

AGENDA
MORTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM July 27, 2026

Mayor Rick Mead

City Clerk LuAnn Ward

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of June 22, 2026 vouchers and EFT's

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON AGENDA ONLY

4. COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATE

5. DISCUSSION

1. Amend Morton City Ordinance 12.30.020 (continuous use) to allow city officials to conduct city business like a Town Hall meeting at the community center with a contingency being no more than two City councilors are to attend, under OPMA rules.

2. Create an ordinance that does not require city council to call special meetings, if a city councilor wants to hold a Town Hall meeting at the community center with a contingency being no more than two City councilors are to attend, under OPMA rules. Decorum rules still applying to these meetings.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 561 amend Resolution 527 handling citizen complaints.
2. Ordinance 2026-06 amend MMC 6.08 dangerous dog
3. Rhonda Cornwell – Re-allocate tourism funds
4. Jeff Johnson – FOMP and vendors in Lyle/Park
5. Bucksnot Pub – request beer garden
6. Megan Petersen – pump track at Backstrom Park
7. Appointing council member for council #5 vacancy
8. Censorship of Mayor Rick Mead.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

1. None

June 22, 2026

Morton City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Rick Mead

Councilman Jason Sawyer

Councilwoman Maria Gonzalez

Councilman Peter Hansen

Councilman Jeff Johnson

Councilman Jason Knutson - ABSENT

7:00 pm – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Rick Mead

Consent Agenda minutes, vouchers and EFTs from May 26, 2026 (Motion by councilman Johnson, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor) Special meeting May 27, 2026 (Motion by councilwoman Gonzalez, 2nd councilman Johnson, all in favor)

Public comment:

Citizen Tara stated she couldn't find the agenda where she normally looks.

Citizen Punk asked about mileage on the surplus vehicles.

New business:

- Members from the SWWF spoke about the different events happening at the upcoming fair.
- Rhonda Cornwell could not make the meeting, council agreed to table until next meeting (Motion by councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Hansen, all in favor)
- Council approved surplus "2" Dodge ram vehicles, vin#0898/#5252 (Motion by councilman Hansen, 2nd councilman Johnson, all in favor)
- Council approved lease agreement between City of Morton and Peak Credit Union for ATM machine (Motion councilman Hansen, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor)
- Council approved Resolution 520 amending agenda to include committee chairperson report (Motion councilwoman Gonzalez, 2nd councilman Hansen, all in favor)
- Council approved Ordinance 2026-05 establish chapter 12.40 streets (Motion councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Hansen, all in favor)
- Council approved amendment #2 for engineering services Well No. 2 (Motion by councilman Johnson, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor)

Old Business:

Councilman Sawyer stated fellow councilman Knutson was unhappy about what he considered disparaging remarks being made by fellow councilman Johnson regarding himself and councilman Sawyer. A back-forth conversation between councilman Sawyer and Johnson went on for approximately 15 minutes. Councilman Hansen stated everything he's been told is hearsay and questioned what is true and what isn't. Councilwoman Gonzalez made a motion not to sensor councilman Johnson, 2nd councilman Hansen, councilman Sawyer voting no.

Public Participation:

Citizen Tim stated the council members fighting is not helpful for the city. He would like to see the city more proactive on forcing clean-up of yards.

Citizen Amy stated councilman Sawyer insulted mayor and can't have it both ways.

George from Public Health Soc. Services, stated they are here 2nd & 4th Tuesday every month from 9am – 2pm at 175 Main Ave. for help with benefits for all veterans.

Kathy from Morton PD stated the gossip columns on social media are not the correct way to handle complaints. Citizens need to file a complaint with City Hall or call non-emergency dispatch. If a complaint or phone call isn't made, nothing can be done.

Councilman Hansen stated venting on social media does not work you must file a complaint with the city.

Tera stated she loves the idea of committee reports.

Councilman Hansen made a motion to not have executive session, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, councilman Johnson voted yes, councilman Sawyer voted no.

