

Administrative Committee



Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, October 27, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bryce Blankenship, Drew Davis, Gina Taruscio

OTHERS: Mayor Art Bettge, Council Member Sandra Kelly, Council President Julia Parker

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Cody Riddle, Laurie M. Hopkins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Administrative Committee August 25, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Laurie M. Hopkins

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. 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 has reviewed the request and do not have any concerns with the requested exception and have prepared a resolution granting the exception for the Council's consideration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Resolution granting an exception to Moscow City Code Section 10-3-4; or provide staff further direction.

Belknap introduced the item as written above and noted that this type of business is permitted in the Motor Business Zoning District.

Taruscio asked for additional details.

Chris King, applicant, explained that insurance requirements include waivers and safety gear. Participants ages 16–18 must have parental permission, while those ages 10–16 must be accompanied by a parent. Children under 10 years old are not allowed on the field. He also hopes to include a target-shooting area, which would have fewer restrictions as it involves shooting at a fixed target. An armorer will be on site to check weapons in and out and to inspect any personal equipment brought in. Once inspected, weapons will be marked with an orange tag. King noted that any such weapons sold now must already have an orange tip.

Davis stated he had no reservations, noting that he grew up paintballing and enjoyed it.

Blankenship asked what would be required for patrons bringing a weapon from their vehicle. King responded that he does not anticipate people arriving “dressed as Rambo.” He expects compliance with legal requirements and emphasized that this will largely come down to education, particularly for repeat patrons. New patrons are unlikely to have their own equipment and will likely use gear provided by the business.

Blankenship said he sees a benefit in offering safe education for youth but has some reservations regarding ages 12–15. King clarified that participants in that age group would not be allowed on the field independently. It would not be a “free-for-all” with adults; rather, their participation would resemble a supervised birthday-party setting. He added that the armorer will have the authority to remove anyone from the field for unsafe or inappropriate behavior.

The Committee forwarded the item to the full City Council with no recommendation.

3. East City Park Stage Project Update - Cody Riddle

Riddle noted that staff last presented an update in August. The 30% concept design estimate came in just under \$800,000 for construction, and the FY2026 budget includes \$885,000 for design and construction. An RFQ for design services was issued on October 1, and two submittals were received. Staff will review the submittals over the next couple of weeks. Once a firm is selected, a professional services agreement will be drafted and brought to Council for approval.

Staff anticipates completing design by early spring, with a 60% design report to Council. The bid request is scheduled to be issued in March, with construction expected to begin in September and substantial completion projected for the end of 2026.

ADJOURN

The meeting closed at 4:22 p.m.



Minutes Approved On
November 24, 2025
[Signature]
(Clerk Signature)