

# 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, April 20, 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, Kelli Cooper, Anthony Dahlinger, Nichoel Baird Spencer, Tyler Palmer, Amanda Argona, Lucy Faley, Laurie M. Hopkins

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **Earth Day**

Mayor Lewis read the proclamation.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **A. Approval of Moscow City Council April 6, 2026 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins**

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

#### **C. Disbursement Report March 2026 - Sarah Decker**

Staff presented the March 2026 Accounts Payable Report to the Public Works / Finance Committee on April 13th, 2026. The Committee received the report and recommended approval of the disbursement report.

**ACTION:** Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of March 2026.

#### **D. Second Quarter Financial Report January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 for FY2026 - Sarah Decker**

Staff presented the financial report for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026) to the Public Works/Finance Committee on April 13th, 2026. The Committee received the financial report and approved it as presented.

**ACTION:** Accept the FY2026 Second Quarter Financial Report.

#### **E. Authorization of Payment for Tier II Demolition Landfill Partial Cell Closure - Tyler Palmer**

Closure and partial closure is periodically necessary at the Tier II (Non-Municipal Solid Waste) demolition landfill at the Solid Waste Processing Facility for continued operations. The Franchise Agreement dictates that the City is responsible for costs associated with closures. Inland North Waste submitted formal requests for reimbursement for completed closure work associated with cells at the

Solid Waste Processing Facility. The closure work has been independently verified by a licensed professional engineer and meets the requirements of the approved closure plan. Pursuant to the City's established Closure Payment Procedure, staff has reviewed the submitted documentation and found it compliant with requirements for reimbursement.

**ACTION:** Authorize payment to Inland North Waste for completed and verified closure work associated with the documented areas of the Tier II (Non-Municipal Solid Waste) demolition landfill at the Solid Waste Processing Facility, in an amount not to exceed \$297,968, in accordance with the City's established Closure Payment Procedure.

**F. Task Order No. 2 Palouse Mall Lift Station Rehabilitation Construction Administration and Observation Services - Scott Bontrager**

Task Order No.2, pursuant to the Master Agreement for Professional Services between City of Moscow and Ardurra, consists of construction administration and observation services for the Palouse Mall Lift Station Rehabilitation project. This Task Order would continue Ardurra's professional engineering services from design services provided in Task Order No. 1 to construction administration and observation services proposed in Task Order No. 2. The construction project will rehabilitate the existing Palouse Mall lift station, which includes replacing the wet well cover and hatch, replacing the existing pumps with submersible pumps, new electrical/control, upgrading the existing force main out of the wet well, fence upgrades, and installing a new valve vault and flow meter vault. The construction bid and agreement with DW Excavation was recently accepted and approved by City Council on 4/6/2026. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on April 13, 2026 and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Accept Task Order No. 2, award the Agreement in the amount of \$290,870.

**G. Moscow Renaissance Fair Alcohol Use Request in East City Park - Amanda Argona**

Moscow Renaissance Fair LLC is hosting the annual Moscow Renaissance Fair on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 in East City Park. The applicant anticipates 1 (one) licensed vendor offering beer and wine in the beer garden, which is estimated to be 40'x20' in size. Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol within a City Park, Moscow Renaissance Fair LLC is requesting the allowance of attendees to possess and consume alcoholic beverages within the beer garden from 12:00-8:00 pm on Saturday and 12:00-5:00 pm on Sunday. Per Moscow City Code, Section 5-13-4, a draft resolution has been prepared by the Community Events Division and reviewed by the Legal Department for the Council's consideration to permit this typically prohibited activity. This was reviewed by the Public Works/Finance Committee on April 13, 2026 and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the resolution allowing for the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the designated beer garden in East City Park for Moscow Renaissance Fair for the listed dates and times during the event.

Sumner asked for Item E to be removed from the consent agenda. Davis moved and Holmes seconded to approve the consent agenda minus Item E. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Kelly moved and Blankenship seconded to approve Item E. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Five (5). Nays: None. Abstentions: One (Sumner). Motion carried.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**2. Mayors Appointments (ACTION ITEM)**

None offered.

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

John Slagboom (Moscow) thanked staff for their assistance. He feels the East City Park stage should be rebuilt by volunteers like 40 years ago. He asked the Council to put fiscal responsibility first during the budget process. If there are capital projects that are underfunded, he asked that the stage capital is reviewed to see how it can be applied to affect every citizen throughout the year.

Casey Bolt (Sojourners Alliance) spoke on the prospect of developing a housing authority. He feels it is a necessary measure to address housing challenges in Moscow. One way is facilitating the right projects. He provided some Moscow statistics. Moscow needs to take further steps in addressing these issues.

Nils Peterson (Executive Director Hills and River Housing Trust) said he supports the idea of a housing authority. He shared information about a Pullman working group that is organized under the Pullman city council. The working group proposed a goal of 30 newly constructed middle housing units per year. The Pullman City Council adopted that goal. Peterson suggested the City Council assign the FAHC to do the same and bring to council.

### **4. Earth Day Awards**

Mayor Lewis presented the Earth Day proclamation to Victoria Seever then presented the Earth Day awards. See attached document.

### **5. Citizen Commission Report– FAHC – Lucy Falcy / Eija Sumner**

Falcy introduced the commission chair Eija Sumner. Sumner went through the duties of the Commission and listed the members. Activities for 2025-1016 included participation in the Latah County Wellness Fair, conducted a Fair Housing Training on April 8, 2025, tabled at the Farmers Market and made a recommendation to City Council for a Housing Authority. Upcoming activities include a fair housing training event with IFHC, tabling at the the Farmers Market and will continue to look at ways to promote fair and affordable housing. Questions and answers regarding defining affordable, housing authorities, and grant funding training ensued.

### **6. MPD Annual Report – Anthony Dahlinger**

Dahlinger provided staffing information, lifesaving awards and other staff recognitions. Lifesaving awards were presented to Cpl Aaron Morris, Officer Jeremiah Lanie, Officer Frank Fuchs, and Officer Kris Sneve. Officer of the year was awarded to Officer Sneve and Services Staff of the Year was awarded to Tim Smalldridge. The 19th annual Newbill Safety Fair distributed 450 bike helmets. The Cadet Program is going well with approximately 45% of the cadets going onto pursue a law enforcement career after graduation. One of the largest change for the department was when the Latah County Jail closed October 2025 and the department had to transport to Nez Perce County. Due to low staffing, an on-call system had to be created to cover arrest transports and/or shift coverage. From October to December, MPD spent \$17,274 on transports alone. This equated to 15% of the total annual overtime budget for the Operations Division. MPD is averaging around \$5,500 per month in transport costs currently. The department participated in 6 ITD mobilizations in which 126 contacts were made, and 25 citations were issued. Dahlinger said every officer is dedicated to keeping the community safe and sometimes people are required to go to jail. He would much rather incur additional costs and keep the community safe than the alternative. Transport has not deterred holding people accountable when they need to be. Currently, officers are on 12 hour shifts with on-call system. He hopes when staffing is full, the department can go back to 10 hour shifts which allows for overlapping of shifts. This would allow transports to take place during regular duty time. The new camera systems had a few bumps but working quite well now. While he has seen an uptick

of dogs at large and dog bites, code enforcement is handled with education unless it is a chronic problem.

Blankenship asked Chief to address ICE questions by citizens. Dahlinger said he did watch the legislative session to keep a look out for any legislation that may affect policing in Moscow. He reiterated that ICE is a federal agency and outside the department scope of purview. Whether it is CIA, FBI, ICE, if something is going on in town and an organization of such is in need of additional resources, the department would assist. The Moscow police force are not ICE agents and can't enforce.

#### **7. 2026 City of Moscow Water Conservation Plan Updates (ACTION ITEM) - Kelli Cooper**

The City of Moscow relies exclusively on the Palouse Groundwater Basin as its municipal drinking water source. Long-term declines in aquifer levels, documented since the late 1800s, necessitate ongoing implementation and periodic refinement of water conservation programs to ensure they remain effective and aligned with current best management practices. This proposal builds on the foundation of the plan implemented in 2016 with adjustments to rebate amounts for fixture replacement and Wisescape® programs, revisions to the Wisescape® Guidebook, rebates for instant hot water recirculation systems, development of a commercial-focused rebate program, and introduces voluntary conservation measures applicable to new construction. These updates are designed to enhance participation, improve program effectiveness, and reflect current conservation technologies and practices.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Approve the 2026 Water Conservation Plan updates, or take other action deemed appropriate.

Palmer said it is important to manage water responsibly. Conservation is critical. The real focus of these updates is on optimizing and adding programs, not an increase of budget.

Cooper explained the current programs that include rebates, devices, public education, and more. The devices program is the oldest program and has resulted in providing over 30,000 devices to citizens. The participation in the toilet rebate has gone down while the newest program, irrigation audits, is increasing every year. The rebate amount for fixtures and instant hot water valves are increasing. Wisescape rebate has been modified from a flat rate to flat rate plus \$0.75 per square foot with maximums. Staff is also updating the Wisescape® Guidebook as a lot has changed since 2016.

