

# Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting  
~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins  
City Clerk

[www.ci.moscow.id.us](http://www.ci.moscow.id.us)

208.883.7015

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**Monday, March 2, 2026**

**7:00 PM**

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

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

PRESENT: Mayor Hailey Lewis, Bryce Blankenship, Evan Holmes, Sandra Kelly, Scott Sumner

ABSENT: Drew Davis, Sage McCetich

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Nichoel Baird Spencer, David Schott, Amanda Argona, Laurie M. Hopkins

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **Moscow Public Library 120th Anniversary**

Mayor Lewis read the Moscow Public Library 120th Anniversary Proclamation. April Hernandez accepted the proclamation and said a few words of thanks and shared upcoming events.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)**

#### **A. Approval of Moscow City Council February 17, 2026 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins**

#### **B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker**

Holmes 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)**

Leonard Garrison and Mac Cantrell, members of Citizens Climate Lobby of the Palouse. He expressed appreciation to the city for support for their event, the Palouse Region Energy Efficiency and Electrification Fair taking place April 4, 2026. He provided details regarding the event. Mac said it would help if city could have an inspector there to answer questions about construction.

Tym Park (Moscow) spoke on events in the United States and the world. He urged the council to enter into a public discussion regarding the US Backed Israeli genocide of Palestinians of Gazah. This initiative

will take political courage. The killing continues and will not stop until America voices for peace are so loud that members of the House and Senate can no longer pretend not to hear them.

#### **4. 1912 Center Annual Report - David Schott / Jenny Kostroff**

Schott introduced Jenny Kostroff. Kostroff said Heart of the Arts has run the 1912 Center for 19 years. In 2025, there were 839 gift donors and they had 1,785 events. In 2007 there were 21 events in the first month Heart of the Arts managed the building. She went through the programs the 1912 Center hosts which includes the Pen and Primer Program, Winter Market, Community Art Show, and Welcome Table. The third-floor renovation plans are complete, and construction is estimated at \$5.5 million. The infrastructure construction can begin once donations and grants total \$1,000,000. Following that, if a donor feels strongly their donation goes to a particular room, they may begin there.

#### **5. 2026 Moscow Farmers Market Handbook (ACTION ITEM) - Amanda Argona**

In 2018, the Farmers Market Commission and Community Events Division implemented the first iteration of the Moscow Farmers Market Handbook. The Handbook is an expanded policy document meant to provide clarity and serve as a resource for anyone seeking information on the Market, as well as hold Market participants accountable for operating procedures. At the end of each season, the policies that make up the Handbook are considered in depth by staff and the Farmers Market Commission. The Commission reviewed the proposed changes to the Handbook on February 3, 2026, and are presenting accepted changes for approval and adoption by the Council for the 2026 Market Season.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Recommend approval of the 2026 Moscow Farmers Market Handbook, or take other action deemed appropriate.

Argona introduced the item as written above and reviewed the proposed updates for the 2026 season. Updates were made in several areas, including livestock, vendor pricing standards, and vendor orientation. Forage vendors are now required to provide disclosure forms demonstrating that products were legally harvested and that sales comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The section addressing the addition of products after the jury process was also overhauled, adding three options to create a clear mechanism for vendors seeking to add products mid-season.

Argona noted that future policy considerations will include reinforcing the market's core values of economic opportunity and developing a stronger penalties framework. Another topic for future discussion is pricing. While the market does not set prices for vendors, staff have observed issues such as price gouging, underpricing, and resulting friction among vendors, particularly within the agricultural vendor category. Staff plan to solicit vendor feedback during the upcoming season to inform potential discussions in 2027.

She explained that some vendors have requested the establishment of price points based on conventional growing standards comparable to organic standards, while others have significantly undercut prices across the board. Argona has reviewed policies from other farmers markets to help guide the discussion. She noted that Kootenai County has a pricing approach that could be considered; however, the Commission is cautious about entering this area. The Commission may gather feedback from vendors but ultimately decide not to incorporate pricing provisions into the policy.

Holmes noted that due to the market's popularity and success, it requires significantly more work from commission members than many might imagine. He commended the volunteers for their efforts.

The mayor referenced the rapid market assessment, which estimated the market generates approximately \$2 million in annual vendor sales, reflecting both community participation and vendor returns.

Kelly expressed appreciation for the continued fine-tuning of market policies and asked about current product trends. Argona explained that most trends tend to mirror those seen at other farmers markets and remain fairly consistent from year to year. Occasionally a product surges in popularity, for example, mushrooms experienced a brief boom before fading. Crafts also tend to fluctuate. During the pandemic, many craft vendors emerged through platforms such as Pinterest and TikTok, though few long-term trends resulted. She noted increased participation from cottage food producers, particularly baked goods, as the industry is relatively accessible and often attracts entry-level vendors.

Sumner reviewed the market boundaries, including the extension area in front of the bathrooms, and asked whether there were plans to expand given the market's success. Argona explained that the area near the bathrooms had previously served as ADA parking before the restrooms were constructed and had been incorporated into the market layout for several years. The Fourth Street expansion area is now in its third season. She had hoped to continue expanding along Fourth Street to Washington Street; however, discussions with Opportunities Unlimited have indicated that expansion in that direction is unlikely due to the needs of their clientele. She added that the Commission does not wish to expand the market simply for the sake of growth. In fact, craft and food jury registrants were reduced this year. With other farmers markets operating throughout the region during the week and on weekends, the Commission feels confident about the current size and scope of the market. Any potential expansion to the north would require extensive coordination with City leadership and Public Works. At present, discussions about growth have reached a stalemate as the Commission considers whether expansion would still maintain the character of a farmers market and ensure there are enough farmers to support that growth.

