

**A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION
ON JUNE 15, 2026, WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA
COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Day called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Day asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Bowser, Day, Hewitt, Robertson, Shaver and Warren.
Commissioner Buehler was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were none.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Bowser reported that the Ordinance Committee and the Library Board meet on Wednesday, June 17th.

Commissioner Robertson reported there was an Airport Board meeting on June 3rd. The major taxiway reconstruction project is underway. The seal coat projects will continue over the next six weeks. The World War II hangar is getting a new door. Commissioner Robertson stated the construction of two new hangars has begun.

Commissioner Robertson reported he attended a Tax Increment Finance Board meeting on June 9th. The primary topic was the proposed public parking lot. Commissioner Robertson stated that after thorough discussion the parking lot application was approved and recommended to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Robertson also reported that the Public Works Committee meeting and the focus was the social media efforts to get the work out about open positions.

Commissioner Buehler reported the Central Montana Foundation Board meeting is June 23 and the Audit Committee will meet on Thursday, June 18th at noon.

Commissioner Day reported a Park and Recreation Board member, and the Park and Recreation Director conducted a site visit at Creekside to evaluate the proposed Farmers Market relocation. The questions identified during the walkthrough will be addressed at the next Park and Recreation Board meeting. The public is invited to attend the East Fork community clean up and the next Park and Recreation Board meeting will be July 1st at the Civic Center.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following items:

City Manager Phelps updated the Commission regarding the disbursements of tax payments. The City Manager recently delivered a letter to the Fergus County Commissioner expressing the City's concern about the distribution of the tax funds and requested that Fergus County remit any interest earned on the funds while they have been held. City Manager Phelps stated it is her understanding that Fergus County is actively working to solve the issue. They have contracted additional training to help staff get caught up and ensure the process moves forward efficiently. The commissioners expressed confidence that the funds will be distributed within the next couple of weeks.

A special budget meeting is scheduled for June 29th.

Montana Shakespeare in the Park will perform Much Ado About Nothing at Creekside Park.

The swimming pool is open, swimming lessons have begun and a swim meet is scheduled for July 12th.

Building permit activity has increased with the summer construction season.

The plans for the biosolids project are complete and are being submitted to DEQ along with State Revolving Fund loan application.

The Planning Commission will have their first meeting later this month and hope to approve the bylaws. Then the bylaws will be returned to the Commission in July for approval.

Current requirement continues for a Public Works Director, Firefighter, Library Director, Recreation Specialist and Police Officer positions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – non agenda items

Mr. Jason Carlson, 411 W Boulevard St, addressed the Commission expressing his concerns regarding the City's management of noxious weeds on City owned property. Mr. Carlson commented the City should comply with Montana weed laws before requiring similar standards of others and provided photographs documenting locations of noxious weeds.

The statement read by Mr. Jason Carlson for the record is attached.

Mr. Keith Kucera, 615 Idaho Street, commented he lives on one of the skinniest streets in town and recently received stickers on vehicles for parking on sidewalks. Mr. Kucera reported if they are not allowed to park on the sidewalks then other vehicles and emergency vehicles will not be able to go down the street. Mr. Kucera questioned the recent enforcement after many years without issue and requested the city consider a more practical solution.

Mr. Roger Olson, 706 W Idaho Street, expressed his concerns with the recent stickers on vehicles parking on sidewalks. Mr. Roger Olson stated the residents only partially occupy the sidewalk to maintain traffic flow while still allowing pedestrian access. Mr. Roger Olson asked why the change in enforcement after so many years without complaint.

Commissioner Day explained that code enforcement is complaint driven.

Ms. Sam Houston, 109 Turquoise Dr, asked for an update on the stop sign requests near Lewis and Clark School. Ms. Houston suggested additional stop signs at Walnut Street, Southwest Ash and Darby Avenue intersection due to safety concerns. She expressed her concern with the recent paving in Bonanza Hills and there are a lot of uneven areas.

Mr. John Carlson, 314 4th Ave N, thanked the Commission for improving the audio system. Mr. John Carlson asked what the distinction between the Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting and then the Citizens' Requests at the end of the meeting. Commissioner Day explained that the Commission wants to give the citizens a chance to participate in the meeting before and after the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Robertson made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Buehler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgment of the claims that have been paid from June 1, 2026, to June 11, 2026, for a total of \$145,905.98.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on appointing a Police Commission to serve a three-year term on the City of Lewistown Police Commission

City Manager Phelps reported the City advertised for a citizen to serve on the City of Lewistown Police Commission. The City received two applicants, Steven Hamilton and John Koch and both have experience with law enforcement and other qualifications. Commissioner Buehler thanked the applicants and expressed her appreciation for applying. Commissioner Buehler commented that she appreciates getting their application and the ability to review the applicant's interest, education, and qualification they have. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to appoint John Koch to the City of Lewistown Police Commission to serve a three-year term and Commissioner Shaver seconded the motion. Commissioner Day asked for comments from the

audience and Commission, there being none, the question was called for, and the City Clerk took a roll call vote with all voting in favor.

2. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4224, a resolution approving an application from the City of Lewistown for TIF Funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Advisory Committee

City Manager Phelps explained the City did submit a TIF grant application to the TIF board regarding the purchase of a property and turning it into a public parking lot. The property is located at 203 4th Ave S. One of the goals of the Urban Renewal Plan that created the TIF district was the need to develop and implement a downtown parking strategy. Parking strategy is not only for employees but to have additional parking to support additional developments. The next goal is the housing goal, which is to encourage residential development, primarily in downtown upper story spaces. The proposed development will improve sidewalks and green space. City Manager Phelps reviewed the costs that can be paid for using the tax increment financing. Those are the acquisition of the land, the demolition of the building, and the public improvements. City Manager Phelps stated that the TIF Board did make a recommendation to award up to \$300,000 in matching grant funds the total cost of the project should not exceed \$600,000. City Manager Phelps further reviewed the grants available for the matching funds and the in-kind work that can be done by City staff. Mr. Dave Byerly, Chairman of the TIF Board, addressed the Commission explaining this project aligns with the Urban Renewal Plan and represents a significant investment in downtown infrastructure. Mr. Byerly stated the TIF Board recommended awarding up to \$300,000 in matching funds and expressed confidence additional grant funding could be secured. Mr. Byerly commented the board wants to see the property removed from the blighted condition and turned into something that will serve the community and hope this can happen within the next two years. Mr. Byerly commented there has been some discussion on the possibility of the City leasing the spots overnight and other options. There was a brief discussion. Commissioner Bowser made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4224, a resolution approving an application from the City of Lewistown for TIF Funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Advisory Committee and Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. Commissioner Day asked for comments from the audience and Commission, there being none, the question was called for, and the City Clerk took a roll call vote with all voting in favor.

3. Discussion and action on authorizing the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Montana Department of Transportation and the City of Lewistown for the state funded City Park reset area maintenance program FY2027

City Manager Phelps explained this is a pass-through grant for the rest area west of town that is maintained by the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club works hard to maintain the facility and the City is reimbursed by the State of Montana. The grant this year is for expenses up to \$8,030 for fiscal year 2027. Commissioner Buehler made the motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Montana Department of Transportation and the City of Lewistown for the state funded City Park reset area maintenance program FY2027 and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Day asked for comments from the

audience and Commission, there being none, the question was called for, and the City Clerk took a roll call vote with all voting in favor.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Commissioner Day reported she has received an email from Stone City regarding the use of Creekside Park the first weekend of August each year. The information will be sent out to the Commission by email.

Mr. Keith Kucera asked if there would be other discussions regarding sidewalk parking and would it include vehicles parked across sidewalks in driveways.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Hewitt thanked everyone for coming and appreciated everyone's comments.

Commissioner Warren reported he had gotten a call regarding the bathrooms at the Parks and by the end of the week they looked bad and wondered if the bathrooms could be checked more often. City Manager Phelps asked which parks. Commissioner Warren answered Creekside and Frank Day. City Manager Phelps answered now that the pool is open; the bathrooms at Frank Day are getting checked daily. City Manager Phelps reported now that the seasonal staff have been hired for the recreation department Creekside is being checked and cleaned daily.

Commissioner Buehler thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Commissioner Buehler commented she enjoys seeing the community come alive in the summer and appreciates the hard work by staff. Commissioner Buehler further commented that she has received some emails regarding opportunity zones and asked if the City is looking into that? City Manager Phelps answered that herself and Commissioner Robertson have sat in on some of the conversations and our community is not eligible.

