CITY OF FORSYTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF October 19, 2026
STATE OF MONTANA

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; officials in attendance were Council Members Lloyd Nelson, Sam Beyl, Ethan Bell and Doug Roberts, City Clerk/ Treasurer Sandra Donley, Water/ Wastewater Director Taylor Hallman, and Undersheriff Scott McDermott. Excused from attending were Public Works Director Richard Thompson, Pool Manager Jason Forberg, Code Enforcement Officer Justin Sauvageau, Building Inspector Gabe Martinsen 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. There was no public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):
Mayor Kopitzke recessed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. to open the public hearing for a variance from Rian and Danae Pinkerton for a shipping container at 1513 Main Street that is zoned general commercial. Council Member Nelson asked if the Pinkerton's intended on leaving the shipping container at 1513 Main Street and Mr. Pinkerton stated no. With no other comments Mayor Kopitzke closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

REVIEW – REVISE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Kopitzke presented the consent agenda for approval:

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included claim numbers 25127-25179 in the amount of $134,198.33 and check numbers 23718–23762 in the amount of $140,434.87 for prior approved claims. The motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

CITIZENS:

Unfinished Business:

Claude and Nina Krueger-Boundary Line Changes:

Council Member Bell made a motion to allow for the boundary line changes of option 2 which would still have four (4) parcels. The motion to approve the changes was seconded by Council Member Beyl. Discussion was had on the boundary line changes. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion failed 3-2 with Mayor Kopitzke being the tie breaking vote.

Council Member Roberts asked after to return to the agenda item before moving forward with new business.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to allow for the boundary line changes of options 1which would have three (3) parcels. The motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Discussion was had. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-1.

New Business:

Variance Request from Rian and Danae Pinkerton for a shipping container at 1513 Main Street: Mayor Kopitzke presented the variance for consideration.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the variance for a shipping container at 1513 Main Street for 24 months. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion carried 4-0.

Zoning Commission Recommendation- D12 Properties Variance: City Clerk Donley stated the zoning commission recommended to allow D12's variance for apartments on the mezzanine portion of the ground floor at 164-170 N 9th Avenue.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the variance with recommendations from the Forsyth Zoning Commission. The motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Beyl. Discussion was had on the variance, the zoning recommendation and D12 properties plans. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion failed 3-1.

Joseph and Sheri Seleg- Boundary Changes: A map was presented to the city from Mr. and Mrs. Seleg to allow splitting a property at Main Street in two (2) by adding a boundary line.

Council Member Bell made a motion to allow adding a boundary line to split the property at Main Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beyl. Discussion was had. City Clerk Donley called roll; motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Samantha Beyl/Marigold Market (Outdoor Craft/Vendor Show): Mayor Kopitzke presented two (2) permits from Samantha Beyl for consideration.

a. Special Event Permit for Marcyes Park, June 19, 2027 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
b. Open Container Permit for Marcyes Park, June 19, 2027 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the permits together. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-0 with Council Member Beyl abstaining from voting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: City Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Donley, Water/Wastewater Director Hallman and Undersheriff McDermott all gave verbal reports along with written reports. Pool Manager Jason Forberg had a written report included in the packet.

A. City Clerk/Treasurer: City Clerk Donley gave a verbal report along with her written report. City Clerk Donley asked permission for the purchase of new reading equipment for water meters in the amount of $22,985.09.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve purchasing new reading equipment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

After City Clerk/Treasurer Report, Mayor Kopitzke chose to move agenda item to VIII-B-2- Tank Erosion Control to allow for the Interstate Engineering Employees to present early due to travel.

Water Project Update:

Tank Erosion Control:

Lonni Fleck with Interstate Engineering spoke concerning the settlement agreement and the tank erosion control project. Discussion was had concerning water project issues, fixes, options and possible funding. Tyler Lindbloom with Interstate Engineering spoke concerning the tank erosion project and answered questions.

1. Council Member Bell made a motion Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award for the Forsyth Water Tank Erosion Control Project in the amount of $467,897.00 for Schedule I to complete construction in 2026, subject to USDA Rural Development confirmation by the end of the week that reimbursement can be made on an awarded project for a possible grant. The motion authorizing to sign was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-1.

2. Council Member Bell made a motion authorizing IEI to apply for Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant through USDA Rural Development on behalf of the City and further authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the application paperwork as necessary for a fee not to exceed $7,500. The motion authorizing to apply was seconded by Council Member Roberts. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-1.

3. Council Member Roberts made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Settlement Agreement with Interstate Engineering for $106,132.00 subject to legal counsel recommendations. The motion authorizing to sign was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

4. Council Member Bell made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign TO #3 for the Forsyth Water Tank Erosion Control design, bidding, construction engineering and additional services in the amount of $40,000 which is intended to cover unknowns or out of scope work such as funding applications/administration, prolonged construction time, warranty work, etc. The motion authorizing to sign was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 3-1.

Mayor Kopitzke also moved agenda item IX-A- Riverview Villa-Blue Skies Management Agreement under new business to allow for travel. Mr. Bob Martelle reported the Riverview Villa Board has chosen to change property management companies due to major issues with the present management company. The new management company will be Blue Skies Management effective November 1, 2026.

After agenda item IX-A the meeting returned to the Department Head Report section to continue.

Public Works: None

C. Water/Wastewater: Director Hallman gave a verbal report along with his written report. Water/Wastewater Director Hallman presented a bid to install Influent Meter at the Wastewater Plant.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve the bid to install the influent meter for the wastewater plant. The motion to approve the bid to install was seconded by Council Member Beyl. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

D. Pool: A written report was included in the packet.

E. Rosebud County Sheriff's Office: Undersheriff McDermott gave a verbal report along with his printed report. Undersheriff McDermott stated in his verbal report the Rosebud County Sheriff's Office has had new interest in employment and ordered two (2) new vehicle builds.

F. Code Enforcement Officer: None

G. Building Inspector: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Levee (Dike) Update:

Amendment #2 to Task Order #6: Discussion was had on the amendment to task order #6.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to approve amendment #2 to task order #6 for Great West Engineering. The motion to approve was seconded by Council Member Bell. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

Water Project Update:

Brick Building Update: Discussion was had and Mayor Kopitzke asked that the agenda item be revisited at the November 16, 2026 council meeting as November 1, 2026 was the due date for bids.

Code for Electric Scooters and Bicycles: This item will remain on the agenda to be revisited at the November 16, 2026 City Council Meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Sauvageau resignation: Mayor Kopitzke stated CEO Sauvageau had given his resignation effective October 31, 2026.

Council Member Bell made a motion to accept Code Enforcement Officer Sauvageau's resignation. The motion to accept the resignation was seconded by Council Member Beyl. Council Member Beyl expressed her appreciation to CEO Sauvageau on his service to the City of Forsyth as the Code Enforcement Officer. City Clerk Donley called roll; the motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS:

City Judge Egeland: A report was provided in the packet. Council Member Nelson pointed out an error in the written number portion of the receipt for the money received from Judge Egeland. City Clerk Donley reviewed and stated she would have Utility Clerk Silvis correct that portion of the receipt.

City Council:

Mayor: Mayor Kopitzke presented his report and asked if anyone had questions.

City Attorney: Mayor Kopitzke stated Attorney Greer was working on the City Code Book and the reviewing the settlement agreement presented by Interstate Engineering.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS: Council Member Beyl reported with Pool Committee and the Police Commission both met. Council Member Nelson stated he had three (3) people he would like to thank. Water/Wastewater Director Hallman for taking him up to the water tank and walking him through the tank issues, resident Josh Nielson for the great job on cleaning up 181 and 191 Oak Street and resident Terrell Smotherman for cleaning up at 490 N 5th Avenue.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 16, 2026 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, Water Project, Settlement Agreement, Brick Building, Electric Scooters and Bicycles.

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kopitzke adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Mayor Dennis Kopitzke

City Clerk Sandra Donley