

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, November 3, 2025

7:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Art Bettge, Bryce Blankenship, Drew Davis, Sandra Kelly, Hailey Lewis, Julia Parker, Gina Taruscio

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Amanda Argona, David Schott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Local Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION

Veterans Day

Mayor Bettge read the proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council October 20, 2025 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker

Blankenship moved and Kelly seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

None offered.

3. Public Comment (limit 15 minutes)

Cierra Valentine (Moscow) requested more dog parks within the City, particularly closer to downtown.

4. Moscow Farmers Market Halloween Costume Contest Presentation

Argona provided photos and awards to all the winners of the Farmers Market Halloween costume contest.

5. Citizen Commission Report - Moscow Tree Commission – David Schott / Ellis Eifert

Schott introduced Ellis Eifert, chair of the Tree Commission. Eifert provided a list of the Commission members, the mission statement and duties. The Commission held the annual seedling giveaway as well as the annual Arbor Day Celebration at Berman Creekside Park with Paradise Creek Regional High School students. Moscow received the Tree City USA award for the 32nd consecutive year and the Growth Award for the 24th year. The Commission had three articles in the utility billing newsletter. This next year they will be working on contractor tree pruning education and tree service certification.

6. Request for Exception from Moscow City Code Section 10-3-3 to Permit an Indoor Airsoft Facility (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Under Moscow City Code Section 10-3-3, it is unlawful for any person to discharge firearms or weapons of any kind or description within the City; this Code Section shall include hand guns, rifles, pellet guns, air rifles, BB guns, sling shots, flippers, bows and arrows, and other projectiles. Section 10-3-4 of Moscow City Code, provides the Council with the authority to grant an exception to this prohibition in fixed localities and under fixed rules with a written permit containing any requirements the Council deems necessary, and the permit is subject to revocation at any time by action of the City. The City was approached by the applicant who is proposing to open an indoor Airsoft facility within the City that would be prohibited under Section 10-3-3. Airsoft weapons are similar to BB guns that utilize compressed air or springs to shoot plastic projectiles instead of metal projectiles. The proposed indoor facility would be located at 105 Lauder Avenue, which is a commercial building located within the Motor Business Zoning District. Staff have reviewed the request and do not have any concerns with the requested exception and prepared a resolution granting the exception for the Council's consideration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Resolution granting an exception to Moscow City Code Section 10-3-4, or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above, noting that the prohibition dates back to 1888 and was most recently updated in 1984.

Parker confirmed that the approval would apply to this particular business. Belknap clarified that the approval would instead apply to the location. He added that the Council could choose to amend the code to exclude certain types of recreational devices, which would eliminate the need for future exceptions.

Lewis stated that the proposed use makes sense within the Motor Business Zoning District but expressed a preference for continuing to review such requests on a case-by-case basis rather than amending the code.

Parker moved to approve the Resolution granting an exception to Moscow City Code Section 10-3-4. Lewis seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Four (4). Nays: Two (Blankenship, Kelly). Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

City Council

Sustainable Environment Commission – Blankenship reported the Commission had a staff report on water quality.

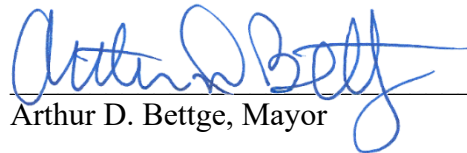
Council members spoke on other events and meetings they attended.

Mayor

Mayor Bettge said he attended the AIC board meeting, Annual Water Summit, Airport Board meeting where they discussed concessions.

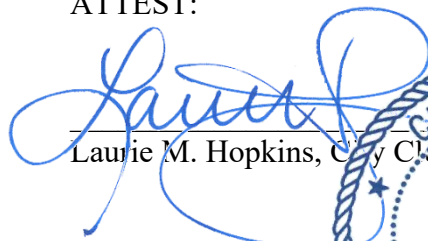
ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.



Arthur D. Bettge, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

