

City Council Meeting  
February 24, 2026

Present: Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Wayne Dudley, Zane Longacre, Jack Rosander and Corrie Hadaller

Also Present: Assistant Police Chief Kris Egan, Zoning/Planning/Code Officer Kami Egan, City Attorney Michelle Millhollin, Public Works Director Pat Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilmember Longacre offered the invocation. City Clerk/Treasurer Richards completed Roll Call.

**Consent Agenda:**

Councilmember Dudley moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Longacre seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of 2/10/26 Regular Meeting
- Claims #32499-32534 \$ 93,669.39
- Payroll Summary 2/13/26 \$116,960.53

**Department Reports:**

Reports were presented by Assistant Police Chief Egan, Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement Officer Egan, City Attorney Millhollin, Public Works Director Zent and City Clerk/Treasurer Richards.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Cemetery Board will be meeting tomorrow. Discussion will be about construction of a pavilion and maintenance/storage shed.

Mayor Williams received a response from BNSF to his letter. They recognize the issues brought up and indicated they will be refunding a portion of the inspector costs paid by the city.

Mayor Williams has submitted a Letter to the Editor to the Independent Press and Billings Gazette in support of NorthWestern Energy's acquisition of a larger share of units 3 and 4 and its generation plan.

A letter of support has been sent to Montana Department of Environmental Quality in regards to the North Plains Connector Project.

Councilmember Rosander and his wife were featured in an article in the *Seattle Times* about Colstrip.

A Task Order to update the Diversification Strategy will be on the next City Council agenda. The city was awarded a Coal Board Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the study.

**Public Comment & Participation:**

Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, reported SEMDC is currently conducting its annual community CEDS Survey. The survey is being conducted online. SEMDC staff is planning on moving into the Business Innovation Center in a couple of weeks. An open house will be held at a later time.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mickey Bidwell, engineer with KLJ Engineering, explained the 2026 Pavement Improvements plan. The improvements are broke down into 4 schedules. Schedule 1 replaces water service lines in the Chisholm/Primrose area, along with a street overlay and sidewalks. Several lots in this area have two water services but it is not necessary to have two so the number of water service lines will be reduced from 142. Schedule 2 is non-structural mill and overlay on several streets. Schedule 3 is structural overlay of Sweetgrass Drive and reconstruction of Laramie Circle. Schedule 4 is for stormwater drainage improvements. The bidding process will be in March. The bid invitation will be broken out for each schedule so if the bids come in much higher than estimated, the City Council can decide whether to award the bids on all, none or a couple of them. A \$381,000 grant request was submitted to the RTA Program but we have not been notified whether we were approved.

**New Business:**

Councilmember Hadaller moved to approve Task Order No. 5 with Great West Engineering for the Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report in the amount of \$100,000.

Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Council Discussion: Public Works Director Zent explained why this report is necessary. Septic dump services will need to be discussed as this is a major concern.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Rosander moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-02, approving the surplus of a police vehicle and donating it to Rosebud County Search and Rescue.

Councilmember Longacre seconded the motion.

Council Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.