

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- MARCH 2, 2026

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Ozark, Schindler, Heitman, Brabeck, and Austin. Council member Koski was absent. Candy Lagerquist, Bob Teskey, Gregg Hunter from Nemont and John Bach from Interstate Engineering were in attendance. City Clerk Amundson and Tori Matejovsky from Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC) attended via Google Meets. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Austin made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for March 2, 2026 in the amount of \$94,237.15, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$324.56, and the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Tori Matejovsky from GNDC told the council that the annual dues go towards funding small business development. The handout they received included a “snapshot” of the economic impact for Glasgow. There are small businesses that were either new or expanding over the last year. They also assisted with a Brownsfield grant that was used towards the cleanup of the Jaycee Building. GNDC will also be hosting the minnow tank, small business competition, in Glasgow on April 30th. All of the programs that GNDC oversees has not changed. They are currently in the process of conducting a housing needs assessment for the region, which should be completed in August and will be shared with each community in the area. In the fall they will “kickoff” their comprehensive economic development strategies.

Council member Ozark made a motion to approve paying the FY 2026 annual GNDC membership dues in the amount of \$3,192.00. The motion was seconded by Council member Brabeck, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Karst asked City Clerk Amundson to review the audit letter and findings for the council. He also told the council that there will not be any hard copies this year, but one can be provided if anyone would like one. City Clerk Amundson said once the audit is approved, then it will be available on the city’s website and it’s also available on the state’s website, since it’s a public document. She mentioned there isn’t much to discuss on the audit, the findings are the same each year, but we were able to remove three (3) of the findings from last year that had to do with the city’s procurement policy and making sure any contractor is not on the suspension and disbarment list. Mayor Karst said the area the auditors want to see changed is the fund the mayor and council are paid out of. City Clerk Amundson explained the solution she suggested to the auditors is that she will create a spreadsheet with a list of the current employees and the fund and account that they are paid out of and allocate a percentage of where they should be paid out of according to their job description and duties to see if some can be reallocated. Council member Austin made a motion approving the fiscal year 2024-2025 audit. The motion was seconded by Council member Schindler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Brabeck made a motion approving the January 2026 financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Schindler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark made a motion to reappoint Todd Young to the Police Commission for another three (3) year term effective March 7, 2026. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman. Council members Ozark and Heitman voted yes; Council members Austin, Schindler, and Brabeck voted no; motion failed.

Unfinished Business – Levee Safety Committee Report – NONE

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel, Water, or Grant. Mayor Karst mentioned Dan Miller inquired on how soon the city is looking at hiring someone for his position when he retires later this year. Council member Brabeck stated the longer the city can have someone training with him, the better it will be, since he has years of knowledge in the cemetery department. Council member Ozark suggested setting a cemetery committee meeting to discuss this. Mayor Karst explained that City Attorney Pekovitch had sent him a letter regarding a bedbug ordinance requested by Council member Schindler. It was stated that it would become too much of a liability for the city.

Department Head Reports:

City Clerk Amundson told the council that the job opening for the public works position closed on the 27th of February, and we have not received any applications. The council would like her to advertise it for another three (3) weeks. Council member Brabeck wanted to know where the advertising was being done at. City Clerk Amundson said at the last council meeting it was decided to publish locally and not in the Billings Gazette or Great Falls Tribune; its on the city’s website, the league website, and also advertised it in the courier and buzz. Council member Brabeck asked if it was a possibility to contact the colleges. Council member Ozark said last time we had reached out to them; we didn’t receive any applications. He then asked John Bach if he had any ideas. He suggested

Montana Rural Water. Mayor Karst will locate the email that had a listing of jobs; he believes it was from commerce. John Bach told the council he will see what it would cost to advertise with the American Public Works Association and let us know.

Mayor Karst mentioned Lee Riddick had driven over a manhole on the southside that had come off and the back wheel of his vehicle had gone in and damaged his truck, but the manhole has been fixed. Vehicles have been moved off of the streets that have been parked for a while, the police department is still working on getting trailers moved. City Grant Writer Byers is working on a grant for fixing the stucco on the Civic Center and possibly the roof, since it's been leaking. The city has received one bid at this time to replace the doors on the city street shop and the water treatment plant. He also talked about the sprinkler system at Hoyt Park, concrete sidewalks around the swim pool, and the possibility of hydroseeding the park instead of laying sod.

Council member Schindler asked Mayor Karst whose responsibility it is to keep the sidewalk in front of the Civic Center shoveled. He said it's the maintenance person for the recreation department.

Mayor Karst said there is a vacant position on the Chamber Board from the city council and he will fill that position for the council. He is working on a proclamation for three (3) gentleman that are turning 100 and one (1) lady who will be turning 104 in August and will be working with Prairie Ridge.

Public Comment: Gregg Hunter from Nemont was in attendance to voice his concerns on the police department switching cell phone companies. He told the council that he was only contacted once while he was in Helena by the Chief of Police on the 20th of March. That was the time that Nemont was converting over from Walling to the Erickson switch and was completed on April 15th. He said that during the switch there would be a time where the towers would only be working at half capacity. He understood that the police department was having issues with their MDTs in their vehicles and Nemont was working with Panasonic on fixing it. Panasonic told Nemont that they weren't going to rebuild their software to work with the regional carriers, but would work with AT&T, T-Mobile, or Verizon, who are major carriers, to get them working. He did not have an issue that the MDTs weren't working and the police department had to find a solution. Gregg's concern was moving the cell phones over from Nemont to T-Mobile. There was no communication with the council, mayor, or Nemont asking them to correct the problem that they didn't know they had. Council member Ozark asked Gregg to explain to him what the MDTs are used for. Gregg said they are a mobile data device in the squad cars and are used for the data base on their computers. Council member Austin said within the city limits, it's very rare for cell phone calls to drop; the further out of town you get, calls can drop. Mayor Karst said he is going to have Council members Ozark, Heitman, and Koski, along with himself to meet with Gregg, or anyone else from Nemont, and Chief Weber to discuss this issue.

Bob Teskey asked if the council was seriously considering the Cherry Creek Subdivision to connect to the city's sewer system. Mayor Karst said there has not been a proposal brought to them at this time, they had just asked the city if it was possible. The city attorney is suggesting that the city does not do this. Bob said the past council has been adamant that the city doesn't offer city services outside of the city limits without annexation. Mayor Karst mentioned he has contacted Glendive and Sidney because they have agreements to provide city services outside of their city limits. They then talked about the current capacity at the lagoon and how any fees for the services would be assessed.

Mayor Karst stated the regular council meeting will be closed, so the city council can enter into an executive session to discuss the potential candidate application for the police chief position. After the discussion, the regular session will be reopened and report given. The regular council meeting was closed at 5:48 p.m.

Mayor Karst reopened the regular council meeting at 6:03 p.m. Council member Ozark reported that the council has decided to interview four (4) of the candidates for the Chief of Police position based on the final application scores. The interviews will be scheduled starting next week. The interview committee will include the full council, City Attorney Pekovitch, and possibly one other person. Mayor Karst mentioned if the first four (4) candidates don't move forward for the second interview, the council will move to the next applications on the list. There is a possibility that the position may have to be advertised again.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor