

**** Page 1** A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026**

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026, The Three Forks City Council met at the Three Forks City Hall at 206 S. Main Street and via Zoom. (Zoom is a virtual meeting tool which the City began using due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines and continues to use to encourage participation from the safety of one's home.) The meeting was chaired by Mayor Randy Johnston, who called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Council members Ed Tharp, Gene Townsend, Robert Buchholz, Reagan Hooton, (Warren) Garret Buchanan, and Alex Blackburn were present. City Attorney Susan Swimley, City Treasurer Kelly Smith, City Clerk Crystal Turner, Gallatin County Sheriff Office Sergeant Desmond Doonan, Fire Chief Keith Aune, Assistant Chief Charles Eastty, Three Forks Rodeo Arena Chairman Casey Elmore and Board member Adam Miller were present at City Hall. No staff attended via Zoom.

The record reflected a quorum with the attendance of six (6) Council members and the meeting was held.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag was led by Mayor Johnston. Mayor Johnston reminded the audience that this meeting was audio- and video-recorded and may be streamed via Zoom and on our Facebook page.

GUESTS: George Chancellor, Whitney Carr (Three Forks Chamber), Rick & Jenna Thompson, Gloria Howland were present at City Hall. Jesse DuPont (of ReadiTech), Chase Likes (of Visionary), Jeremy Larson (of ReadiTech), and Bob Duchon and Tom Duchon (attorneys representing Three Forks to draft telecom ordinances) were present via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS (For items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments or concerns about items not on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Claims Paid due to Timeliness on 1/27/2026 in the Amount of \$80,905.31
- b. Claim Paid to Mail Utility Bills on 1/30/2026 in the Amount of \$213.53
- c. City Claims to be Paid
- d. Three Forks Rodeo Arena Claims to be Paid
- e. Council Minutes of 1/13/2026
- f. Zoning & Planning Board Minutes of 11/20/2025
- g. Glacier Bank Pledged Securities through 12/31/2025
- h. Manhattan Bank Pledged Securities through 12/31/2025
- i. Annual ACH Agreement with Manhattan Bank

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- j. Service Agreement with First Due for 9-1-1/Calls for Service for the Three Forks Volunteer Fire Department Effective 7/1/2026-6/30/2027
- k. Change Order #4 with O'Keefe Drilling Decreasing the Contract Price by \$199,609.93, for a total Contract Price of \$584,866.17 for the Water Project
- l. Service Agreement with Red Eye Rodeo to Provide Stock for Junior & High School Rodeo on April 25 & 26, 2026
- m. Cash Report and Journal Vouchers from 11/7/2025 to 2/5/2026
- n. Draw Packet #39 for the Water Project for a Total of \$146,010.75: MCEP #8 for \$118,610.83, Minimum Allocation Grant #23 for \$20,587.60, Local Fiscal Recovery #30 for \$136, and Local Funds #4 for \$6,676.32
- o. Draw Packet #9 for the Jefferson River Flood Mitigation Project for \$32,718.20

Councilman Buchholz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion. There were no public questions or comments.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Swearing in of Firefighter Released from Probation

Chief Keith Aune and Assistant Chief Charles Eastty introduced themselves and said they would like to start a new process of swearing in firefighters when they come off probation. Asst. Chief Eastty swore in Rick Thompson. Mr. Thompson raised his right hand and took the Three Forks Volunteer Fire Department Oath.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Decision to Allow the Three Forks Chamber to Construct a Visitor's Center Building at John Q. Adams Milwaukee Railroad Park

Whitney Carr introduced herself to the Council and explained she does not have all the information, as she was asked to present last minute, but she understands another Chamber Board member has met with the City Property Committee to see if there is any City interest in allowing the Chamber to place a building in John Q. Adams Milwaukee Railroad Park. This building would serve as a Visitor's Center as well as the Chamber office.

Garret Buchanan explained he attended the Committee meeting where they had directed several questions for the Chamber to get answers on several questions prior to them considering a long-term lease. "Once an Executive Director is hired, it could be manned more often by the Chamber," Whitney Carr said. Alex Blackburn added the Committee also questioned a parking plan or any required spaces [by the State for their

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building type]. Kelly Smith said to inform Ms. Carr, "Being a public building, you may also be required to have an ADA parking space."

Gene Townsend said, "Speaking on behalf of the Three Forks Historical Society, we do not have any issues with sharing the space. My wife is the President, and I am the Secretary. We feel it would increase our visitor numbers to the Depot museum, but we are also concerned about parking. From my own perspective, I worry about people parking on the trail. I had to remind some of the Historical Society members that we do not own the park; the City does. I don't think this is something that would stop the building, but parking would definitely need to be addressed," Gene added. There was discussion about putting the Visitor's Center at this end of town rather than other suggested locations. Garret Buchanan agreed and said he needed more answers before he could give his recommendation. Questions needing answers were: occupancy, bathrooms, parking, "So if we could see a few more of those questions answered, I would be willing to continue this conversation," Garret said. The Mayor recommended the Chamber get a building design or plan, and speaking with the State Building Department first.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: The Mayor amended the agenda to have the Wireless presentation and Ordinances discussed at the same time.

Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board Presentation on Seating, Removing the Existing South Bleachers and Replacing them with New Bleachers Capable of 750 Seats, Including Handicap Ramps and Additional Staircases and VIP Seatings, total Project Cost of up to \$425,000, and Requesting Council Permission to Apply for a Loan for \$310,000

Adam Miller, Treasurer of the Rodeo Board, told the Council, "We still need more bleachers. The new ones were installed in 2020, so we are still working on paying that off: we have been into that loan 6 years. We want to borrow more, pay off the existing loan before the first payment on a new loan is due, and keep the payments the same as we have now since we know we can afford that."

Adam said the proposed bleacher set would add 750 seats, so would hold more people in seats than the existing wing holds. Attendance size could be around 3,400/night. "Saturday is usually a bigger crowd, which can fluctuate, and last year we held about 3,000. We cut it off at that number because we started dealing with grumpy people who paid entry but couldn't find a place to sit. Our old bleachers are not ADA compatible, there is no railing when you are walking up or down, you must step over each bleacher seat row," Adam explained. "That's why the request of the loan is \$310,000 on behalf of the city, but the Rodeo would service the debt on it. We could have this [construction] done this year before the July rodeo, and the rest of the project cost (up to \$425,000) would come from cash in CDs and savings," he said. Adam said he has asked them to

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connect the top, remove the proposed ramp and install an additional staircase on the left aerial drawing, and then give us a final cost and work with Sourcewell. We say up to \$425,000 just in case there are incidentals like review of the contract or removal of the old bleachers.

Mayor Johnston asked what the existing wooden bleachers hold. Adam answered 280 if you base one seat at 18 inches, but typically hold more like 200.

Robert Buchholz asked about interest rates from six years ago. Adam explained, "The interest rate was 1% when the loan started. We have been paying on it up to 6% (in 2020 when we didn't even hold a rodeo because of covid)." Alex Blackburn asked what this could do to the City's borrowing power? "Does it put us in to a bind that we couldn't get another loan?" Kelly Smith answered, "Potentially, but when we did it before, that was the same issue. It only affects the General Fund; water and sewer loans are considered differently."

Casey Elmore said these bleachers are nice because they would add a walkway down the middle which would allow you out to the back, "So we'd have another exit, and we get two more VIP sections at the top of the bleachers with a connection to the existing 2,400 seating bleacher set." Kelly Smith commented the quotes received do not say they are from Sourcewell. Robert asked if the size of this project requires the City to go out to bid. Kelly explained about Sourcewell and what they do. Adam said the company still thinks they could have this done by early June, which is several weeks before the rodeo.