Motion to adjourn councilman Johnson, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor.

Adjourn 8:30 pm

Respectfully, LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Ricky Mead, Mayor

RESOLUTION 561

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MORTON, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING THE PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS;
AMENDING RESOLUTION 527; AND ESTABLISHING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE AND SEVERABILITY.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Morton, Washington (the "City") is a Code City under the laws of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the City amended Resolution 527 on August 22, 2022 to address and create a procedure for handling complaints by residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to improve the overall handling of these complaints; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined these complaints can be handled more efficiently if said complaints are also distributed to the designated department heads by the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend said procedures as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORTON, DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

The following sections of Resolution No. 527 are hereby reaffirmed, amended, and repealed as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of Morton Resolution No. 527 is hereby reaffirmed in its entirety.

Section 2. Section 2 of Morton Resolution No. 527 is amended to state:

All Citizen Complaints shall be filed with the City Clerk. The City Clerk will date stamp and initial the form and email copies of the complaint to the Mayor, the appropriate Department Head, and all members of the Morton City Council that same day, retaining the original for the records of the City.

Section 3. Section 3 of Morton City Resolution 527 is hereby reaffirmed in its entirety.

Follow-up to a complaint will be in writing to the complainant. In addition to the written contact, follow-up may occur by personally contacting the complainant. All oral responses or personal contacts shall be evidenced by written documentation of the action taken. The original documents shall be filed with the City Clerk.

Section 4. Section 4 of Morton City Resolution 527 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution should be held to be unconstitutional or unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Morton, Washington and APPROVED by its Mayor at a regularly scheduled meeting this 27th day of July 2026.

Rick Mead, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Marissa Y. Jay, WSBA # 55593
City Attorney

DRAFT

CITY OF MORTON, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MORTON, WASHINGTON, AMENDING AND REAFFIRMING SECTIONS OF MORTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6.08 CONCERNING DANGEROUS DOGS; AMENDING AND REAFFIRMING SECTIONS OF ORDINANCE NOS. 514 AND 562 AS NECESSARY; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Morton, Washington (the “City”) is a Code City under the laws of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, the City may adopt and enforce ordinances of all kinds relating to and regulating the City’s local or municipal affairs and appropriate to the good government of the City; and

WHEREAS, all references herein to “MMC” shall mean the “Morton Municipal Code,” and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6.08 MMC is entitled “DANGEROUS DOGS”; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 514, as codified at Chapter 6.08 of the Morton Municipal Code, was enacted in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 562, as codified at Chapter 6.08 of the Morton Municipal Code enacted in 1999, amended Ordinance No. 514; and

WHEREAS, RCW 16.08.070 provides definitions for dangerous dogs; and

WHEREAS, RCW 16.08.080-.100 concern dangerous dogs; and

WHEREAS, the City’s current provisions are outdated; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to amend Chapter 6.08 of the Morton Municipal Code as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORTON, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 6.08.010 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 1 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless context otherwise indicates, the following definitions shall apply:

“Animal control authority” means the Morton police department or its designee.

“Animal control officer” means any individual employed, contracted with or appointed by the animal control authority for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of this chapter or any other law or ordinance relating to the licensure of animals, control of animals, or seizure and impoundment of animals, and includes any state or local law enforcement officer or other employee whose duties in whole or in part include assignments that cover the seizure and impoundment of any animal.

“Animal shelter” means the Lewis County animal shelter or other agency as designated as the place for the impounding of dogs.

“At large” means to be off the premises of the owner or keeper and not under the immediate control of such owner or keeper, or his or her agent or a member of his or her immediate family, either by leash, cord or chain. An animal within a vehicle of its owner shall be deemed to be upon the owner’s premises.

“Dangerous dog” means any dog that according to the records of the appropriate authority: (a) has inflicted severe injury upon a human being without provocation on public or private property; (b) has killed a domestic animal without provocation while off the owner’s property; or (c) has been previously found to be potentially dangerous, the owner having received notice of such and the dog again aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals; provided, however, that dogs shall not be declared dangerous if the threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises occupied by the owner of the dog, or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or has, in the past, been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.

“Dog” includes both male and female, natural or sterilized.

“Harboring” means the occupant of any premises on which an animal remains or to which it customarily returns daily for food and care for a period of five (5) days is presumed to be harboring or keeping the animal within the meaning of this chapter.

“Licensing official” means the city clerk.

“Owner” means any person, firm, corporation, organization, or department possessing, harboring, keeping, having an interest in, or having control or custody of an animal.

“Potentially dangerous dog” means any dog that when unprovoked: (a) inflicts bites on a human or a domestic animal either on public or on private property; or (b) chases or approaches a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of

attack, or any dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack unprovoked, to cause injury, or to cause injury or to otherwise threaten the safety of humans or domestic animals.

“Proper enclosure of a dangerous dog” means, while on the owner’s property, a dangerous dog shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure, suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the animal from escaping. Such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

“Severe injury” means any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery.

Section 2. Section 6.08.020 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 2 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.020 Control of dogs.

- A. It is unlawful for the owner, keeper, custodian, or person having charge of any dog to allow such dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the city.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise transfer the ownership of any dog previously certified as a potentially dangerous dog or as a dangerous dog by the animal control authority or any authorized jurisdiction in the state of Washington unless such person shall, within five (5) days of such transfer, notify the animal control authority of the disposition of such dog.
- C. It is unlawful for any person to purchase or otherwise receive the transfer of ownership or possession of any dog previously certified as a potentially dangerous dog or as a dangerous dog by any authorized jurisdiction in the state of Washington unless such person shall notify the animal control authority of the disposition of such dog within five (5) days of such transfer.

Section 3. Section 6.08.030 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 3 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.030 Potentially dangerous dogs.

- A. It is unlawful for any owner of a potentially dangerous dog, who has been notified by the animal control authority that he or she is the owner of a potentially dangerous dog, to keep such dog within Morton unless such owner procures a license from the City.
- B. The animal control authority may find and declare an animal potentially dangerous if it has probable cause to believe that the animal falls within the definition of “potentially dangerous dog” set forth in Section 6.08.010 MMC. The finding and declaration must be based upon:
 - 1. The written complaint or declaration of a citizen who is willing to testify that the animal has acted in a manner which causes it to fall within the definition of “potentially dangerous dog” in Section 6.08.010 MMC;
 - 2. Dog bite reports filed with the animal control authority as required by this chapter or state law;
 - 3. Actions of the dog witnessed by any law enforcement officer; or

4. Other substantial evidence.
- C. The declaration of potentially dangerous dog shall be in writing, and shall be served on the owner and keeper, if applicable, in one of the following methods:
 1. Certified and regular mail to the owner or keeper's last known address, if known;
 2. Personally; or
 3. If the owner cannot be located by one of the first two methods, by publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
- D. The declaration shall state at least:
 1. A description of the animal;
 2. The name and address of the owner or keeper of the animal if known;
 3. The whereabouts of the animal if it is not in the custody of the owner;
 4. The facts upon which the declaration of potentially dangerous dog is based;
 5. The availability of a hearing in case the person objects to the declaration, if a request is made within five days;
 6. The restrictions placed on the animal as a result of the declaration of potentially dangerous dog;
 7. The penalties for violation of the restrictions, including the possibility of destruction of the animal, and imprisonment or fining of the owner.
- E. If the owner or keeper of the animal wishes to object to the declaration of potentially dangerous dog:
 1. The owner or keeper may, within five days of receipt of the declaration, or within five days of the publication of the declaration pursuant to subsection (C)(3) of this section, request a hearing before the police chief by submitting a written request to the animal control authority.
 2. The police chief shall issue a written decision within ten days of the hearing either upholding the declaration or if the police chief finds that there is insufficient evidence to support the declaration, the declaration shall be rescinded, and the restrictions imposed thereby annulled. The written decision shall be served on the owner or keeper in the same manner as set forth in subsection C.
 3. Absent a timely objection and request for a hearing, the declaration shall be a final determination of a potentially dangerous animal.
- F. Following service of a declaration of potentially dangerous dog, and pending an objection under this section, the animal control authority may, if circumstances require, impound the animal at the owner's expense, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- G. Violation of this section shall not preclude immediate criminal prosecution under RCW 16.08.100 in a first bite situation causing severe injury or death of any human.

