REPORTS & OTHER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Interim Fire Chief Kanduch gave recognition to Fire Fighter Eric Hoff as he has completed his 1 year of service to the Miles City Fire and Rescue Department and expressed Eric Hoff's dedication and work ethics. He then presented to Eric Hoff his official Shield and Badge. Applause of recognition was given by all in attendance.

A. December 2025 Miles City Police Dept report

Police Chief Colombik addressed the Council to see if they had any questions or concerns in regards to the MCPD staff report, to which the Council did not have any. Police Chief Colombik inquired about a Public Safety Committee meeting be put into place to address training and despairing issues that are arising in the Police Department due to many factors.

B. TIFD Minutes 2026 0115

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Chairperson Bartholomew asked Mayor Grenz if he is setting a schedule for specific hours that he will be in office at City Hall, Mayor Grenz replied as of yet no. Chairperson Bartholomew asked Interim Fire Chief an update on the new Fire Build construction and the Engines. Interim Fire Chief Kanduch gave update stating that the sheet rock is going up, garage door openers are getting installed, everything is on schedule and hopefully be able to be in building by June of 2026. Currently looking into engines and looking at grants such as the Tourism Grant and Coal Board Grant. Interim Fire Chief Kanduch stated that him and the City Mechanic went to look at an engine to see if it would be a good fit. Mayor Grenz asked when they looked at this engine and where was this engine located, to which Interim Fire Chief Kanduch replied it was in Nebraska. Mayor Grenz gave the Interim Fire Chief the travel policy for all employees of the City of Miles City and let him know that the Mayor needs to approve any Out of State Travel. Councilperson Steiner inquired if this engine would work with our Underpass, Interim Fire Chief Kanduch stated he does keep in mind the height including the ladder. A conversation ensued about cost and fixes of Ladder trucks.

Councilperson Losey announced that there is a Parks meeting in the Conference Room at 12-2pm on Jan 30th 2026.

Councilperson Steiner asked the Public Works Director about the Park Fees that the Parks meeting have been discussing, he wanted to know if the City of Miles City's Park Fees and Recreation would be in effect for the Parks. Councilperosn Losey stated that the fees have not been discussed in detail and those would not be assessed until something is set forth with a Parks District.

6. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Grenz announced that in training he was made aware the MMIA workman's comp will be ending in June 2026 for the City of Miles City and we will be needing to find a different vendor for this.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. TIFD BOARD/URA PRESENTATION

- B. 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 Thomason, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson. Motion passed 5-2

Voting Yea: Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Simpson

Voting Nay: Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Bartholomew

- C. 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 made by Councilmember Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ORDINANCE 1401 - (*First 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 Pulecio, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson.

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

- B. DISCUSSION ON THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE CITY OF MILES CITY

Mayor Grenz gave an overview about what is currently happening with the Financials of the City of Miles City's departments expenditures. Poor decisions have been made and poor spending has increased and it needs to stop. He is looking into different avenues with the County and asked the Council to reach out to the Commissioners to have a discussion about the Ambulance services and Interim Fire Chief Kanduch requested to be present at this meeting. Mayor Grenz went over the current loans for the Fire department and what is still owing. Craig Dalakow, 814 Wells mentioned that the County does have a burn truck and this could save money.

- C. DISCUSS THE PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCES

City Attorney Rice explained to the Council that the Mayor is interested in having an Ordinance put into place that would require the Council to sign off on nuisances that pertain to property

cleanups. Councilperson Pulecio stated that he felt his would delay the process that is already in effect. Mayor Grenz answered yes and no and basically this ordinance would help out the neighborhoods and essentially put the responsibility on the Council to make these decisions and to bear witness if taken to court. A discussion between Councilmembers and it was decided to just keep the process as is.

D. APPROVE PARK USE PERMITS FOR MCC BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

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

Councilmember Steiner asked the Public Works Director Malenovsky how this fee is determined, she gave many examples of group users applications and how the scheduling process goes for the Organizations that apply. He noticed that there is a \$500 damage deposit and she confirmed that this deposit is returned upon with inspection of the fields after use to determine no damage has been done, if so that deposit goes towards the repairs.

E. RESOLUTION NO. 4659 - A RESOLUTION REVISING HUMAN RESOURCES PART-TIME POSITION JOB DESCRIPTION AND NEW PAY RATE (Human Resource Committee recommends)

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

Councilchair Bartholomew gave an overview to the Council the reason of why this job description is being revised to part time.

F. RESOLUTION NO. 4660 - A RESOLUTION REVISING THE DEPUTY CLERK POSITION DESCRIPTION TO INCLUDE PAYROLL PROCESS AND PAY RATE INCREASE OF \$2.00 (Human Resources Committee recommends)

Motion made by Councilmember Huber to approve and give Retro pay to the Deputy Clerk for the time she has been doing the Payroll, Seconded by Councilmember Simpson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

G. RESOLUTION NO. 4661 - *(First 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 Bartholomew, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Pulecio, Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

H. RESOLUTION NO. 4662 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF MILES CITY AND SDI ARCHITECTS + DESIGN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING BIDDING DOCUMENTS AND ADMINISTERING CONSTRUCTION FOR THE RE-ROOF OF THE CITY'S EXISTING WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

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

Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson

Chairperson Bartholomew asked the Public Utilities Director Speelmon what the costs of \$30k is for, he explained that is based off a rate per hour and to not exceed the quoted \$30k, the whole project would approximately cost \$600k. Mayor Grenz asked why we have the Architects services for these bidding documents, to which the City Attorney Rice informed him that this is State statutes that we have to follow.

I. RESOLUTION NO. 4663 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING A "LEASE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT" WITH SAFE HAVEN BOXES, INC

Motion made by Councilmember Huber, Seconded by Councilmember Pulecio.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Huber, Councilmember Losey, Councilmember Steiner, Councilmember Thomason, Councilmember Bartholomew, Councilmember Simpson
Councilmember Pulecio recused himself from the vote as he is doing the electrical work.

Councilmember Pulecio asked what the cost of this and Interim Fire Chief Kanduch explained that this is being donated by the Jackson Contracting Group and the Outreach Clinic will fund that, if approved then the Clinic will be able to open to the public for contributions. There is an annual cost of \$600 that the Outreach program will be covering.

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

Council meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm