

CITY OF MONTELLO
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 AT 7:00 PM

Called to order by Ken Streich at 7pm

Members present: Marylin Merrill, Dick Dufour, Bill Faulkner, Venise Mugler, Ken Streich, Ron Knutson, Dennis Schrimpf, Brian Schrimpf

Others present: Michael Marcucci, Karlene Utke, Maureen Krivanek, Mark Robinson, Dustin Esselman, Mackenzie Pfeiffer, Bud Daggett, Carol Faulkner, Jim Murre, Matt Faltz, Seth Hardell, Michelle Murre

Motion by D. Schrimpf/Dufour to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Knutson to approve council meeting minutes from January 12, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Faulkner to approve December Finance committee minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Faulkner/Dufour to approve December Public Works committee minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Schrimpf/Dufour to approve December Public Safety minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Faulkner/Knutson to approve December License & Ordinance minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Streich to approve December Personnel minutes but strike the motion to add Appendix E to the employee handbook as it had not been on the agenda. Motion carried. Discussion on next Personnel meeting agenda.

Council consented provided Library minutes.

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed green space plans. Seth Hardell spoke about when the buildings had been torn down and asked about mural plans, H&H Pools has had people ask to advertise on the side of the building. Seth stated he would like to see mural done. Committee discussed mural designs and cost, as well as the fence. City does not have funds for mural at this time, but it is still part of the long-term plan. In the meantime, H&H will utilize the wall space. Carol Faulkner asked about sign permits. Council will look into any city ordinances. Some discussion on the appearance of signs.

Discussion on sign regulation at stoplights. Bud Daggett spoke about signs being put on posts which are technically on his land: he has let people put signs up for 2 weeks at a time. Recently there have been some issues with people not wanting to follow the 2 week limit. Council agrees with limit but does not want to take over enforcement.

ORDINANCE 2026-01: RECREATING OF CHAPTER 319-3 was read aloud. Some discussion on wording of Chief of Police vs Montello PD. Motion by Mugler/B. Schrimpf to approve ordinance as read. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Karlene Utke asked about city share of fire truck, discussed cost and payment and budgeted amount. Discussed ARPA money and business grants. Utke also asked about Public Safety minutes wording: "program" which meant the computer program. Utke asked about about road project funding and consolidation loan.

Michael Marcucci asked about mail delivery downtown, was told city ordinance prohibits mailboxes downtown council explained that is a State highway and the state has prohibited mailboxes on the road in that area. Marcucci also asked about high speed internet options, some discussion on internet providers and regulations. Mark Robinson commented on the motion made at the personnel meeting which had not been on the Agenda. Robinson stated it is a violation of open meeting law.

Maureen Krivanek commented that the website is sometimes better, but it still sometimes a blank screen. City hall employees are working with website hosts to fix as well as looking into other options.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Streich stated that Montello lost a prominent community member, Jim Houdek. He will be missed.

Motion by D. Schrimpf/Knutson to adjourn carried at 7:49 pm

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2026

Minutes by Marie Anderson, City Clerk