Section 4. Section 6.08.035 of the Morton Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

6.08.035 Dangerous Dogs Declarations.

- A. The animal control authority may find and declare an animal dangerous if it has probable cause to believe that the animal falls within the definition of "dangerous dog" set forth in Section 6.08.010 MMC.

- B. Prior to the animal control authority issuing its final determination, the animal control authority shall notify the owner in writing that he or she is entitled to an opportunity to meet with the authority, at which meeting the owner may give, orally or in writing, any reasons or information as to why the dog should not be declared dangerous. The notice shall state the date, time, and location of the meeting, which must occur prior to expiration of fifteen calendar days following delivery of the notice. The owner may propose an alternative meeting date and time, but such meeting must occur within the fifteen-day time period set forth in this section. After such meeting, the authority must issue its final determination, in the form of a written order, within fifteen calendar days. In the event the authority declares a dog to be dangerous, the order shall include a recital of the authority for the action, a brief concise statement of the facts that support the determination, and the signature of the person who made the determination. The order shall be sent by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person to the owner at the owner's last address known to the authority.
- C. The notice shall include the following information: The statutory basis for the proposed action; the reasons the authority considers the animal dangerous; a statement that the dog is subject to registration and controls required by this chapter, including a recitation of the controls in 6.08.040 MMC; and an explanation of the owner's rights and of the proper procedure for appealing a decision finding the dog dangerous.
- D. The notice must be based upon:
1. The written complaint or declaration of a citizen who is willing to testify that the animal has acted in a manner which causes it to fall within the definition of "dangerous dog" in Section 6.08.010 MMC;
 2. Dog bite reports filed with the animal control authority as required by this chapter or state law;
 3. Actions of the dog witnessed by any law enforcement officer; or
 4. Other substantial evidence.
- E. If the owner of the animal wishes to appeal the final determination of the authority and declaration of dangerous dog:
1. The owner may, within twenty days of receipt of the final determination, appeal the final determination to the municipal court by submitting a written request to the clerk of the municipal court and paying the filing fee.
 2. The written appeal shall contain the following:
 - (a) A brief statement that protests the action and gives reasons it should be reversed or modified; and
 - (b) Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses who will appear on the dog owner's behalf; and
 - (c) Phone number where owner or keeper can be contacted.
 - (d) If the owner or keeper does not file a timely written appeal, the restrictions imposed in connection with the final determination shall remain in effect for the life of the animal, unless sooner lifted by the animal control authority action or a court of competent jurisdiction.

3. The municipal court, upon receipt of the request, will set a hearing date and send notice to the parties. It shall be the responsibility of the parties to notify witnesses of the hearing date. If the appellant or their representative fails to appear for the hearing, the declaration stands.
4. Following the hearing, if the court finds a preponderance of evidence to support the declaration, it shall uphold the declaration, impose court costs on the appellant, and may impose additional restrictions on the dog; if the court finds insufficient evidence to support the declaration, it shall be rescinded and the restrictions annulled.
- F. While the appeal is pending, the authority may order that the dog be confined or controlled in compliance with RCW 16.08.090. If the dog is determined to be dangerous, the owner must pay all costs of confinement and control.

Section 5. Section 6.08.040 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 4 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.040 Dangerous dogs.

- A. It is unlawful for an owner to have a dangerous dog in the city without a certificate of registration issued under this section. This section shall not apply to dogs used by law enforcement officials for police work.
- B. The animal control authority shall issue a certificate of registration to the owner of a dangerous dog if the owner presents to the animal control authority sufficient evidence of:
 1. A proper enclosure to confine a dangerous dog and the posting of the premises with a clearly visible warning sign that there is a dangerous dog on the property. In addition, the owner shall conspicuously display a sign with a warning symbol that informs children of the presence of a dangerous dog; and
 2. The owner of a dangerous animal is required to microchip the animal and to provide proof of placement of a microchip that is capable of being scanned by an "AVID" or equivalent brand microchip scanner; and
 3. Either of the following:
 - (a) A surety bond issued by a surety insurer qualified under Title 48 RCW, as it now exists or is hereafter amended or recodified, in a form acceptable to the animal control authority and city attorney in the sum of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), payable to any person injured by the dangerous dog; or
 - (b) A policy of liability insurance, such as homeowner's insurance, issued by an insurer qualified under Title 48 RCW in the amount of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), insuring the owner for any personal injuries inflicted by the dangerous dog.
- C. A certificate of registration as used in this section shall be obtained from the animal control authority. The owner of a dangerous dog shall obtain a certificate of registration from the animal control authority, and shall be required to pay the fee for such certificate of registration in the amount set forth herein, or as hereafter amended, to the City Treasurer. In addition, the owner of a dangerous dog shall pay an annual renewal fee for each dangerous dog licensed under this section in the amount set forth herein, or as hereafter amended, and shall submit proof of compliance with subsection B above.

- D. The owner of a dangerous dog shall pay a fee for the certificate of registration in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The annual renewal fee for each dangerous dog licensed under this section is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Section 6. Section 6.08.050 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Ordinance No. 562, is amended to state:

6.08.050 Violations—Penalties.

- A. Violation of any section of this Chapter shall not preclude immediate criminal prosecution under RCW 16.08.100 in a first bite situation causing severe injury or death of any human.
- B. Any owner of a dangerous dog who fails to obtain a certificate of registration or renewal for such dog as set forth in Section 6.08.040 MMC shall be guilty of a class 1 civil infraction pursuant to Chapter 7.80 RCW and shall be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00); provided, however, that no such civil penalty shall be assessed until five days have elapsed from the date such owner is notified by the animal control authority that such a license or renewal for such dangerous dog is required.
- C. Any dangerous dog for which a license or certificate of registration (or renewal) has not been obtained by its owner, pursuant to 6.08.040 MMC, is subject to being impounded by the animal control authority. The owner of any dangerous dog so impounded shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day such dog remains impounded with the animal control authority. Any dangerous dog impounded due to the failure of the owner of such dog to obtain the required license or certificate of registration and which remains impounded for a period of at least fifteen (15) days due to the failure of the owner to obtain such license or certificate of registration (or renewal), may be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner by the animal control authority. A civil penalty in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day shall be assessed against the owner of each dangerous dog impounded by the animal control authority under this subsection.
- D. It is unlawful for the owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be outside the proper enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash and under physical restraint of a responsible person. The muzzle shall be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration but shall prevent it from biting any person or animal. Any owner who violates this provision shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- E. It is unlawful for the owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be outside the proper enclosure unless the dog is wearing a bright orange collar. Any owner who violates this provision shall be guilty of a class 1 civil infraction pursuant to Chapter 7.80 RCW as it now exists or is hereafter amended, replaced, or recodified.
- F. Any dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control authority if the: (1) dog is not validly registered under Section 6.08.040 MMC; (2) owner does not secure the liability insurance coverage required under Section 6.08.040 MMC; (3) dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure; (4) dog is outside of the dwelling of the owner, or outside of the proper enclosure and not under physical restraint of the responsible person. In addition, the owner shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine

of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) and one year in jail or both. The owner of any dog confiscated under this subsection may recover such dog from the animal control authority upon the payment of a civil fine which shall be in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) plus ten dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day the dog has been in the control of the animal control authority; provided, however, that in the event the owner has not picked up the dangerous dog within ten (10) days of being notified by the animal control authority that such dog is under the control of such authority, the dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner and the owner shall be assessed an additional civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the cost of destroying such dangerous dog.

- G. If a dangerous dog of an owner with a prior conviction under this chapter attacks or bites a person or another domestic animal, the Morton police department shall notify the Lewis County animal control authority. In addition, the dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control authority, shall be placed in quarantine for the proper length of time, and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner. The owner of any dangerous dog confiscated and destroyed pursuant to this subsection shall be responsible for all costs incurred in picking up the dog.
- H. The owner of any dog that aggressively attacks and causes severe injury or death of any human, regardless of whether there has been any previous determination of whether such dog is potentially dangerous or dangerous, shall be reported to the Lewis County animal control authority. In addition, the dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control authority, placed in quarantine for the proper length of time and thereafter destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner. The owner of any dangerous dog confiscated and destroyed pursuant to this subsection shall be responsible for all costs incurred in picking up the dog.
- I. The harboring, keeping, and maintaining of a potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog contrary to this chapter is hereby declared to be a public nuisance
- J. The remedies provided herein for violations of or failure to comply with provisions of this chapter, whether civil or criminal, are cumulative and in addition to any other remedy provided by law.
- K. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the voluntary, permanent relinquishment of any animal by its owner to a law enforcement officer, animal control officer, or animal care and control agency. Voluntary relinquishment has no effect on the criminal charges that may be pursued by the appropriate authorities.
- L. Nothing in this chapter requires court action for taking custody of, caring for, and properly disposing of stray, feral, at-large, or abandoned animals, or wild animals not owned or kept as pets or livestock, as lawfully performed by law enforcement agencies or animal care and control agencies.

Section 7. Section 6.08.060 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 6 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.060 Enforcement.

- A. All civil penalties required to be paid by owners for violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be made to the city.

- B. Civil penalties, costs, and costs of abatement incurred by the City are the personal obligations of the animal owner or keeper. The City Attorney may collect such civil penalties, costs, and abatement costs by use of appropriate legal remedies.
- C. No potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog confiscated by the animal control authority shall be returned to any owner until such owner has paid all civil penalties which have been assessed against such owner under this chapter.
- D. The city shall have authority to place a lien upon the real property of any owner of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog against whom a civil penalty has been assessed under this chapter, who has been given notice of such civil penalty and has failed to pay such civil penalty; provided, however, that no such lien shall be placed until thirty (30) days have elapsed from the date of any final determination of the validity of such civil penalty.

Section 8. Section 6.08.070 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 7 of Ordinance No. 514, is amended to state:

6.08.070 Hearings.

- A. Any owner against whom a civil penalty has been assessed under this chapter may contest such civil penalty by requesting a hearing with the municipal court within thirty days of notification of such civil penalty if personally served or thirty-three days if mailed by the animal control authority.
- B. Where an owner has requested a hearing pursuant to subsection A of this section, no potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog which is in the possession of the animal control authority may be destroyed until the resolution of such hearing; provided, however, that an additional civil penalty in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day shall be assessed against any owner whose dog remains in the custody of the animal control authority during any hearings requested under this section where resolution of such hearing is that all or any part of the civil penalty against such owner is found to be properly assessed.
- C. Following resolution of any contested hearing regarding a civil penalty as provided herein, the owner of any dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog in the possession of the animal control authority shall pay all civil penalties which may have been assessed as authorized above within ten (10) days of the final resolution of any hearing regarding such civil penalties.
- D. Any dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog which has not been picked up from the animal control authority by its owner within ten (10) days of the final resolution of any hearing regarding any civil penalties under this section shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner; provided, however, that an additional civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the cost of destroying such dog shall be assessed against the owner, and may be collected as provided in Section 6.08.060 MMC.

Section 9. Section 6.08.080 of the Morton Municipal Code, as last amended by Section 8 of Ordinance No. 514, is hereby affirmed in its entirety.

Section 10. Section 6.08.090 of the Morton Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

6.08.090 Adoption by reference.

To the extent the following RCW sections, as currently enacted or as hereafter amended or recodified from time to time, do not conflict with this chapter, they are hereby adopted by reference and shall be given the same force and effect as if set forth herein in full:

- A. RCW 16.08.080 Dangerous dogs – Notice to owners – Right of appeal – Certificate of registration required – Surety bond – Liability insurance – Restrictions.
- B. RCW 16.08.090 Dangerous dogs – Requirements for restraint – Potentially dangerous dogs – Dogs not declared dangerous.
- C. RCW 16.08.100(1) Dangerous dogs – Confiscation – Conditions – Duties of animal control authority – Penalties and affirmative defenses for owners of dogs that attack – Dog fights, penalty.

Section 11. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 12. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional or unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 13. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the City's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 14. Corrections. Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbers, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Morton, Washington, and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Morton at a regularly scheduled open public meeting thereof, this ____ day of July, 2026.

Ricky Mead, Mayor

Attest:

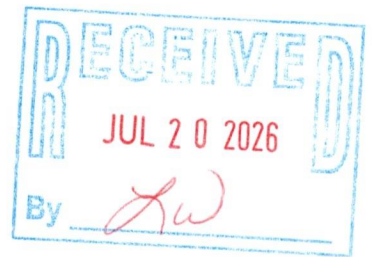
Approved as to form:

LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Marissa Y. Jay, WSBA # 55593
City Attorney

Approved Reading: _____/2026
Publication Date: _____/2026
Effective Date: _____/2026

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM



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

East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: July 27th 2026

Time needed for the presentation: 10 min

Subject of presentation: reallocate funds donated by city

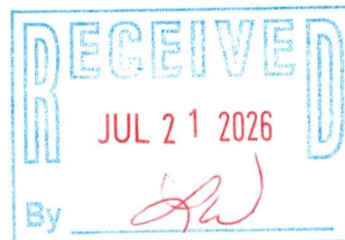
You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: We were granted \$ 1200.00 by the City Of Morton for porta-poties.

Unfortunately we were not able to provide the event that we had anticipated on due to lack of
funding and participation. We are asking that the city allow us to use the funds to hold a
picnic and feild day. The East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce would like to hold a smaller
event and provide hot dogs, soda and chips to the public and have an old fashioned game day
at Gus Backstom park.

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: JTF

Johnson

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: 7-27-2026

Time needed for the presentation: _____

Subject of presentation: FOMP AND VENDORS IN PARK

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: _____

FOMP WOULD LIKE TO OPEN
DISCUSSIONS RE VENDORS IN
BACKSTROM PARK

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

JUL 14 2026

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Bucksnot Pub.

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: 7/27/26

Time needed for the presentation: 5 min

Subject of presentation: Beer garden

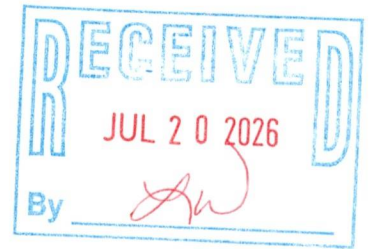
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Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

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CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM



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

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: July 27 2026

Time needed for the presentation: 10-15 minutes

Subject of presentation: Pump track, bike track and dirt ramps for Gust Backstrom

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: There are around 400 kids in Morton who need more outdoor activities.

In alignment to Mortons PRO parks plan, a pump track in Gust Backstrom is a highly requested park improvement. Dirt pump track for bikes is low cost but needs volunteer maintainece.

A modular (made from weather-proof composite materials) are \$20,000-\$100,000 with with a 5-year gaurentee and 8-10 year life span before maintenance is ever needed but

no up-keep costs or man-power needed. Great for bikes, boards, skates and scooters.

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.