There was no further discussion nor public comment.

Councilwoman Hooton moved that we approve the Rodeo Board to apply for a loan for up to \$310,000. Councilman Blackburn seconded the motion. Adam Miller added the Board may need to amend their budget for the year, and the Council would see that later as well. Crystal Turner asked if the motion also means a maximum project cost of \$425,000. Reagan Hooton said yes, and agreed to amend her earlier motion. Alex Blackburn amended his second.

Motion Passed 5:0 - Gene Townsend abstained as he is on the Rodeo Board.

Gallatin Wireless Introduction on Upcoming Fiberoptic Project in and Around Three Forks

Jesse DuPont with Gallatin Wireless Internet and Jeremy Larson of REDItech introduced themselves and said they are still in the planning stage of being able to provide fiber to every home in Three Forks, outside of the city limits of Three Forks as well. "We did get an ARPA grant for this project which does have a timeline to be completed by August 31, 2026. Service provided to each home could be up to 2G. This is called 'Underground Planting', mostly in the alleys. We would be in

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the back alleys, pedestals in the yard near where the telephone poles are then drop to each home if they request it. There would be no upfront cost to the customer.

Gene Townsend asked, "Will I need to work with another company to hook up to my home?" Jeremy answered, "No, we would work with you to get your permission to bring it to your house right then if you wanted to." Gene asked if he did not want to get it done now, but decided to in six months, would it be too late? Jeremy answered no, but you may have to pay connection costs outside of this project. "This fiber-to-the-home is like a wireless connection, which is an optical solution that delivers fiber to the house," he said.

Robert Buchholz explained 5G is more of a cell phone term, where fiber-to-the-home is a piece of glass fiber that your home is connected to, far faster than any satellite. He asked where the infrastructure on the back end, the data center, so to speak, is going to be? Jeremy said there is a new provider that already came through Three Forks about a year ago, and we will grab that, which goes to Billings, and then Lumen's goes to Bozeman. "Once we get to Billings, we are in Granite Towers and get our internet from there, which extends to Denver, Seattle, and beyond. It will be robust," Jeremy said. He added they could go higher in gigabytes, but never over 8G. "We have dedicated fiber too so if you really wanted that, you could get that to your business as well," he added. Ed Tharp asked, "All that is all at no cost to the customer?" Many answered that there will be a monthly cost, but no upfront cost if the customer connects during the project. Reagan Hooton asked how deep they will be when you dig in the alley. Jeremy answered the City has stated it wants them to be between 36- and 48-inches.

Mayor Johnston asked when it will start. Susan Swimley replied that we are working diligently in the background to get contracts in place for this project, but they are also waiting for their ARPA contract from the State of Montana. Gene Townsend asked if we have a franchise on this, like we used to do in the past for cable tv. Susan answered we are working on that as well. Kelly Smith added that it is a non-exclusive franchise agreement though. Ed Tharp asked what the price would be per month. Jesse DuPont said the range offered will be around \$35 to \$150/month, depending on plans. Alex Blackburn asked that when they go through people's yards, what is the projected depth? Jeremy answered 12-18 inches. Alex asked if that is entrenched and dropped or bored? Jesse said a slit through the lawn that is roughly an inch wide, so after half a year of growing seasons, you cannot see it anymore. Alex asked if there would be any remediation, "Is that on the homeowner or you, the installer, to repair if a sprinkler line is hit for instance?" Jesse said they would do locates but sprinkler lines are typically made of plastic and do not come up on locates. "But generally speaking, we

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don't want to plow through a yard and leave it a mess for the homeowner. That's not good for our business, our contractors will work with you as a homeowner, if you know a sprinkler system to get those ID'd ahead of time." Jesse added that they have been in Montana a long time and the plan is to continue to be, so want to leave a good feeling for the customers.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing Decision on a First Reading of an Ordinance Creating Title 11, Chapter 29: Regulations for the Use of the Right-of-Way by Providers of Telecommunications Services

Bob Duchen and Tom Duchen introduced themselves to the Council. Then they asked Susan Swimley to provide a synopsis of the ordinances if the Council agrees to that rather than having the Mayor read all seventeen pages of it into the record. The Council said, "Yes, please."

Susan provided the purpose of this is to establish policy concerning telecommunications providers and service providers. It will apply to all applicants in a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with State and Federal law, while ensuring the City's right-of-way will not be degenerated and will be repaired after installation, and to protect the public health, general safety of our residents. She noted it is important for the Council to look at the definitions in Section 2.

Subsection I defines Telecommunications as the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in form or content of the information sent or received. Subsection K defines Telecommunications Service as the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of facilities used.

Section 3 establishes the authorities for application fees and reimbursements. Section 4 gives notice of the business license requirement. Section 5 establishes the requirements for a permit before beginning work. Section 6 sets out the various components necessary for complete application. Section 7 establishes the traffic control. Section 8 establishes the terms and conditions for work under this ordinance, such as A: all work is subject to inspection; B: requirements addressing open trenches; D: unless otherwise stated in the permit the duration of a permit is 90 days; G: limits the total number of open permits to six so your staff does not have to mark, inspect, review, etc. all the town at once. Section 8H sets out in detail the telecommunication provider's requirements for reimbursement regarding fees, costs and expenses incurred by the City on any corrections. Section 9 addresses the need to obtain a franchise agreement, which is authorized by a separate section of law. Section 10 allows for the seeking a lease of City land outside

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of the right-of-way. Section 11 sets legal relief available to the City for violating the ordinance. Section 12 establishes that the fees authorized in this ordinance are not taxes. Section 13 says we can still use the right-of-way. Section 14 sets the authority for these ordinances is enacted. Section 15 covers enforcement. Section 16 confirms all work must meet State and Federal law. Section 17 says you will use 811 to locate utilities. Section 18 establishes that all facilities are to be designed and installed to minimize the disruption of the public rights-of-way. Section 19 prohibits damage to right-of-way and public and private property. Section 20 requires notifying the City in the event of an emergency. Section 21 requires maintenance of facilities. Section 22 addresses the relocation and removal of telecommunications. Section 23 addresses moving a building. Section 24 allows the City, after 30 days' notice, to remove unauthorized telecommunication facilities. Section 25 allows the City to relocate those in a public right-of-way in the event of an emergency. Section 26 says we are not responsible for damage unless we do the damage. Section 27 requires restoration of the right-of-way. Section 28 provides the City with specific communication in regard to the ordinance, inspecting books and records. Section 29 allows others to use their fiber. Section 30 says insurance is required. Section 31 is indemnification. Section 32 sets limitations on damages. Section 33 requires a security fund in the amount of \$50,000 or such other amount as determined by the Mayor. Section 34 requires a construction bond. Section 35 requires coordination of construction activities with the City. Section 37 addresses underground construction and boring notice. Section 37 allows for the assignment of a permit if they sell the company in the middle of the project, they are required to continue. Section 38 requires providers to comply with all safety requirements of the law. Section 39 allows the City to provide additional access we can require that. Section 40 allows City to direct correction work if needed. Section 41 requires restoration and a 2-year warranty. Section 42 requires trees and landscaping to be repaired. Section 43 allows the City to mitigate impacts of above ground wires and facilities that create a hazard of adverse visual impacts. Section 44 authorizes the City to collect fines and penalties. Section 45 is the severability clause, which we include in everything. Section 46 says if there are conflicts between this and any other City ordinance, this one prevails.

Robert Buchholz asked if one permit could cover multiple locations or just one home? Susan Swimley answered that it would be negotiable between the installer and the City. Garret Buchanan asked what indemnification was, and Susan defined it.

She said she would like to know if the public had any public comment, then said she would address Crystal, Kelly, and the Council's feedback on those public comments. She thanked Visionary for providing their comments. "They took our proposed ordinance and dropped comments into a

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draft via track changes," Susan informed the Council. She then read each of those into the record (see packet). She noted that no applicant is paying for the drafting of this ordinance. "This is all City money that you committed in your budget to be spent on drafting this ordinance. The permit, there is a form which no one has paid for the drafting of that permit form either, but if an applicant wants to amend the permit form and draft something outside of that, we could bill the applicant for those amendments. They are working in our streets, which are contracts to be drawn up, so we can bill for that time. As we do with all fees and agreements, we will break it down. What we have done with the current project, we anticipated our time and included that in the draft franchise agreement which is still in negotiation. We are not imposing random fees; those are based on hourly rates. I don't like putting fees in the ordinances because in 10 years, let's say the City Attorney's fee will not be the same. I would like you to look at this and decide if you wish to change that language, amend it, remove it altogether, but I recommend you leave it as is."

Garret Buchanan asked if this is the same methodology we have used in the past? Susan Swimley answered yes. Garret and Reagan Hooton would like to leave it as is. Alex Blackburn verified that these would be broken down in a case-by-case manner, so should we add that in? Crystal Turner asked if that was necessary since nothing is changing in the draft.

Susan stated she was unsure who provided this comment (Crystal Turner said the comment was from Visionary), but for Part 6 applications, subsection C.2 - there is a comment that we should add "according to common industry standards". She explained that the term "common practice" means we are regulated in Montana by State agencies, like how many feet away a water main must be from a sewer main, from a power line or a gas line. She recommended to leave "common industry standards" as is, unless Chase Likes from Visionary can provide more information to clarify.

Public Comment: Chase Likes, from Visionary Broadband, said he unfortunately does not have the same expertise that Tom and Bob have in this world, so he will get back to you on it.

Susan continued that there is another comment to #8.D, which she explained State law allows us to collect fees to for our time, but not make money. Regarding the comment to #8.F regarding "at least monthly" (page 6), Visionary commented that this should be limited to current active projects only. Susan said, "I agree with that but don't want to shorten it. I would add more actually to read, "Upon completion of the project, which shall include full restoration and payment of full security, permittee shall file as-builts showing how everything is constructed as well as a map, aerial buildout and per linear foot

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distances and locations for all, in an electronic format specified and acceptable to the City, and then filing under this provision shall cease." Garret Buchanan asked if that language would still be interpreted as during the warranty period, or after the warranty period you get a final report. Susan said they may submit "no change" but she would prefer it still is submitted monthly.

Susan continued regarding #8.H graffiti, "*...The provider shall reimburse the costs incurred by the City for graffiti removal.*" We could ask them to pay for that. Visionary's comment is they do not think the provider should be responsible for graffiti on the pedestals. "I think since we are allowing them to be in our right-of-way, who pays for cleanup? It's certainly a crime, Law Enforcement could find the artist, and we can ask the courts for cleanup costs. But for me, it's the *what happens in the meantime?* My initial thought was *No, we can clean it up.* But then I thought it's their pedestal they own it, it's in our right-of-way and they should clean it up." Garret Buchanan said they are responsible for the functionality of the box, and the maintenance of them, so that seems reasonable. Alex Blackburn asked if the City found graffiti, would we send them written notice and then give them, how long to clean it up? Susan replied that the way it is written, we would clean it up and they reimburse us for that. "I need feedback though what the Council thinks about it." Robert Buchholz said, "It's their infrastructure, so if it's found they should clean it up." Susan asked if the Council would like to give them notice and come clean it up? Alex thinks so or at least require them to cover their boxes in a material that would not allow this to happen. Susan suggested to amend #8.H to include, "The City will provide the telecommunications provider notice of what needs to be prepared and give 30 days to remediate it, and if not remediated, we would be able to do it and bill it back."

#8.J (page 6) states that when an opening is made in a yard on private property, it shall be promptly restored to the same or better condition, and if they fail, the City would fix it and bill them; payment would be remitted in 10 days with an itemized receipt. "The comment is that this is an issue between the private property owner and the installer," Susan said and recommends leaving it in. "This goes back to the early days of installation, which Alex mentioned previously tonight. They did the work, the fence fell over and they left. Now we are leaving a citizen whose property has been disturbed and we are leaving them to chase a provider to fix a yard, a fence, or a gate." Alex said the origin of work starts in the right-of-way, which is the City's, and then transfer onto private land. Gene thinks we ought to leave it. Garret agreed this gives the City an opportunity to help the citizens who may not have the means or the wherewithal to chase after a provider.

Susan continued with comments on, "11-29-22.B states 60 days, they have asked for 90 days." Robert said he believes 60 days is sufficient, with

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the ability to request an extension. Susan stated the extension already exists. Robert stated that if you do it in the middle of December, and it is 40-below, you cannot get into it for more than 60 [days]. It was agreed to leave this as is, with the option for extension which is provided elsewhere.

"Regarding 11-29-27.F Visionary says 10 days is short and suggested 30 days is reasonable," Susan reported. Crystal Turner commented that the delivery time for US mail often takes ten days just to mail from one PO box in Three Forks (which goes to Billings for sorting and then returns) to another PO box in Three Forks. Change to 30 days.

Regarding 11-29-33.A, "How long should a security fund be kept?" Susan asked. Garret asked if this would pay for the removal of infrastructure that was in the wrong spot? Susan answered maybe if it was causing a drainage problem? Garret thought perhaps not for perpetuity of this infrastructure, "Five years after the warranty expires, this would give us enough time." Alex and Robert nodded in agreement. Robert said he could not replace one block of fiber for \$50,000. Susan said that is where this security fund starts, "It could be more, and we'll get to B, which says that the provider will have to replenish it in 14 days if it gets used. On B. the comment says *The City could go willy nilly and use that money?*" Gene and Garret agree with Susan's recommendation and keep it.

Susan continued with 11-29-41, the comment is six months max. Crystal Turner asked if a year would be better, because we run through seasons in Montana. Susan replied, "I don't have a problem with 2-years, and this could be a pretty extensive area." Robert thinks 2-years is good. Garret said to leave at 2-years.

Councilman Buchholz moved to approve ordinance #413-2026, an ordinance creating Title 11, Chapter 29 Regulations for the Use of the Right-of-Way by Providers of Telecommunications Services. With the amendments as discussed. Councilwoman Hooton and Councilman Blackburn seconded the motion at the same time. There was no other public comment.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Public Hearing and Decision on a First Reading of an Ordinance Creating Title 11, Chapter 30: Small Cell Regulations

Susan Swimley read the title and provided a summary of the complete ordinance. Susan ran through a brief summary like she did on Chapter 29's public hearing. She stated Section 1 covers the purpose and intent is to establish a policy for the City to service small cell regulations. "Section 2 is the definitions, and I'd like to draw your attention to O, which defines small cell and small wireless facilities. This is to find balance between the different types of wireless which may be provided. Section 3 are general provisions, which lists exempt facilities; B

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further specified facilities subject to this ordinance; C provisions and components of what we need in an application; D that permits are required; E effective time of the permit(s); F that maintenance or repairs will be required; G covers bonds; H requires co-locations so we don't have these all around town and they will be organized; I states designs; J lists other requirements to they can be attached to existing posts/poles, similar to the City other zoning standards. For instance, if one is proposed on a pole next to a brick building, there may be a kind of rust color to be used. L is general standards; M addresses noise, because they can hum and make noise and a vibration; N addresses traffic control; O permit required to work in the right-of-way; P requires as-built drawings; Q requires adherence to safety; R talks about interference; S requires 811 locating to be used; T requiring permit compliance; U talks about restoration to the same or better condition; V talks about the reports required by FCC are being met; W requires inspections; X requires maintenance; Y is our indemnification clause; Z requires insurance. Then, we move on to Section 4, which defines Additional Requirements. D limits five applications at a time; E are the design standards. F: I would like to point out that these permits will not require Council approval - they will be staff permitted; G is site development map; H covers public notice; I states that notification is required to adjacent property owners. J is the accessory equipment; K states you cannot using decorative poles to set this stuff up unless authorized by the City; L talks about distances between cell facilities. Section 5 says no deviations unless you obtain a variance. Section 6 has other laws, appeals, enforcement, defines where lawsuits get filed, and any other conflicts and how we can address them. And last, Section 7 is the severability clause," Susan quickly covered.

Susan gave a huge shout out to Bob Duchen and Tom Duchen about getting the City ready and to this point. Susan said, "They provided a presentation at a conference I attended, and I just knew we needed to have them help us get these regulations drafted." Bob and Tom thanked Susan and the City staff and said this was a team effort.

Councilman Blackburn moved the passage of Ordinance #414-2026, an ordinance of the City of Three Forks, Montana, establishing Chapter 30: Small Cell Regulations to Title 11 Zoning Regulations of the City Code.
Councilman Buchholz seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Gallatin County Sheriff Sgt. Doonan reported 177 calls for service in January, "And in February, we have just 54 so far. This is probably due to less motor vehicle accidents with the better weather we have had this winter."

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City Clerk Crystal Turner reminded the Council there is an Executive Forum meeting in Livingston if anyone is interested in attending, as well as she informed the Council Montana Department of Transportation emailed her stating they are seeking input on an I-90 corridor meeting. "I don't think just me, or Steve, or any other staff should attend. It's a 13-month project that they say will take about 9 meetings, which can be attending remotely. Perhaps we could take turns and ensure Three Forks has a voice at the table?" Alex Blackburn, Reagan Hooton, and Garret Buchanan all said they would be willing to attend a couple meetings each.

City Treasurer Kelly Smith did not have anything to report.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES (if any)

There were no Council Committee updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no Unfinished Business updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS (For items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments or concerns that were not on the agenda.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnston said he wants to get with the Streets Committee before 3/1 (Reagan, Ed, and Garret) to discuss an upcoming patching and chip seal project. "This would be the streets the Water Project just finished up this fall, to protect those roads," he said. "Bob [Crosiar] has drawn a map of where we need to do patching and things, and then get with Kelly and Crystal to get a chip coat started on the area that was under construction for the water project this past year."

Alex Blackburn thanked the Mayor for taking him and Robert Buchholz out for a tour of the facilities. "It really helps get a good understanding of what we are doing at the City," he said. Robert added it really helped him to get places/names understood of what we are discussing.

Reagan Hooton said she wants to get the ball rolling to see if we plant trees this year, planning on how to get them watered. "I don't know if the Parks Committee needs to meet, or can we just ask you [directed to the Mayor], to have the staff water new trees, or should we talk to Steve [Johnston] directly. Maybe they need a tank, a pump, or a schedule defined?" she said. Mayor Johnston said he just needs to set it up with Public Works and wants to ensure that whatever trees we

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plant, gets enough water for 2-years to survive. Gene Townsend asked if those tree bags work well. Reagan said she has used the bags, and they are like \$20 and work well. They do not spill water onto the sidewalk or anything.

The next meeting will be on February 24, 2026, and will have the following items:

- Public Hearing and Decision on a Second Reading of an Ordinance Creating Title 11, Chapter 29: Regulations for the Use of the Right-of-Way by Providers of Telecommunications Services
- Public Hearing and Decision on a Second Reading of an Ordinance Creating Title 11, Chapter 30: Small Cell Regulations

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Tharp. Seconded by Councilman Buchanan. Meeting was adjourned 8:18P.M. without a vote.

Randy Johnston, Mayor

Crystal Turner, City Clerk