

Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, August 3, 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, Sandra Kelly, Sage McCetich, Scott Sumner

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Nichol Baird Spencer, Tyler Palmer, Kelli Cooper, David Schott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

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

B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker

C. Camp Moscowanna Alcohol Use Request in Entertainment District - Amanda Argona

The Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center is hosting Camp Moscowanna on Saturday, August 15th, from 4 pm to 8 pm on Main Street between 3rd and 6th Streets. This summer camp-themed event is designed to evoke the nostalgia of family-friendly gatherings and will feature retail vendors offering a variety of activities with highlights including bean bag toss, knot tying, s'more making, and general crafting. Eight food vendors are expected, and no more than four beer/wine vendors will be present. The event has been reviewed and approved by staff on 29, 2026. Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol that are within the Entertainment District boundaries, Camp Moscowanna is requesting a temporary suspension of the open container law by resolution. Per Moscow City Code, Section 10-1-12, a draft resolution has been prepared for the Council's consideration.

ACTION: Approve the resolution allowing for the temporary suspension of the open container law within the event footprint of Camp Moscowanna for the duration of the event.

Holmes moved and Davis 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)

None offered.

4. Citizen Commission Report– Sustainable Environment Commission - Kelli Cooper / Steve McGeehan

Cooper introduced McGeehan, chair of the commission. The Commission reviewed and supported updates to the water conservation plan; discussed and supported the Energy Efficiency Electrification (EEE) Fair; and requested and reviewed the Mayor's Earth Day Awards. The EEE Fair included contractors, energy experts, tax and rebate information, presentations, and panel discussions. The Commission has been discussing community solar feasibility with the intention of drafting a framework of what a community solar project could look like for Moscow. The second annual Electric Transportation Fair will take place September 11.

Mayor Lewis said there is a poster circulating that mentions a community solar array on the new City shop but the shop was never a suggested location. The City has received a lot of emails regarding this community solar. While it will come down to what the utility can make sense of, she is excited people are passionate and looking into it. The Climate Action Working Group is now working on the solar project.

Blankenship thanked the Commission for helping make the EEE Fair a success. Sumner is excited to hear about the alternate forms of energy.

5. Police Department Donation Account Creation Resolution (ACTION ITEM) - Bill Belknap

Resident Joyce Presby, who recently passed away, bequeathed a portion of her estate to several local organizations, including the Moscow Police Department. In accordance with her last will and testament and court-approved estate settlement distribution, the City received \$24,818.35 from the estate. Staff is requesting to establish a restricted fund balance account for this gift and any other future donations that the Department may receive, for the future use of the Moscow Police Department, as approved by the Moscow City Council. In accordance with the City's Financial Policies, the Council must authorize the creation of restricted fund balances and establish the purpose, intent, and use of the restricted funds. Staff has prepared a resolution authorizing the creation of a Moscow Police Department Donation Account as a restricted fund balance to be used in support of the Police Department as included within the City of Moscow annual budget and approved by the City Council.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the creation of the Moscow Police Department Donation Account restricted fund balance; or take other action deemed appropriate.

Belknap introduced the item as written above. It is not uncommon for the police department to receive contributions but are usually relatively small. There are no restrictions or stipulations on the use. Chief Dahlinger would like to hold the money for special training and special equipment, things outside the normal budgetary expenditures for the department.

McCetich and Davis commented it is a very generous one time donation from a longtime community member. Sumner asked about a long-term fund that could build on earned interest. Belknap responded that usual contributions are usually less than a couple thousand per year so would take a considerable amount of time to establish a fund for a return on interest earnings.

Holmes moved to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the creation of the Moscow Police Department Donation Account restricted fund balance. Kelly seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. East City Park Stage Update Report - David Schott

Schott provided illustrations of the new stage including the floor plan. The improvements around the stage have been refined since the 30% design. Improvements include the pathway which swings on the south side around the stage. The stage itself will have a new concrete pathway ring circling the stage with a grassy area in front of the stage. An area for loading and off-loading is designed as a hammer head so vehicles can turn around easily. The construction is out to bid with a bid opening scheduled for August 25 and the bids coming before council on September 21. Completion is anticipated by April 6 depending on the weather. The art installation is scheduled for May of 2027. The horseshoe pits will be demolished but a new pit will be installed on the west side of the park. The Ghormley pits will be revamped to make them regulation and tournament suitable.

Blankenship liked the ring path around the stage and asked about plaza alternatives. Schott said both concrete and grass plaza's have been requested. He feels this design is a solution to capture a vast majority of users. The dancer's plaza is a bid alternate. One tree at the north corner of the stage will need to be removed.

Kelly had concerns regarding management and movement of people in regards to the bathrooms during events.

Davis felt the stage is a good and positive thing for the community and feedback has been given through different venues. The concrete ring will be good for circulation and will enhance the space moving forward.

Mayor Lewis was happy there are conversations about new grass being ready for the recurring spring events.

McCetich asked for clarity on the concrete circle. Belknap explained the circle is a narrower concrete path creating a sense of place for the stage. The path south of the stage which goes southwest to northeast is for circulation through the park. The concrete circle provides a center aisle walkway during events to get people to concessions and/or bathroom and back to their seat.

Holmes commented the concrete path is at the bottom of the sledding hill. He hopes the removal of the existing stage is done after the new stage is complete. Schott believes the demolition of the current stage would happen at the front end of the project so that the concrete ring can be installed and grass can be planted. The new construction won't start until after the summer events are concluded.

Mayor Lewis stated she is having conversations with staff about incorporating pieces of the current stage. Blankenship said the MAC talked about that when he was liaison so happy to hear that.

REPORTS

City Council

HPC - Kelly said they are talking about the historic district and how to present and share it.

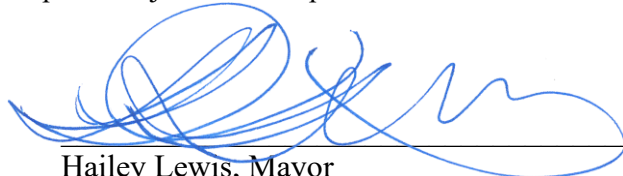
P&Z - McCetich said there was a public hearing on a development on the north side of Orchard.

Mayor

Mayor Lewis said she will be attending an aviation conference in Missoula.

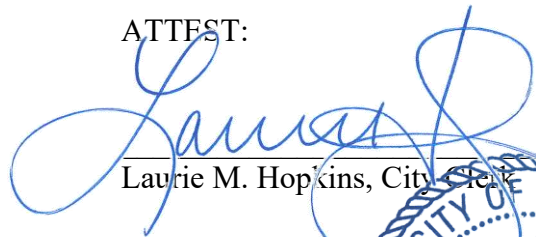
ADJOURN

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



Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk