

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- OCTOBER 20, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Heitman, Ozark, Nistler, and Koski. Council member Austin attended via conference call. Council member Carr was absent. DPW Skubinna and Chief Weber were in attendance. Candy Lagerquist, Rene Clampitt, Kristie Brabeck, Travis and Lizette Lamb, Betty Stone, Darcia Schindler, Bryce and Janice Lawrence, Courtney Anderson, Ruan Rall, and Matt Stevenson were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson and City Attorney Pekovitch attended via Google Meets. The media was represented by Michelle Bigelbach of the Glasgow Courier.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Koski made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for October 20, 2025 in the amount of \$273,989,.89, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$42.75, the minutes of the October 6, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, and Resolution No. 3217 – A Resolution Establishing Budgetary Authority in the Capital Projects Fund for the Receipt and Expenditure of Monies Borrowed from Independence Bank for the Purchase of the Recreation Department Camera System. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Courtney Anderson from Rogue Acres was in attendance to talk to the council about her quails. She handed out some information to the council for them to review. She thanked Mayor Karst for bringing to light the current ordinance regarding fowl in the city limits and hopes that they can work together to enable our town to flourish. She introduced herself and her partner explaining that they are the new owners of Rogue Acres. She told her backstory to the council and why Glasgow means a lot to her. Starting Rogue Acres was her way of giving back to the community who had welcomed her. They work hand in hand with local ranchers to bring fresh food to the table. The type of quails that she raises are used for eggs and meat and take up minimal space in the backyard. They have also partnered with the local 4-H by giving them free eggs, so they can learn how to raise and care for these quail. Since the city's ordinance doesn't allow fowl within the city limits, she would like to work with the council to change it to extend additional opportunities to other families. These quail only require one square foot of space and can lay up to 300 eggs per year beginning at 6 months old. She talked about other cities within the United States that allow these quail within the city limits. Travis Lamb introduced himself and said that he lives across the street from Courtney and supports her endeavor that she has started. He said that he was unaware that she and her partner were even raising the quail in their backyard for at least a year. He only found out because of a neighbor's dog who had gotten out and attacked the quail that were in Courtney's backyard. He told the council that he had researched what the city council's purpose is and a portion of it is to support economic development and the startup of small local businesses. He also stated that these quail are not a nuisance at all. They don't make noise, nor do they smell. He went on to say that as a homeowner he pays the taxes and the house payments on his property, and as long as something he is doing on his property doesn't infringe on the neighboring properties or becomes a nuisance to them, he doesn't see it being an issue with what he has in his backyard. He hopes that something can be done to make this a workable solution for everybody. Kristie Brabeck mentioned that this has gone to a vote to the citizens of Glasgow and has heard both sides and was presented well from both sides. She is a firm believer that they would take care of them and won't have any issues, but there are people who don't take care of their own animals, but they don't belong in town. Travis said that a person shouldn't be judged on what others do, especially those who let their dogs just run. He also stated that the last ballot issue to be voted on was for chickens and not other types of fowl. Courtney told the council that they also own chickens and ducks, but they are located outside of the city limits, because she agreed that they are noisy and larger than the quail she currently owns. Their coups are larger and require more work to maintain. Kristie mentioned the city also has a lot of other ordinances that aren't being enforced because there aren't enough personnel and don't have the background to be policing stuff like this. They also can't keep up with what needs to be taken care of now, such as large vehicles, parking on sidewalks, and weedy lots. Mayor Karst told those in attendance that before this meeting, the ordinance committee met and reviewed the current ordinance and City Attorney Pekovitch did go through and expand it to be more inclusive; right now, it just states fowl and if you look in the dictionary fowl does include quail, so right now it is illegal to own them within the city limits. He also said after the recommendation comes to the council, they will have the opportunity to change it. Council member Heitman asked Courtney since she has chickens and ducks outside the city limits, is there anyway to include the quail out there. Courtney said there is because they are winter hardy, but they are much smaller and are bred for their hardiness, so it's easier to keep an eye on them closer to home. Council member Ozark said he was one who had pushed to put the chickens on the ballots it was a contentious issue and the people of Glasgow don't want them in town. He also stated that he is in agreeance about the issue with the dogs running at large. Courtney believes the biggest thing would be to educate the public on the type of quail she is raising. Council member Ozark agreed with the educating of the public and the city council, then it would be up to the council if this is something they would want to move forward with again. Kristie suggested starting with Madelyn House on how to move forward with the quails, since she was the one who brought the petition to allow chickens in town to the city council to have it included on the ballot.

Matt Stevenson was in attendance to present his proposal on upgrading the City of Glasgow's website. He said that he had met with Council member Koski and City Clerk Amundson to discuss the current website. He also stated that most members of the council and the community would agree that the current website isn't user friendly and could

use some assistance and reformatting. Council member Koski is in favor of upgrading the website; she is also going to reach out to City Grant Writer Byers to apply for grant funding to assist with the cost of the upgrade. Council member Ozark wanted to know who will maintain the updates to the website. Matt said that he can do the updates, but the city staff will also be trained if daily updates are needed. Mayor Karst asked if there will be a monthly fee for Matt to update the website. Matt said after the website is revised, that can be discussed in further detail depending on how often updates need to be made or information uploaded to the website.

