

AGENDA
MORTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM January 26, 2026

Mayor Rick Mead

City Clerk LuAnn Ward

Council Jason Sawyer
Council Maria Gonzalez
Council Peter Hansen
Council Jeff Johnson
Council Jason Knutson

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - 2. CONSENT AGENDA:**
Minutes of December 29, 2025 vouchers and EFT's
 - 3. PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON AGENDA ONLY**
 - 4. NEW BUSINESS:**
 1. Rhonda Cornwell – E. Lewis County Chamber of Commerce – Guinness book of world records potluck picnic.
 2. Ed Smith – American Legion – 4th of July Celebration
 3. Councilman Sawyer request for city issued cell phones
 4. Elect mayor pro-tem and council committee members
 - 5. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: - LIMIT 3 MINUTES**
- ADJOURN:**

December 29, 2025
Morton City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Rick Mead
Councilman Jason Sawyer
Councilman Bob Boyer
Councilman Richard Vanderlip
Councilman Travis Cooper

7:00 pm – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Mead

Motion made by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor to amend agenda and add New Business # 7 – Swearing in of new officers

Consent Agenda minutes, vouchers and EFTs from November 24, 2025 (Motion by councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Cooper, all in favor)

Public comment:
None

New business:

- Council approved agreement and conditions relating to appointment of public defender (Motion by councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Vanderlip, all in favor)
- Council approved new CBA 2026 – 2028 for noncommissioned and commissioned employees (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)
- Councilman approved Resolution 557 to increase property tax (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Cooper, all in favor)
- Dan Mortensen asked council to pass a resolution sanctioning councilman Sawyer from voting on tourism dollars, as in a previous meeting councilman Sawyer stated Historical Society should consider removing Dan from his position before he felt comfortable giving them tourism money. Council did not take any action.
- Jerry Wallin asked if the city would remove the light in front of 141 Front Avenue, as it shines directly into his home. Council requested comments from his neighbors before they take any action.
- Ronda Cornwell from E. Lewis County Chamber of Commerce requested \$11,000 in tourism money. Brochures were passed out to council showing upcoming events.
- New council members sworn in.

Old Business:
None

Public Participation:

Adjourn 8:15 pm

Respectfully, LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Ricky Mead, Mayor

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2025

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Rhonda Cornwell

East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce (509) 985-6844

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: January 26th, 2026

Time needed for the presentation: 10-15 min

Subject of presentation: Guinness Book of World Records Potluck Picnic

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: It is important to identify the correct individuals or departments to contact

regarding permits required for the picnic. Clarification is needed on which locations

within the city are authorized for the picnic. This will help ensure that all activities are

conducted in compliance with local regulations. It is necessary to determine the specific

dates that the city will allow the picnic to take place. This information will ensure

scheduling aligns with city policies and avoid conflicts

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2025

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Ed Smith

American Legion Post 215

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: Jan 26/2026

Time needed for the presentation: 15 min.

Subject of presentation: 4th of July celebration

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

CITY OF MORTON COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: _____

Councilperson Sawyer

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: 1-26-2026

Time needed for the presentation: TBD

Subject of presentation: City issued phones for council members to conduct city business

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

The city should purchase cell phones and provide them to the city council for business-related use, and should adopt a cell phone usage policy.

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

9.1 CREATION: The following standing committees of the city council are created and established:

- (1) Finance;
- (2) Public Safety;
- (3) Public works;
- (4) Human resources;
- (5) Planning;
- (6) Public administration/
Intergovernmental

9.2 FUNCTION AND PURPOSE: The standing committees shall function as an advisory body to the council as a whole in reviewing policy matters referred to them by the council, and such other matters as the whole council by simple majority vote may direct, within their respective areas of responsibility and formulating recommendations to the council regarding action proposed to be taken. The committees shall have no power or authority to commit the city or to take any binding action on their part without the express authorization of the council as a whole. The committees shall be concerned primarily with policy matters and matters vested in the legislative body of the city; and shall not become involved in the administration of the city government and city interests. In general, the purpose of each committee shall be to review matters within the following subject areas:

(1) FINANCE: The review, analysis and recommendation of financial policy. Analysis of the budget process, proposed budgets and other financial programs with respect to overall city policy

(2) PUBLIC SAFETY: Law enforcement and fire protection; health and safety regulations; animal control; civil defense; and questions involving the public health and safety;

(3) PUBLIC WORKS: Street and right-of-way improvements, maintenance and operation; public utilities, including storm drainage, sanitary sewers, water, coordination with special purpose districts and other municipal utilities, and supervision over privately-owned public utilities; public buildings and improvements; construction and building codes and regulations; and generally, projects and facilities within the area of public works;

(4) HUMAN RESOURCES: Operation and function of city parks and recreational needs; civil improvement needs and facilities; municipal cemetery; coordination of educational programs and facilities; programs and facilities for senior citizens, underprivileged and handicapped persons, minorities and low-income families; and generally, areas involving the preservation, protection and advancement of human concerns;

(5) PLANNING: Comprehensive and coordinated land use planning and management; energy; subdivisions and plats; preservation and protection of greenbelts, flood-plains, shorelines and natural amenities; annexation and are planning; and generally, the supervision and control of the development and land use process;

(6) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/INTERGOVERNMENTAL: Function and operation of municipal government through its departments, boards and appointive officers, both internally and through relationships with other governmental entities; personnel management policies, including salary and compensation plans, working conditions and employment benefits; public records and documents; public relations and information; inventory and control of municipally owned public property; comprehensive municipal insurance coverage; and generally, policy areas dealing with public administration; council rules and procedure; matters relating to conflict of interest questions and code of ethics for public officials; campaign practices and expenditures; intergovernmental relations; and generally matters relating to the conduct of municipal affairs, its rules and ethics.

3.3 MEMBERSHIP: Each committee shall have a chairperson and at least two other members, to be elected and appointed by the council bi-annually upon the reorganization and seating of a new city council following regular municipal elections. Vacancies shall be filled when they occur by the council. Each councilperson shall be made chairperson of one committee and a member of two other committees.

3.4 MEETINGS: Committees shall meet at the call of the chairperson. The date, time and place of each meeting shall be announced at a preceding regular or special council meeting, and notice of the meeting shall be given in compliance with the State open public meetings Act. Meetings may also be called by using schedule set forth in section 3.2 of these rules. All committees are encouraged to meet at least one each quarter. A written agenda shall be prepared and made available to all in attendance at each committee meeting.

9.5 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. The committees shall consider, review and make recommendations to the council concerning matters referred to them by the council. The mayor, committee chairpersons, and boards and commissions are encouraged to suggest items to the council which should be considered by a committee. Whenever any item is referred to a committee, the council should establish a date by which the committee should report back to the council. Each committee shall have general responsibility, as indicated in section 9.2 to investigate, collect and review appropriate information for the formulation of possible council action and to make recommendations to the council. Committees shall not have authority to take any action unless expressly authorized to do so by the affirmative votes of a majority of all council members.

B. In carrying out their duties and responsibilities, the committees shall have the power and authority to examine all records, registers, minutes and papers pertaining to the subject matter under review or consideration, including those kept by boards and commissions of the city. The city officers, department heads, board and commission chairpersons shall cooperate with and assist the committees in carrying out their duties and responsibilities and in furnishing necessary information, except where prohibited by law or excluded under Section 31, Chapter 1, Laws of 1973; provided, that in the event any city officer, department head or board or commission chairperson deems the release of requested information not in the best interests of the city, authority for that release shall be vested in the mayor.

C. In the event of a conflict as to which committee has the responsibility with respect to a particular subject matter or area, the question shall be referred to the council who, by majority vote, will determine which committee should take responsibility for the matter in question.

9.6 REPORTS: In the appropriate place on the council agenda, any appropriate reports from the standing committees shall be made by the committee chairperson or an alternate designated by the chairperson. A minority report may be given by any committee member who dissents from the report by the majority. Oral reports shall be sufficient, unless a council majority feels that a written report should be furnished.

9.7 STAFFING: All requests for staff assistance to a committee shall be made to the mayor by the committee chairperson.