Holmes asked whether vendors have discussed expanding market hours. Argona responded that if anything, vendors have suggested reducing hours. The current 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. schedule works well. Markets that operate later in the day, such as some in Spokane, often have to close when peak summer temperatures become extreme, particularly on asphalt surfaces. During her tenure, the Moscow market has not had to close due to heat. However, she noted that attendance tends to thin during the final hour on very hot days.

Kelly moved to approve the 2026 Moscow Farmer Market Handbook. Blankenship seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

#### **6. Set FY2027 Budget Hearing Date (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

Per Idaho Code 63-802(A) the City is required to notify Latah County of the public hearing date for the City's annual budget no later than April 30 each year. Staff is requesting that the Council officially set the date for the FY2027 Budget hearing for August 17, 2026, so the Notification of Budget Hearing form can be completed and returned to the Latah County Auditor's Office as required.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Set August 17, 2026, as the public hearing date for the City of Moscow FY2027 budget, or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. Traditionally, the budget hearing is held during the first meeting in August. However, the County is still finalizing construction roll values, which are necessary to ensure the City's budget projections are accurate. By statute, the County must complete this work by the fourth Monday in July. Because the City is required to publish two public hearing notices prior to the budget hearing, each including proposed revenues and expenditures, the timing has created challenges in recent years. Updated values from the County have often required revisions to the second hearing notice. Staff recommended moving the budget hearing to the second meeting in August to avoid the need to

amend the notice and reduce potential concerns. This schedule would still allow an additional meeting date prior to the budget adoption deadline.

Having no questions, Kelly moved, Blankenship seconded to set August 17, 2026, as the public hearing date for the City of Moscow FY2027 budget. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**City Council**

*Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee* – Blankenship said they had a presentation on pumping from the aquifer.

*Historic Preservation Commission* – Kelly said the Commission made progress with the University Historic District. They also discussed different buildings around town that are being considered for the national historic registry.

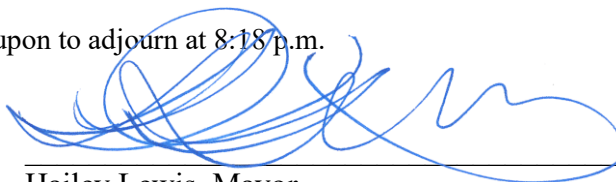
Council members spoke about other meetings and events they attended.

**Mayor**

Mayor Lewis said she presented the State of the City address; attended the Lions Club meeting; attended the Airport Board meeting and she goes to WA DC mid-March to talk to airlines about coming to Moscow; U of I is hosting their first energy symposium; Council is hosting a strategic plan workshop on March 23.

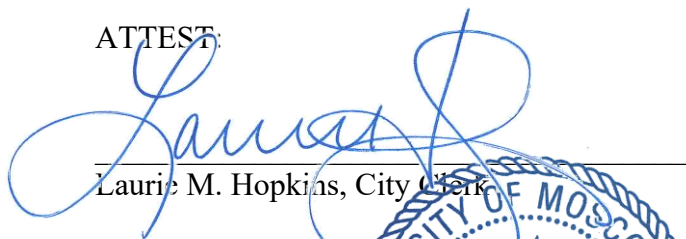
**ADJOURN**

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.



Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk



# Palouse Region Energy Efficiency and Electrification Fair

Latah County Fairgrounds Event Center, Saturday, April 4, 2026, 11 am-3 pm

## Who, Why, What

- For homeowners, renters, citizens and businesses who might consider improving their buildings' energy efficiency, and contractors and businesses who can make that happen.
- Homeowners, business owners, and curious attendees will benefit from information about technologies and resources that address their interests—whether in building efficiency, cost savings, or environmental impact. School groups and the public can learn about building efficiency and electrification.
- Local businesses can directly connect with potential customers, advertise their products and services, their expertise, and their commitment to local consumers and communities. University faculty and students can share information on pertinent projects and research.
- There will be food trucks and door prizes such as discounts for building projects for attendees.

## Potential exhibitors

- Contractors, building and electrical supply businesses, insulation and window businesses, architects and engineers, utility companies, university researchers, organizations.
- From single person contractors to large businesses
- Exhibitor and sponsor registration form: <https://forms.gle/2Ub61sZqVcCbdNJB8> or QR code:



## Cost

- Free to the public.
- Exhibitor registration fee is \$50. Sponsorships at \$500 (gold), \$250 (silver), or \$100 (bronze) can be direct or in-kind support.
- Administration and staffing provided by volunteers.

## Coordinating organizations:

- Palouse Chapter Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://cclpalouse.org/energy-efficiency-and-electrification-fair/>)
- Avista Utilities (<https://www.myavista.com>)

Add to calendar: <https://evt.to/181v5qlj9m8w> or QR code:



**Contacts:** Leonard Garrison [lgarrisonf@yahoo.com](mailto:lgarrisonf@yahoo.com), Judy Meuth [judymeuth@gmail.com](mailto:judymeuth@gmail.com)

**Gold Sponsors:**



**Bronze Sponsors:**



# Palouse Regional Energy Efficiency & Electrification Fair

Saturday April 4, 2026

11am to 3 pm

Latah County Fair Grounds  
Events Center

*Would you like to increase the energy efficiency or the electrification of your home or business?*

*Do you have a business that offers services relating to energy?*

*Then the Palouse Regional Energy Efficiency and Electrification Fair is for you!*

Homeowners, renters, and business owners alike will have the opportunity to learn from local experts about resources available to help meet energy goals. Exhibitors can directly connect with potential customers, advertise their products and services and share their expertise. At this free community event visitors can get lunch from food trucks and win door prizes! To find more information or to register as an exhibitor, visit: [bit.ly/49Nx1s8](https://bit.ly/49Nx1s8)

