Moscow City Council

	Regular Meeting **~Minutes~**	Laurie M. Hopkins City Clerk
	www.ci.moscow.id.us	208.883.7015

Monday, July 20, 2026	**7:00 PM**	**Council Chambers** **206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
PRESENT: Mayor Hailey Lewis, Bryce Blankenship, Drew Davis, Evan Holmes, Sage McCetich, Scott Sumner
ABSENT: Sandra Kelly
STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Nichoel Baird Spencer, Anthony Dahlinger, Bob Buvel, Laurie M. Hopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

   A. Approval of Moscow City Council July 6, 2026 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

   B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker

   C. Disbursement Report June 2026 - Sarah Decker
   Staff presented the June 2026 Accounts Payable Report to the Public Works / Finance Committee on July 13th, 2026. The Committee received the report and recommended approval of the disbursement report.

   ACTION: Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of June 2026.

   D. Third Quarter Financial Report April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 for FY2026 - Sarah Decker
   Staff presented the financial report for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026) to the Public Works/Finance Committee on July 13th, 2026. The Committee received the financial report and recommended approval as presented.

   ACTION: Accept the FY2026 Third Quarter Financial Report.

Holmes moved and Blankenship 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 Julia Parker to the Board of Adjustment; Kendra Chilbert to the Farmers Market Commission; Matt Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Blankenship moved and McCetich seconded approval of the appointment. Davis said it's nice to see previous elected officials volunteering on commissions. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Matt Smith (Moscow) has worked adjacent to the building community. He is looking forward to serving and providing value to Moscow.

3. Public Comment (limit 15 minutes)

None offered.

4. Citizen Commission Report - Human Rights Commission - Anthony Dahlinger / John Freeland

Dahlinger provided a handout to the council and introduced Nick Smiley-Kallas and Jana Argersinger. Smiley-Kallas provided the mission and a list of members. Argersinger said the Commission held a Better Together Dinner for students to learn about their experience in Moscow. Sixty people attended the dinner. Taking part of this initiative works closely with the HRC mission statement. The commission is considering applying for the 2027 Rural Welcoming Initiative which would provide support for coalition building and a stipend for the 2027 dinner. Applications are due in November and run into 2027. Transition in leadership of the Commission and the timing of the grant will determine the timing of the dinner in 2027.

Mayor Lewis spoke on city designation within the rural welcoming initiative.

Smiley-Kallas provided a list of reoccurring events which include social justice forums, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast, Great Moscow Food Drive, Indigenous Peoples Day, among others. The goal for the Juneteenth celebration was aimed at being a sister-city type event rotating locations.

5. Farm Road Watermain Development Participation Approval (ACTION ITEM) - Bob Buvel

Staff is requesting Council approval to expend funds from the Water Capital Fund to abandon the existing asbestos cement (AC) water main located on the proposed Les Schwab development site at 120 Farm Road (formerly the University Four Theater). The existing AC water main has reached the end of its useful service life. As AC pipe ages, it becomes increasingly brittle, significantly increasing the risk of leaks or rupture, particularly during site development and construction activities. To address this concern, staff directed the project design engineer to prepare plans and develop a cost estimate to abandon the existing on-site AC water main and replace it with a new PVC C900 pipe. The proposed work includes abandoning the existing main along the east and north boundaries of the site and extending the new water main to connect with the existing system along the south side of the site and then north on Farm Road to reconnect with the existing system. Under the proposed cost-sharing arrangement, the City would fund 60% of the engineering and construction costs associated with the on-site water main improvements and 100% of the off-site improvements within Farm Road. The City's total project cost is estimated at $205,904.62. Included in the packet are the preliminary development plans, estimate, and a proportionate breakdown of the proposed cost responsibilities.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the expenditure of $205,904.62 from the Water Capital Fund and authorize staff approval of construction change orders in an amount not to exceed 10% of the estimated amount; deny the expenditure; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Buvel introduced the item as written above. Due to the timing of construction, staff is requesting pre-authorization to enter into a development agreement for the proposed work pending review by the City Attorney. This would be paid out of water developer participation fund but this project would exceed that amount. Staff proposes a transfer from Water fund balance into Water improvements. The project was previously reviewed for ARPA funds. The project is eligible for prioritization in the Capital Improvement Plan, and a developer cost-share would expedite the replacement. Staff time will be spent on drafting the development agreement and legal review of the documents. The old AC line will be left in the ground and remain on site plans and records. The funding split is normally negotiated. In this project, the developer was already planning on putting in a water line to a fire hydrant. Their 40% portion is for the necessary line to meet fire flow. The city is responsible for the remaining.

Davis pointed out this was identified as a potential project in capital and this is an opportunity that serves the city and the developer. He moved to approve the expenditure of $205,904.62 from the Water Capital Fund and authorize staff approval of construction change orders in an amount not to exceed 10% of the estimated amount. McCetich seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. **Pullman-Moscow Airport Improvement Program 74 Grant Preauthorization Resolution (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

   The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport has applied for and may be offered U.S. Federal Grant monies up to the maximum of Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Two Dollars ($437,642.00) for the rehabilitation of runway markings 5/23 and taxiway markings A connectors A1, A2, A3, & A4, and procurement of aircraft rescue and fire fighting safety equipment. The required grant match will be provided by the Airport from Airport funds. The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport is requesting that the airport sponsors, City of Pullman and City of Moscow, authorize the mayors and city attorneys of each city to accept and sign for Federal AIP grant funds prior to the grants being awarded due to the limited turnaround time between receipt of the award and the time permitted to accept the grant and return the required executed grant authorization documents. Staff have prepared a resolution preauthorizing acceptance of the subject grant for the Council's approval.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the proposed resolution authorizing acceptance of AIP 74 grant award; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. Mayor Lewis added painting will be done outside of the flight schedule. The airport provides the local match.

Blankenship moved to approve the proposed resolution authorizing acceptance of AIP 74 grant award. Davis seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

7. **Idaho Water Resource Board Regional Water Sustainability Grant Agreement (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap**

   In July 2021, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List (List) to help guide the IWRB's spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. In 2025, the City of Moscow was granted $182,500 to be used to study the feasibility of a Clearwater River diversion as an alternate water supply to supplement the declining Palouse Basin Aquifer. The City of Moscow is managing this project with support from the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC). The Council approved the initial grant agreement with the IWRB, which contained a 12-month term on February 18, 2025. The Study is continuing with anticipated completion by the end of this year, but the agreement term has expired, requiring the City and IWRB to enter into a new agreement to receive the remaining grant funding of $76,404.85. The IWRB has provided the updated agreement for the Council's approval.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the Regional Water Sustainability Funding Contract With Idaho Water Resource Board as presented, or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. Having no questions Davis moved to approve the Regional Water Sustainability Funding Contract With Idaho Water Resource Board as presented. Holmes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

City Council

Fair & Affordable Housing Commission – Holmes said the Commission may use their budgeted funds to provide a workshop on affordable housing. They are also speaking with lenders regarding where to start with affordable housing.
Sustainable Environment Commission – Holmes reported the Commission had a discussion regarding xeriscaping at cemeteries. They are drafting a letter of support to install solar panels on the police station.
Planning & Zoning Commission – McCetich said they have been working on the duplex code.
Human Rights Commission – McCetich said they covered their activities during their report.
Moscow Arts Commission – Sumner said the Commission has received some nominations for the Mayors Arts Awards.
Parks & Recreation Commission – Sumner said they held a park tour.

Council members spoke about other meetings and events they attended.

Mayor

Mayor Lewis attended the Airport Board meeting where they discussed the most recent grant. The restaurant is open and is run in-house. The public hearing for the budget is August 17, 2026. She met with Sheriff Skiles and had good conversations regarding the transfer of arrestees to Nez Perce and the closing of jail. The North Idaho Legislative Tour is taking place this year after the general election and is in Moscow and hosted by the Chamber. SMART Transit is working on setting the budget. She participated in Blue Cross Foundation Health Academy and at the conclusion of the event next spring, there will be a $20,000 grant award.

ADJOURN

It was moved, seconded and mutually agreed upon to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk

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