

# 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, May 4, 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, Drew Davis, Evan Holmes, Sandra Kelly, Sage McCetich, Scott Sumner

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Nichoel Baird Spencer, Laurie M. Hopkins

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## PROCLAMATION

### Public Service Recognition Week

Mayor Lewis read the proclamation.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

**A. Approval of Moscow City Council April 20, 2026 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins**

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

**C. Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney and Finance Director to submit a claim for Payment Discover Card Merchant Settlement — Mia Bautista**

A class action law suit was filed against Discover Card for misclassifying Discover-issued consumer credit cards as commercial credit cards, which in turn caused merchants and others to incur excessive interchange fees beginning January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2023. A settlement was reached, and the City is an eligible merchant to submit a claim in the Settlement. If the City does not submit a claim for a settlement payment, it will not be entitled to receive funds under the terms of the settlement agreement. Staff has prepared a resolution authorizing the City Attorney and Finance Director to submit a claim and sign any documents or agreements related to the settlement claim on behalf of the City. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 27, 2026, and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney and Finance Director to submit a claim on behalf of the City of Moscow for the Discover Card Merchant Settlement.

Davis moved and McCetich 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)**

Mayor Lewis presented to the City Council for consideration the appointment of Michael Gilman to the Fair & Affordable Housing Commission; Jacob Navaratte to the Human Rights Commission; Hannah Baker to the Moscow Arts Commission; Trish Hartzell to the Sustainable Environment Commission. Kelly moved and Davis seconded approval of the appointment. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis read a message from Hannah Baker.

Navaratte, Hartzell and Gilman all said they are excited to serve

### **3. Public Comment (limit 15 minutes)**

Casey Bolt, Sojourner's Alliance, said he is still supportive of a housing authority. He spoke on ways to provide affordable housing, one being subsidies. He has a list of 60 households that are homeless and doesn't want the list to grow.

Michael Gilman (Moscow) thanked Mayor for explaining as the meeting goes along as sometimes it can be dense and hard to understand.

### **4. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Amendment to the FY2026 Fee Resolution for Recreation Program Processing/Convenience Fees (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

The City accepts credit cards, debit cards, and Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions as a form of payment for City fees. The City's recreation program software vendor had historically required the City to pay those fees, but now allows the use of other payment processors, which allows the City to have the customer pay the processing/convenience fees associated with these payment formats. The proposed processing/convenience fees for recreation programs will be 2.75% of the transaction with a \$2.00 minimum, and 3.5% with no minimum for concession sales. Staff recommends that the Council amend the FY2026 Fee Resolution to clearly reflect these processing/convenience fees. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 27, 2026, and recommended for approval. Under Idaho code, the implementation of any new fee or any increase of an existing fee by more than 5% requires a public hearing. This matter has been noticed as a public hearing and is before the Council for consideration.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Conduct the public hearing and, upon consideration of testimony received, approve the proposed Amended FY2026 Fee Resolution; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. The processing fees for BS&A have been located in the finance schedule but this update includes the fees in each schedule to more clearly displayed. The other change moves the public records section into its own schedule. There will be signage posted at each location and can include it in the recreation guide. These fees are not revenue to the city. The fees go directly to the credit card processor.

Mayor Lewis opened public hearing at 7:19 p.m. After asking for testimony in favor, opposition and general testimony and hearing none, she closed the hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Sumner pointed out there are other ways to pay besides credit cards. Holmes confirmed this the last of the systems where the customer has not been paying the fees.

Kelly moved to approve the amended FY2026 fee resolution. McCetich seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**5. Consideration of Request to Amend the Entertainment District Open Container Exemption to Allow Liquor (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

The Mayor and City Council recently received a letter from the Moscow Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center and the Downtown Business Alliance requesting the City Council to consider the allowance of liquor to be served during permitted events held within the downtown Entertainment District. Ordinance 2021-11, passed on August 16, 2021, allows the City Council to suspend the prohibition of open containers of alcohol during permitted events within the designated Entertainment District by resolution. Ordinance 2021-11 specifically limits this exemption to the service of beer and wine. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on April 27, 2026, and forwarded to the full Council for consideration. If the Council desires to allow the service of liquor as requested, Staff will prepare an ordinance for the Council's consideration at a future meeting.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Consider the proposed request and provide staff further direction.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. It is a fairly minor code change but before staff drafts amendments, he wanted to be sure the council was interested in a change. The police department has reviewed the idea. For events, they recommend up to two police officers and over time evaluate and monitor the events. In the past, it has typically led to a lower need. In 2024, Council amended the sidewalk cafe to allow liquor served without the requirement of food. There have been no issues so far. This conversation is focused on the Entertainment District and is not regarding beer gardens at parks. Any alcohol service must be served by a business licensed to serve alcohol, has had serving training, provides liability insurance and has been issued a catering permit.

Blankenship supports this discussion moving forward and appreciates that it has gone through the correct process. McCetich said he had small hesitation at the committee meeting for the potential of over service and intoxication due to larger alcohol volume. He realized these businesses have a nature of caution when serving alcohol.

Holmes doesn't see expanding the scope of alcohol is needed to make the events more successful. It wouldn't necessarily benefit attendees but would benefit sellers. Belknap presumes the council that approved the entertainment district with beer/wine only, excluding liquor, was perception of relative risk and over-intoxication. Blankenship commented he thinks the change could bring more people in. Some people don't like beer and wine and prefer liquor so that could bring more attendees. Mayor Lewis felt this would create the opportunity for attendees to travel to Moscow if there was special event such as a rare whiskey festival.

Kelly is excited about this conversation and is supportive. She liked that council is opening things up and growing. The entertainment district has been successful and events have been run well.

Sumner pointed out there have been hardly any incidents over the years. The events are approved through council which provides some control. He doesn't see any difference between beer, wine and liquor. The events are run well and the vendors are responsible.

Andy Severson, co-owner of Neat, said he would like to host an event and will benefit from this change. He added he is the person that patrols the events so no one is overserved. The proof is there that the events can happen safely. He would like a wider variety of events.

Mayor Lewis said there is no proposed language. Staff need general direction on whether to move forward

with changes.

Blankenship moved to consider the proposed request to amend the entertainment district open container exemption to allow liquor. Kelly seconded.

Holmes pointed out liquor may attract different clientele but could also exclude some people.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Five (5). Nays: One (Holmes). Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

### City Council

*Historic Preservation Commission* – Kelly said the Commission is working with Boise organizations for an University District. They are also discussion options for downtown to highlight the old buildings.

*Planning & Zoning Commission* – McCetich said the Commission discussed state wide zoning changes in regards to ADU's, subdivisions, and more.

*Moscow Tree Commission* – Holmes said the Commission held their Arbor Day celebration.

*Fair & Affordable Housing Commission* – Holmes said the Commission held a workshop that discussed new relevant case law regarding landlords and tenants.

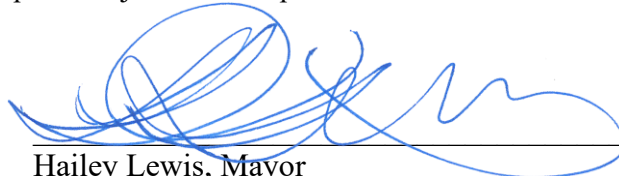
Council members spoke about other meetings and events they attended.

### Mayor

Mayor Lewis attended the Arbor Day celebration, talked at the high school government classes, Airport board meeting which ridership is going well. The direct Boise flight should return the beginning of August.

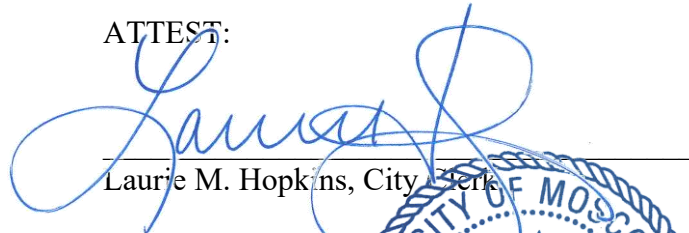
## ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.



Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