Palmer provided information regarding the new water meters and corresponding public portal. Cooper said they are watching Pullman's odd/even schedule and if it is a significant amount of saving, Staff will consider how it could work in Moscow. Cooper explained the toilet rebate has existed for years but hasn't been communicated to contractors. Information has been added to the energy conservation worksheet that contractors receive during construction reviews.

Holmes, moved to approve the 2026 water conservation plan. Blankenship seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

#### **8. Public Records Classification and Retention Resolution and City Code Updates (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

The City Council approved the implementation of body-worn cameras for law enforcement personnel in 2020, with the official launch occurring in 2021. Since that time, the City has accumulated over 85 Terabytes of video data that are becoming costly to retain and which are difficult to import into the City's new video management system. Under State Law, counties have specific record retention standards for both vehicle/body-worn and building-mounted video recordings. The City's current public records retention resolution does not address law enforcement video recordings. Staff has

prepared an updated resolution that mirrors the existing county video data retention requirements under Idaho Law. Additionally, there are currently several inconsistencies between provisions in City Code and the current records classification and retention resolution. Staff has also prepared a draft ordinance to amend City Code to address these inconsistencies and to rely upon the records classification and retention resolution to address records retention standards. The proposed ordinance also improves the portion of the subject chapter addressing the City Clerk's duties and responsibilities.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Approve the proposed Public Records Ordinance and Classification and Retention Resolution; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Bautista explained the City follows Idaho Code Title 74 Chapter 1 for retention of records and went through the specific changes to both the ordinance and resolution. See attachment. Belknap explained the amount of data is one of the driving forces to create a retention schedule for law enforcement digital media so not have to transition a lot of old videos that have no value to any case and establish new retention to prevent paying exorbitant storage fees moving forward. Bautista explained the recordings from cameras that may be installed on a non-law enforcement city buildings, are transitory and would be permitted to be deleted by whatever time schedule set by administration. This resolution allows the police chief to independently destroy the digital media so long as it is not evidentiary value and meets the criteria in this resolution.

Holmes moved to approve the repeal and replacement of resolution 2021-27 with the proposed resolution. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Holmes moved to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules requiring three complete and separate readings and that it be read by title and published by summary. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis read Ordinance 2026-02 by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF MOSCOW CITY CODE TITLE 1, CHAPTER 10; SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 10-1, MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF CITY RECORDS TO MATCH THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC RECORDS UNDER THE IDAHO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT; MODIFYING SECTION 10-4, TO REMOVE CERTAIN CITY CLERK DUTIES AND INCLUDE THE CITY CLERK SHALL FOLLOW THE IDAHO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL FOR RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS; MODIFYING SECTION 10-5, TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO DEPARTMENT HEADS TO DEPARTMENT MANAGERS; MODIFYING SECTION 10-10, REMOVING THE TWO YEAR RETENTION PERIOD FOR EMAIL AND REPLACING IT WITH THE RECORDS RETENTION ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; MODIFYING SECTION 10-15, REMOVING THE REFERENCE TO MICROFILM; AND MODIFYING SECTION 10-16, ADDING THE CITY MAY REQUIRE A REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE IDAHO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT AND REMOVING THE PROVISION ALLOWING REQUESTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE; PROVIDING THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE BE DEEMED SEVERABLE; AND PROVIDING FOR THIS ORDINANCE TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ITS PASSAGE, APPROVAL, AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

## REPORTS

### City Council

*Moscow Arts Commission* – Sumner said the Commission selected finalists for the police department and city shop art projects and also sent a call for artists for storm drains murals.

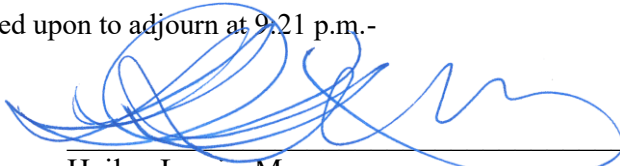
Council members spoke about other meetings and events they attended.

**Mayor**

Mayor Lewis spoke on upcoming events.

**ADJOURN**

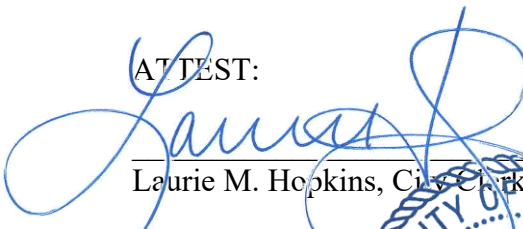
It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 9:21 p.m.-



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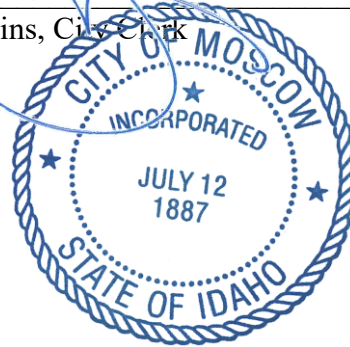
Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk



## **Nominee: Wasankari Construction**

Contact: 208 883 4362

**Suggested Category:** Green Protector

**Nominator:** Chuck Bond; Ph. 509 336 4069

Reader, I would like to nominate Wasankari Construction for the sustainability award. Doug Wasankari and his operation have for the last 40 plus years done more than most companies in his type of work combined to reuse, recycle and salvage building materials. When his company goes into a project, whether it is to remodel or demolition, they will do their utmost to salvage any and all materials for reuse. There is no way to account for the volume of material that he has kept out of the landfill but be assured, it is large. I know of no other company in his field in this area that goes to this much trouble to conserve and reuse resources that most others would simply haul to the landfill.

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# **Nominee: Palouse Prairie Charter School**

Contact:208-882-3684

**Suggested Category:** School- Elementary/Middle

**Nominator:** Laura Heinse; 509 -670-6048

To the City of Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission,

I am pleased to nominate Palouse Prairie Charter School (PPCS) for the 2026 Mayor's Earth Day Awards in recognition of its exceptional commitment to environmental education, conservation, and community stewardship. PPCS integrates sustainability into the core of its curriculum, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students from kindergarten through middle school.

PPCS exemplifies hands-on, place-based environmental learning that connects students directly to the ecosystems of our region. Since 2019, PPCS students have restored their campus landscape with native Palouse Prairie plants, contributing to habitat restoration and regional biodiversity. This year, students across all grade levels engaged in expeditions that promote conservation, ecological literacy, and civic engagement. Kindergarten students launched their "More Trees, More Oxygen" expedition, becoming tree experts while exploring the role of trees in climate and ecosystem health. Second grade students evaluated campus erosion, conducted water sampling at Randle Flat and Little Bear Creek, and developed proposals to address water pollution and environmental impacts on local waterways.

Third grade students are raising steelhead eggs and will release them into a local stream connected to the Clearwater River, building a meaningful understanding of native species, watershed health, and long-term ecological responsibility. Fifth graders are studying the Sixth Mass Extinction and human impacts on the environment.

Middle school students also participate in immersive field studies to diverse ecosystems including Orcas Island, Horsethief Lake, and Hells Canyon, where they learn firsthand about ecology and conservation. Sixth grade students also examine their water footprint and exploring ways to reduce aquifer depletion and conserve local water resources. Seventh graders are conducting soil research focused on how compost and biochar support microbial communities and improve the health of topsoil.

Through experiential learning and conservation-focused expeditions, PPCS demonstrates a long-range commitment to sustainability and environmental education that aligns strongly with the spirit of the Mayor's Earth Day Awards. Their work not only educates students about environmental stewardship but empowers them to become informed, responsible caretakers of their local and global environment. For these reasons, PPCS is highly deserving of recognition for its leadership in environmental stewardship within the Moscow community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Laura Heinse Laura Heinse, PhD 509-670-6048

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## **Nominee: Erin Geslani**

Contact: [egeslani@uidaho.edu](mailto:egeslani@uidaho.edu)

**Suggested Category:** Young Adult Exceptional Service

**Nominator:** Mike Faupel; [mfaupel@uidaho.edu](mailto:mfaupel@uidaho.edu)

I am pleased to offer this nomination of Erin Geslani for the Mayor's Earth Day Award. Erin has been our Water Conservation Project Coordinator since January, 2025 and is well deserving of this recognition.

During her time with PBAC so far, Erin has:

- Institutionalized water conservation education and awareness as a priority for the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC).
- Conducted over 50 outreach events educating residents on the importance of water conservation.
- Successfully utilized social media to provide water conservation and awareness.
- Expanded PBAC's water conservation awareness program to the City of Pullman and Whitman County, WA, whose residents share a common municipal water supply with the City of Moscow.
- Shown great resilience and dedication to the program by quickly transitioning to a University of Idaho staff position supporting PBAC when the AmeriCorps program was cancelled in Spring of 2025.

Erin is committed to ensuring a high quality of life for Moscow residents and is making a positive impact on the community. I hope you'll consider this nomination and provide a positive recommendation for her.

Erin can be reached at [egeslani@uidaho.edu](mailto:egeslani@uidaho.edu), or (909) 241-9497

Executive Director, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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