

CUT BANK CITY COUNCIL
July 6, 2026
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL & ZOOM

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM & AT CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Harper called the meeting of the Cut Bank City Council to order at 6:30 PM, Monday, July 6, 2026. The following people answered roll call: Mayor Curtis Harper, Councilperson Kacie Gibson, Doug Vermulm and Maynard Nygaard. Also present were City Superintendent John Damberger, Police Chief Mike Schultz, and City Clerk/Treasurer Donni Schultz. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS:

Vernon Thomas
Austin Castle
Lisa Cline
Carolyn Berkram

ABSENT:

Building Inspector Sandon
Councilperson Reynolds

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NOT ON THE AGENDA: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Vermulm moved to approve the minutes from June 15, 2026 and

June 29, 2026 as distributed. Payroll Summary for June 18, 2026 for \$108,350.16 and payroll summary for July 2, 2026 for \$114,771.07 Claims through June 30, 2026 for \$90,375.82 warrants 64240-64283 Councilperson Gibson seconded the motion. Mayor Harper called for a vote on the Consent Agenda. The Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney:

nothing to add

City Superintendent:

The ramp is completed at the Civic Center. The City Crew will be putting up the railing soon. Vern Thomas stated that the ramp looks really nice. The Central Park signs are done. The City Crew needs to put up a couple more of the Cut Bank Trails signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Resolution 2026-12 approving the Power Teton County Water & Sewer District as a member of North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. Councilperson Gibson made a motion. Councilperson Vermulm seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.**
2. **Approval of Resolution 2026-13 supporting the Downtown Food and Music Fest and closing the 10 block of North Central from Main Street to Railway Street from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Saturday August 15th. Councilperson Vermulm made a motion. Councilperson Nygaard seconded.** Councilperson Gibson asked Lisa Cline if she had alerted the businesses along the road of the street closure. Mrs. Cline stated that she will talk to the affected businesses and make sure no one has a problem. Councilperson Gibson stated that she would like to know that the businesses are ok with the road closure before approving the resolution. Council Gibson stated that we could hold a special meeting on Friday if Mrs. Cline could talk to the businesses before then. Lisa Cline stated that she appreciated the support this festival has had in the past. This year there will be music, art, vendors and kid activities. **The Council decided to table this resolution until the next meeting.** Clerk/Treasurer Schultz will set up a special meeting to address this resolution. It will probably occur on Friday.

3. **Approval of Resolution 2026-14 supporting the Annual Lewis and Clark Festival July 24th to July 26th. And to defer enforcement of the Open Container Ordinance at the Main Street City Park during the festival and during the street dance. Also, approval to close the 10 block of South Central from Main Street to Railway from 7:00 pm to 2:00 am on Saturday, July 25, 2026. Councilperson Vermulm made a motion. Councilperson Gibson seconded. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried 3 to 0.**

Correspondence: none

WORK SESSION:

1. Presentation by Lisa Cline informing the Council about Cultivate Cut Bank:

The Department of Public Transformation looks at giving grants to small towns with less than 20,000. There were 128 applications submitted for a grant. Three communities (Broadus, Livingston, and Cut Bank) were awarded a grant in Montana. Cultivate Cut Bank is focused on community engagement through the arts. The grant will pay for the music at the FAM fest. This grant will also help support First Friday. Cultivate Cut Bank is hoping to bring vitality to downtown. Last year at the FAM festival 300 people attended. Reimaging Rural is responsible for the improvements to Central Park.

2. Letter from Kalen McKelvey requesting blocking off 6th Ave SE between Main Street and Railroad Street on Saturday, July 25, from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm for a children's petting zoo:

Glacier Community Center gave the petting zoo permission to use their parking lot. Chief Schultz stated that blocking off that street during Lewis and Clark Days would hinder patrolling around the park. It also would not allow emergency vehicles to park by the RV dump where they usually do each year. The Council discussed this issue stating that by blocking off this street it would decrease the amount of parking significantly for Lewis and Clark Festival. City Superintendent Damberger also stated that there is a swim meet in Cut Bank this weekend so there might be added traffic and people attending Lewis and Clark Days. The Council thought that this was a great idea to have a petting zoo, but the location is a bad spot. They stated that they did not want to block off the street. Hopefully, an alternative spot for this petting zoo could be found.

3. Discussion on Creating One Ways and Diagonal Parking around Cut Bank High School:

Mayor Harper explained that there is a lot of traffic with tournaments and there is no parking around the High School. Mayor Harper stated that if one ways were on the 100 block of 3rd and 4th Ave SE and put in diagonal parking on the high school side. It would increase parking significantly. Councilperson Vermulm asked Mayor Harper how many more parking spaces this would create. Mayor Harper stated that he will get the numbers. Mayor Harper also stated that this would create a safer space for kids and easier for emergency vehicles to get to the high school. Chief Schultz stated that the only way it would work is if residences can park normal in front of their houses. It would be one lane of traffic down each street. The City would need to paint parking lines. An issue is that this might create a bottleneck with school drop-offs and pick-ups.

4. Proposed Ordinance Change to Ordinance 5-2-5 removal of nuisance weeds from the premises.

Attorney Bugni stated that she cleaned up the sentence so that it made more sense. She also changed the wording to occupant or owner instead of and. Chief Schultz stated that they received 15 returned letters for unknown addresses. The City will need to post for two weeks and have two readings of the change to the ordinance before voting to approve the change. Superintendent Damberger asked if we could also change the amount in the ordinance to state that the fee will be set by resolution each year. It was also discussed that we could do the same for other fees like shelter fees and pool fees just have all the fees set at a council meeting once a year.

Vern Thomas stated that we need to put stuff under old business so we don't forget what we have discussed in previous meetings.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

The Mayor is working on getting more people to become members of the Civic Center. He is looking into Water issues if it is better to fix our existing infrastructure or buy water. He is looking at its long term so Cut Bank will be good in 20 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Airport Authority:

Vernon Thomas stated that the bond failed by 35 votes. The Airport Authority will try to get in touch with the County Commissioners to get the levy on the November ballot. They will try to have town halls to inform the citizens about the issues. The Council stated that there definitely needed to be more education about the levy for the Airport and what it is for.

Port Authority:

Had their annual meeting. They will select officers next meeting. The Port Authority had 3 people applying for their grants.

Growth Policy:

Mayor Harper stated that the City could have it's own Planning Board. He asked Council to identify people who might be interested on being on the board. We need to move forward on approving the growth policy so more grant opportunities will be open to the City.

Public Comment: none

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mayor Harper adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Attest:

Approve:

Donni Schultz, Clerk-Treasurer

Curtis Harper, Mayor