Council member Nistler made a motion approving June, July and August 2025 financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Council member Koski stated that TBID will be paying for all the work to be completed at Smith Bike Park to install new electrical service and the TBID board is asking the city to pay for the electricity each month since it is a city park. Mayor Karst asked if it would be a possibility to be included in the lighting district that is currently there. City Clerk Amundson said that since it's not an actual street light, it would probably be metered differently. Council member Koski will contact Northwestern Energy to see if it's possible to connect to the Northside Fire Hall for the electrical service or if it would have to be metered separately. This will be on the November 3rd agenda for further discussion and decision.

Unfinished Business – Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna reported that the next meeting will be held on November 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. and should have updates from DNRC and FEMA.

Committee Reports: There was no report for Cemetery. Mayor Karst said that Adam accepted the Interim Supervisor position and that started today. The open water/wastewater operator position is being advertised. Chief Weber said that Grant Writer Ryan is working on a budget adjustment for the additional money that has been awarded for VOCA and the STEP program will be funded again this year, but they are waiting to hear when the money will be released. Council member Koski said that she is working with City Grant Writer Byers on funding through the Montana Main Street Program for updating the city's growth policy and downtown revitalization policy. Mayor Karst said that the ordinance committee met before the council meeting and will have two (2) recommendations and asked Council member Heitman to report on the meeting. The first ordinance was already talked about earlier in the meeting regarding the fowl and the second was for the sidewalks and to include a process for a variance if the property owner would want to do something different than a standard sidewalk.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Skubinna said the water service has been restored on North Jet today and the project went well.

Chief Weber said he will meet with Street Foreman Runnigen and DPW Skubinna to come up with a traffic plan to close off Aberdeen and Bonnie again this year for Halloween. He's also noticed an uptick in the dog calls this past week and the issues that it's causing. Also, since the police department is receiving additional money from VOCA, they will look at hiring the second Victim Witness Advocate that became vacant after McKenzie left. He has received Alex's resignation letter that is effective November 8, 2025, so there will be another opening in the police department soon. Council member Koski asked what time Aberdeen and Bonnie Streets will be closed off and she will put it on the Chamber and TBID's website. The streets will be closed off from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Chief Weber will also have an advertisement in the Courier.

Council member Heitman said that the fire department had two calls last week. One was a truck fire over at Fossums and the other was another vehicle fire in front the of the City-County Library.

City Attorney Pekovitch said the FWP grant was closed out today with the deed restriction that they had requested. There are currently two (2) pending vicious animal cases going on and a lot of DUI's over the last month. She will be in town on Thursday for court and will stop and meet with the departments. Council member Koski requested her to stop by the Chamber office to meet with her about a TBID issue.

City Clerk Amundson let the council know that the advertisement for the open water/wastewater operator position is on the Montana League of Cities and Towns website, Montana Rural Water website, was emailed to the Buzz, and it's up on the city's website.

Mayor Karst said the swimming pool is being winterized and the water in it has been reduced and working on having Corland Construction finish up their project punch list. The camera system has been installed in the Civic Center and over at the pool.

Council member Koski said she is working on grant funding up to \$50,000.00 for Montana's 250th year celebration for the city's fireworks. Council member Ozark suggested asking City Grant Writer Byers to see if there is any funding available for an Animal Control officer. Mayor Karst mentioned he had one more item to bring up. He had asked the office staff to come up with some suggestions for the water committee to review on how better to handle delinquent water bills.

Public Comment: Rene Clampitt inquired about the Valley Court Apartment claims, since this meeting there was only one in the amount of \$42.75, what about all the utilities and other bills for them. She also asked about the June, July, and August 2025 financials, since June was last fiscal year. City Clerk Amundson explained how the Valley Court Apartment claims work. She said the electricity bills come out the end of each month and are paid at the first council meeting of the next month, that's why that amount is higher; and the second bill that comes through is for pest control and that gets paid after the 2nd council meeting of the month. She then went on to explain why the June 2025 financials are just now being approved. Since it's the end of the fiscal year, she has tons of year end closing entries that need to be completed and to make sure everything balances and to get the financial statements ready for the auditors. Then for July and August, she needs to wait for the budget to be set and approved, then she has time to review the financials to make sure everything is where it's supposed to be, get any bank reconciliations completed, and then it is brought in front of the council for their approval and they are available to the public as soon as they are brought to the council.

Candy stated that notification for the break behind Lawrence Car Wash on Wednesday took awhile to be received. She received initial notification from a customer who was trying to use water and there wasn't any. DPW Skubinna did come by later that day. She was notified on Thursday that the water would be shut off around 8:00 am on Friday and when her mom went down around 7:30 on Friday morning to shut the car wash down properly, the water was already shut off at 7:00 am. There was no notification and two pumps had been used and are now damaged, but there needs to be a different way of communicating. There would not have been an issue to have the car wash shut down earlier if they would've been told. She is upset about the damage to their property, but does not appreciate a text stating that she is the only one out of 10 businesses that is complaining all the time and it's getting old. There business is ran off of water and if there isn't going to be any, they need to know. She said there will be a claim coming to the city for the damages to their pumps.

Council member Koski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor