

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06

ADOPTING A CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF “NEWSPAPER” AT LAW

WHEREAS, The City of Mills annually designates a Legal Newspaper for the purposes of publication of legal notices and in compliance with the law of the State of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, The topic of newspapers for purposes of publication of notice was recently a topic of litigation, with that now having been dismissed with the current Mills ordinance therefore being unchallenged and presumed to be valid; and

WHEREAS, The current Mills City Ordinance on publication provides:

2.90.30 Legal Advertisements.

The term “newspaper”, in so far as it is used by the Statutes of the State of Wyoming, requiring publication by municipalities of certain notices and information is undefined. This ordinance, therefore, sets forth the meaning of the terms “newspaper” and publish for the purpose of complying with Wyoming State Statutes by the City of Mills and the matters to be considered by the town in regard to the same.

- A. Whenever possible the City shall take into consideration the circulation of the newspaper when placing notices, with such consideration to consider ultimate circulation, timeliness, and the cost of placing the notice. While cost or circulation need not alone dictate which newspaper is chosen, it shall be a matter that shall be taken into consideration.
- B. Whenever the term “newspaper” is used by a Wyoming State Statute which requires a municipality to place a notice or publication in the same, the city may
 - i. Rely on the common understanding of the meaning of the term “newspaper” as it existed at the time of the first Wyoming Statute to use the same. If this is done, it will require no further act by the City Council in order for that understanding to apply.
 - ii. Adopt, by resolution, the 21st Century understanding of “newspaper” for any particular purpose, which shall mean an electronic publication satisfying the following criteria:
 - a. An electronic publication, to include a website which;
 - b. Is published or maintained on a daily basis, and which;
 - c. Is published for the purpose of distributing information and news in a fashion similar to that of a print newspaper and which;
 - d. Includes Natrona County, Wyoming as part of its routine coverage.
- C. Whenever the term “publish” is used by a Wyoming State Statute which requires a municipality to publish a notice in a “newspaper”, the following shall be presumed to apply:
 - i. “Publish”, in the case of a print newspaper, shall be presumed to mean “printed and distributed”, wherever the statute makes reference to a locality, such as within a municipality or county, unless the city establishes a good and sufficient basis for reading the same in another manner, and records the same my way of a resolution.
 - ii. “Publish”, in the case of electronic media, shall be presumed to mean electronically issued on a website which meets the definition of a “newspaper” as set forth above, which can reasonably be determined to be directed towards or read within a municipality or county.
- D. In any instance in which the city determines to publish a notice in an electronic newspaper, such as is described in 2.90.30(B)ii above, it shall publish the same

on its website and store a copy of the electronic notice for a period of five (5) years, unless a statute, ordinance or resolution requires a longer time period. Publication of a notice in an electronic newspaper may include a active link to the city's publication on its website, which shall suffice for publication as long as it was specifically done for the purpose of giving notice.

E. Should the State of Wyoming amend, repeal or replace the current publication statutes, on whole or in part, to allow for the placement of notices through a centralized electronic system maintained or authorized by the State of Wyoming, the City of Mills shall accordingly elect to use that system in the fashion authorized by the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, The City of Mills hereby designates the following as its legal newspapers for Calendar Year, 2026

- a. The City of Mills shall publish legal notices on its website which it shall further:
 - i. Publish and maintain daily.
 - ii. Distribute news concerning the City on a daily basis free of charge and available to everyone.
 - iii. Link in and post to the City's Facebook page.
 - iv. Post a physical copy at the City Hall and Police Station.
 - v. Email or mail to any requesting party.
- b. When the City chooses to submit print legal notices, it shall do so to the Oil City News.
- c. The City Council reserves the right to add to this designation an electronic journal, should it choose to do so, for 2026, which is an electronic publication, published or maintained on a daily basis, and which is published for the purpose of distributing information and news in a fashion similar to that of a print newspaper and which includes Natrona County, Wyoming as part of its routine coverage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor, Leah Juarez

Councilman, Sara McCarthy

Councilman, Cherie Butcher

Councilman, Tim Sutherland

Councilman, Brad Neumiller

ATTEST:

City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Osborn, City Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City of Mills at a public meeting held on January 13, 2026, and that the meeting was held accordingly to law; and that said Resolution has been duly entered in the record of the City of Mills.

Sarah Osborn
City Clerk