Commissioner Robertson commented that a couple of months ago on the front page of the News Argus there was an interview with the Justice of Peace regarding concerns about an increasing workload. Commissioner Robertson expressed concern that the article suggests the Justice of Peace may not intend to continue honoring the existing agreement between the City and County for handling City Court matters beginning January 1st. Commissioner Robertson stated that if the agreement is not continued, the City could be left without a City Court, resulting in significant budget impacts for the City. Commissioner Robertson requested the Justice of Peace address the City Commission directly to clarify his intentions regarding the agreement between the City and County.

Commissioner Shaver acknowledges the parking concerns on the narrow streets in the community. Commissioner Shaver asked if something can be done with the barricades on Broadway.

Commissioner Bowser reported a citizen has expressed their concerns of e-bikes on the trails. Commissioner Bowser thinks e-bikes should be discussed at some point.

Commissioner Day reported she has received direct correspondence from Renee Rumman with Stone City asking for exclusive use for Creekside the first weekend in August every year.

Commissioner Day read the following letter: Dear Elected City Commissioners, I am writing as a resident and local business owner to voice my strong support for the annual reserve of Creekside, Pavilion and Park for the exclusive use of Centerfest on the first weekend of each August. Said usage of this public facility benefits the Lewistown community at large, both for its cultural benefits along with the financial impact of the event itself. In addition, any change to the cadence and/or location of Centerfest would deter the positive momentum built over the last several years, and therefore negatively impact the economic benefits of said events to the community as a whole. Therefore, I encourage all my elected leaders to place a positive vote in support of this initiative. Sincerely, Greg Clark, 314 8th Avenue North. Commissioner Day reported this was also discussed at our ordinance meeting. We have had multiple requests as far as supporting the usage of Creekside Park. I do have the policy printed off which we'll share with the commission, as well if the city can make that available to all the commissioners. Centerfest does check all those boxes for priority usage of Creekside. But I think it would be a good thing for the commissioners to review as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Day adjourned the meeting.

Dated 15th day of June 2026.

Loraine Day, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk

6-14-2026

1

TO THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION;

FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS JASON CARLSON, I RESIDE
AT 411 W. BLVD ST. IN LEWISTOWN. I AM HERE TO PUT THIS
CITY COMMISSION ON A FORMAL NOTICE OF A REDRESS
OR GRIEVANCE AGAINST MY FUNDAMENTAL, GOD GIVEN
CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH
AS STATED IN THE 1ST AND 14TH AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S.
CONSTITUTION, AND THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS SECTION 7.

THE 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION STATES:
"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF
SPEECH." THE 14TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION STATES
"NO STATE SHALL MAKE OR ENFORCE ANY LAW WHICH SHALL
ABRIDGE THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE
UNITED STATES

SECTION 7 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION UNDER ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS STATES: "NO LAW SHALL BE PASSED
IMPAIRING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR EXPRESSION."

EVERY PERSON SHALL BE FREE TO SPEAK OR PUBLISH WHATEVER
HE WILL ON ANY SUBJECT, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ABUSE
OF THAT LIBERTY".

I AM BRINGING THIS NOTICE TO THIS COMMISSION IN
REGARDS TO THE PARAGRAPH ON THE "CITIZEN PARTICIPATION"
PAGE
~~PARAGRAPH~~ ON THE CITY "COMMISSION OF THE WHOLE"
HANDOUT WHICH STATES:

Impertinent or slanderous remarks towards city officials, staff or other members of the public, or other boisterous, disorderly or disruptive behavior during a Commission meeting are not permitted. Swearing, derogatory language, threats, personal attacks, heckling or similar behavior may be considered impertinent and/or disruptive. Any person exhibiting such behavior during the Commission meeting may be admonished to cease that behavior or risk being asked to vacate the Commission chambers. If such behavior continues after the admonishment, the presiding officer may request that person to vacate the Commission chambers, unless permission to remain is granted by vote of the Commission.

ANY THINKING PERSON CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT THIS "CITY
COMMISSIONS" RULE FOR "CITIZEN PARTICIPATION" IS BLATANTLY
IN VIOLATION OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL GOD GIVEN, CONSTITUTIONALLY
PROTECTED RIGHTS AS A SUPPOSED, "FREE AMERICAN"!

ARTICLE 6 OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION STATES; "THIS
CONSTITUTION . . . SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND."

