

**CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF January 12, 2026
STATE OF MONTANA**

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; officials in attendance were; Council Members Ethan Bell, Lloyd Nelson, Doug Roberts and Sam Beyl, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley and Water/ Wastewater Director/Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman. Excused from attending were Public Works Director Richard Thompson, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, Undersheriff Scott McDermott and Attorney Jeff Weldon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Kopitzke asked if there was anyone present from the public that wish to comment on items not on the agenda. There will be no discussion of personnel. The Council will take no formal action at this point in the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: City Clerk/Treasurer Donley asked to add an open container request from Tom Paris from the Iron Horse Saloon with the same dates as the request from Tom Queen from the Lariat Bar and to remove item VI-B-3: Abigail Jorgenson- use of access road per Abigail's request.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 24670-24716 in the amount of \$400,557.67 and check numbers 23267-23317 in the amount of \$725,498.33 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Mayor Kopitzke presented open container permits from Tom Queen of the Lariat Bar for a dart tournament January 30, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on January 31, 2026
January 31, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on February 1, 2026
February 1, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Tom Queen of the Lariat Bar- Open Container Permit for Blind Draw Dart Tournament
January 24, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on January 25, 2026
3. Abigail Jorgenson-Use of access road: Item removed at request of Abigail Jorgenson
4. Mayor Kopitzke presented open container permits from Thomas Paris of the Iron Horse Bar for a dart January 30, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on January 31, 2026
January 31, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on February 1, 2026
February 1, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Council Member Bell made a motion to approve all permits together with a change of the start time to 3:00 p.m. on January 30, 2026 for the Lariat Bar and a change in end time to 9:00 p.m. on February 1st for the Iron Horse Bar. Council Member Nelson seconded the motion. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley gave a verbal and had a written report. Public Works Director Richard Thompson, Water/Wastewater Director/Code Enforcement Officer Taylor Hallman and Pool Manager Jason Forberg had written reports included in the packet.

A. City Clerk/Treasurer: City Clerk Donley gave a verbal report along with her written report.

B. Public Works: Written report included in packet

C. Water/Wastewater: Water/Wastewater Director Hallman gave a verbal report along with his written report. Lighting in the water plant is being replaced and a new schedule for winter has been implemented.

D. Pool: Written report included in packet.

E. Rosebud County Sheriff's Office: No report

F. Code Enforcement Officer: Code Enforcement Officer Hallman had a report included in the packet. Mr. Hallman gave a verbal 30-day notice of resignation as the code enforcement officer

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update:

SID information: Mayor Kopitzke reported he sent an email concerning bidding and cost. Discussion was had and the council will move forward with SID.

Water Project Update:

1. HDR information- Mayor Kopitzke asked if the council would like to move forward with HDR assessment. Discussion was had and it was stated the funding to hire HDR was in place.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to hire HDR; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

2. Ace Electric Pay Application #7 (Water Treatment Plant):

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve Ace Electric pay application #7; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Code 9-5-6-Parking Ordinance- This item will be revisited after the council has a work meeting to go over all codes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council President and Council Committee Assignments: Mayor Kopitzke presented a sheet with vacancies. Council Member Roberts agreed to continue being the Council President.

All other positions as follows:

Parks & Public Works: Council Members, Lloyd Nelson and Ethan Bell

Water & Sewer: Council Members, Ethan Bell and Doug Roberts

Pool & Recreation: Council Members, Samantha Beyl and Doug Roberts

Police Commission: Council Members Samantha Beyl and Doug Roberts

Policy and Code: Council Members Lloyd Nelson and Ethan Bell

Administration and Policy: Committee of the Whole

Zoning: Council Member Doug Roberts

Joan Duffield, term expires, 12/31/2026

Linda Wolff-Bowen, term expires, 12/31/27

Cathy Fleming, term, expires, 12/31/28

Zoning Officer, vacant

911 Board: Council Member Lloyd Nelson

Fire Department: Council Member Ethan Bell; Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Economic Development - Committee of the Whole

Southeast Montana Development Corporation: Council Member Samantha Beyl

Other Committees/Boards:

Tree Board: Clint Heser, Lydia Heser, Council Members Samantha Beyl & Doug Roberts; Public Works Director Richard

Thompson, Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Accessibility: Council Members Samantha Beyl and Loyd Nelson

Riverview Villa: Council Member Ethan Bell

LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee): Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

Council Member Nelson made a motion to approve the council president position and all committee assignments presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Clerk/Treasurer Appointment: Mayor Kopitzke asked that Mrs. Sandra Donley be re-appointed to serve as the Clerk/Treasurer. The reappointment fulfills the City Code and Montana Code Annotated appointment requirement.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to re-appoint Mrs. Sandra Donley as Clerk/Treasurer; the motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2026-R01-Authorizing fund #102111 Name Change- City Clerk/Treasurer Donley stated this item had previously been approved by council, but that after discussion with the auditors it needed to be changed through a resolution.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve resolution no. 2026-R01; the motion to approve was seconded By Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS:

City Judge Egeland had a report included in the packet.

City Council: Council Member Bell stated he would like the council to address the pros and cons of having VRBO's in town.

Mayor: Mayor Kopitzke presented his report and asked if anyone had questions. Mayor Kopitzke stated the city would need a new growth plan this year and that he would reach out to Great West Engineering who had done them in the past.

City Attorney: None

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 9, 2026 6:00 p.m. for a work meeting and Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

Public Comment: Mayor Kopitzke asked for public comment after each topic, if comments are made; those comments are recorded as part of the official minutes.

Agenda Items for the Next Meeting: Levee Project and SID and Water Project

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley