

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

Monday, January 5, 2026

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

ABSENT: Gina Taruscio

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Tyler Palmer, Anthony Dahlinger, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

A. Approval of Moscow City Council December 15, 2025 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker

Kelly removed item 1B from the consent agenda. Parker moved and Davis seconded to approve the consent minus Item 1B. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Belknap explained packet was missing one week of checks. The excluded checks were sent to the city council and uploaded to the packet prior to the meeting. Lewis moved and Kelly seconded to approve the payment of claims. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)

Mayor Bettge presented to the City Council for consideration the reappointment of Mary Jo Hamilton to the Moscow Tree Commission. Blankenship, Lewis. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment (limit 15 minutes)

Kenton Bird (Moscow) attended his first council meeting 50 years ago as a cub reporter for the Idahonian. Moscow has long been served by a strong commitment of dedication. The mayors and council since 2000 have displayed a commitment to public access, transparency, engagement, and reflection of citizen interest. He thanked the outgoing mayor and council for their service.

Victoria Seever (Moscow) to varying degrees has known all of the outgoing elected officials. She provided kind words for them and thanked them for their service.

Tym Park (Moscow) was going to speak on the direction the city is headed but instead spoke on a 49-year-

old Palestinian activist living in Detroit. He listened to her on a radio program in which she spoke on what an individual can do to help end the Israeli genocide in Gaza. He urged the council members to write a resolution to condemn the U.S. backed Israeli genocide of Palestinians living in Gaza, remembering that to remain silent is a surrender to these forces and to be complicit in the genocide itself.

John Slagboom (Moscow) congratulated the incoming elected officials. He offered volunteering to keep Moscow amazing. He thanked staff for the time in answering all his questions.

4. Reports - Reports will be taken from the Mayor and City Council Members regarding commission and committee meetings which have occurred since the December 15, 2025 City Council meeting

No reports.

5. Recognition of Council Member Julia Parker, Council Member Gina Taruscio, and Mayor Arthur Bettge

Parker said being a council member has been a great experience, she wanted the people of Moscow to understand the city has a remarkable city staff. Hope the community realizes how lucky they really are.

Lewis thanked her fellow council and mayor for the time spent together in support of Moscow. She said being a council member is more work and fun than she ever thought. She hopes the community understands the mayor and council do so with sincere love and care for the community.

Bettge said it was a true privilege serving 22 years with the City. He shared a list of things that have happened in the past 4 years. He thanked staff. He encouraged citizens to participate and make a difference.

Belknap presented Julia Parker and Art Bettge with plaques.

Kelly said it is an honor to serve with all the council. She said it's great as a council and have done a lot together as one body for the community. Council members can disagree on items yet still agree to do what's best for Moscow.

Blankenship thanked the outgoing elected officials for mentorship. It has enriched so much of the work that the council does. He hopes to carry that energy forward.

Davis said he is grateful for the phone call from Art asking to be appointed to the council. He personally thanked each outgoing official. He feels this is the most collaborative group he has worked with. He admires that everyone approaches from different perspectives but at the end of the day it's councils job to make Moscow better.

ADJOURN 2025 CITY COUNCIL

Parker moved to adjourn the 2025 City Council. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

RECONVENE 2026 CITY COUNCIL

The meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

6. Oath of Office Administered by City Clerk and Certificate of Election Presented to Mayor-elect Hailey Lewis, Council-elect Evan Holmes, Council-elect Sage McCetich, and Council-elect Scott Sumner

Hopkins administered the oath of office.

7. 2026 Council Organization (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Under Moscow City Code Sections 2-2-13, 2-2-15, and 2-2-16, the Council is required to elect a Council President and Council Vice President during the first meeting in January each year. Additionally, the Council is also required to appoint Council members to the Public Works Finance and Administrative Committees.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

1. Conduct nominations and elections for 2026 Council President
2. Conduct nominations and elections for 2026 Council Vice President
3. Assign 2026 Council Committee membership

Lewis explained the council is required to have a president and vice president and the council. Belknap introduced the item adding this was done previously by workshop then acted on at city council.

Kelly nominated Drew Davis as president. Blankenship nominated himself. Both Davis and Blankenship provided reasons they would like to be council president. Votes for Drew: Kelly, Sumner, McCetich, Davis. Votes for Blankenship: Holmes, Blankenship. Drew Davis was elected as council president.

Davis nominated Bryce as vice president. There were no other nominations. Bryce Blankenship was elected as council vice president unanimously.

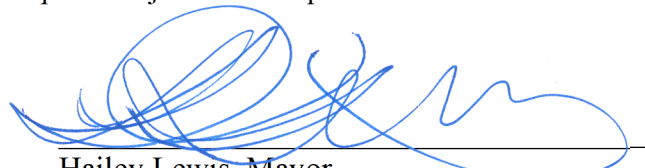
Council members discussed which committee they would like to serve and consensus was achieved:

- Public Works/Finance Committee: Davis, Holmes, Kelly
- Administrative Committee: Blankenship, McCetich, Sumner

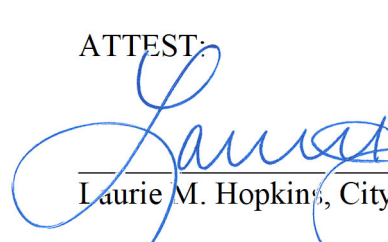
Each council member provided words of thanks and excitement for the next year.

ADJOURN TO RECEPTION HONORING NEWLY ELECTED AND OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.


Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