ARTICLE II SECTION 1 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION STATES;
POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY. ALL POLITICAL POWER IS VESTED IN AND
DERIVED FROM THE PEOPLE. ALL GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT

ORIGINATES WITH THE PEOPLE, IS FOUNDED UPON THEIR² WILL ONLY, AND IS INSTITUTED SOLELY FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE.

ARTICLE ~~II~~ SECTION 3 STATES: INALIENABLE RIGHTS. ALL PERSONS ARE BORN FREE AND HAVE CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS. THEY INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO... ENJOYING AND DEFENDING THEIR LIVES AND LIBERTIES AND PROTECTING PROPERTY.

TO EVEN FURTHER VALIDATE MY CLAIM THAT THIS CITY COMMISSION RULE IS IMMORAL, AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL, THE SUPREME COURT HAS SAID IN MIRANDA V.S. ARIZONA: "WHERE RIGHTS SECURED BY THE CONSTITUTION ARE INVOLVED, THERE CAN BE NO RULE MAKING OR LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ABROGATE THEM."

ALSO, IN MARBURY V.S. MADISON, THE SUPREME COURT SAID: "ALL LAWS WHICH ARE REPUGNANT TO THE CONSTITUTION ARE NULL AND VOID."

I COULD GO ON ABOUT SUPREME COURT CASES THAT PROTECT AND UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AGAINST GOVERNMENT ABUSE

OF POWER, BUT FOR TIME SAKE I WON'T.

TO CITE 1 LAST SECTION FROM THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE IV SECTION 18 STATES: 'STATE SUBJECT TO SUIT.' 'THE STATE COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS, AND ALL OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES SHALL HAVE NO IMMUNITY FROM SUIT FOR INJURY TO A PERSON OR PROPERTY.'

I AM ASKING THIS CITY COMMISSION TO REVIEW THEIR "CITIZEN PARTICIPATION" PARAGRAPH AND RE-WRITE IT, WITH THE RIGHTS OF THEIR "BOSS", "WE THE PEOPLE" AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR RE-WRITING THOUGHT PROCESS. I AM ASKING YOU, TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR LIBERTY AND DEFEND FREEDOM!! CITY CODES, RULES, ORDINANCES, STATUTES, AND SUPPOSED LAWS DO NOT TRUMP THE GUARANTEES OF A CITIZENS FUNDAMENTAL, GOD GIVEN, CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED RIGHTS - ESPECIALLY IN A SUPPOSED TO BE "FREE AMERICAN SOCIETY"! A SIMPLE NON-THREATENING STATEMENT SUCH AS: "WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU BE RESPECTFUL IN YOUR PUBLIC COMMENTS, TREATING OTHER PEOPLE AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO TREAT YOU," WOULD BE CREATIVE

5
I WOULD BE AMISS IF I DID NOT ALSO TRY TO
GENTLY REMIND YOU, AS OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS, OF
18 U.S. CODE 242 WHICH STATES "DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS
UNDER COLOR OF LAW"; WHOEVER, UNDER COLOR OF ANY LAW, STATUTE,
ORDINANCE, REGULATION, OR CUSTOM, WILLFULLY SUBJECTS ANY PERSON
IN ANY STATE... ~~TO~~ TO THE DEPRIVATION OF ANY RIGHTS,
PRIVILEGES, OR IMMUNITIES SECURED OR PROTECTED BY THE
CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES..... SHALL BE
FINED UNDER THIS TITLE OR IMPRISONED NOT MORE THAN ONE
YEAR, OR BOTH.

I HOPE THIS COMMISSION CAN SEE MY HEART IN THIS
MATTER, IT IS NOT ABOUT HATE, OR VINDICTIVENESS THAT I BRING
THIS MATTER TO YOUR ATTENTION, I AM SIMPLY TRYING TO
PROTECT MY RIGHTS IN A PEACEABLE MANNER. MY DAD
DID NOT GET DRAFTED INTO THE U.S. ARMY TO GO FIGHT
COMMUNISM IN VIET NAM, ONLY TO COME BACK TO THE
LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE, TO LET
COMMUNIST IDEALS REPLACE OUR AMERICAN CONSTITUTION
IN HIS HOME TOWN. AND TO HAVE NO ONE FIGHT AGAINST IT!!