

AGENDA
MORTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM August 24, 2026

Mayor Rick Mead

City Clerk LuAnn Ward

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA:**
Minutes of July 27, 2026 vouchers and EFT's
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON AGENDA ONLY**
- 4. COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATE**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS:**
 1. Erika Katt – Lewis County Emergency Management – Fire preparedness
 2. Councilman Sawyer – vote for mayor pro-tem annually.
 3. Peter Hansen – Community Service Help
 4. Tara Chestnut – Ord. 2026-02 & 2026-03 complaint resolution
 5. Ordinance 2026-07 accept donation for small community pantry from E. Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
 6. City requesting additional \$4000.00 from tourism funds to increase salary of Backstrom Park caretaker.
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 1. None
- 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: - LIMIT 3 MINUTES**

ADJOURN:

July 27, 2026
Morton City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Rick Mead
Councilman Jason Sawyer
Councilwoman Maria Gonzalez
Councilman Peter Hansen
Councilman Jeff Johnson

7:00 pm – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Rick Mead

Consent Agenda minutes, vouchers and EFTs from June 22, 2026 (Motion by councilman Sawyer to accept after changes made to minutes, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor)

Public comment:

Citizen Ryan regarding dangerous dog ordinance, asked if the appeal person could be different from the Chief of Police

Council Committee Update

Councilman Sawyer stated there are “3” new businesses in town; a tire shop, boutique and skate shop. O’Reillys Auto looking to move to Morton. We need new flags on Main Ave.

Councilman Johnson the park committee along with FOMP is looking for grants for additional RV sites and camping cabins, walk path and dog walk area.

Talk of putting in a slide window in the Lyle building kitchen for possibility run a commercial kitchen. Possibility of turning FOMP building into a store.

Councilwoman Gonzalez stated she invited people to come see her at Jubilee Park regarding their safety concerns and stressed complaint forms best way to let city know. Citizens would like to see bike racks on Main Avenue.

Discussion

City Ordinance 12.30.020 amendment and creating an ordinance to call special meetings. Councilman Sawyer stated it would be great to engage with the community. Councilman Hansen agreed and stated it would be ok to use the Lyle building if it is announced to the public ahead of time. No action was taken.

New business:

- Council approved Resolution 527 handling citizen complaints with the addition of a response time for the city clerk. (Motion by councilwoman Gonzalez, 2nd councilman Johnson, all in favor)
- Council approved Ordinance 2026-06 with the change appeal to Council Safety Committee, not the police chief (Motion by councilman Hansen, 2nd councilman Johnson, all in favor)
- Council approved the request from EL Chamber to re-allocate tourism funds to purchase hot dogs and games for a community field day. (Motion by councilman Hansen, 2nd councilman Johnson, all in favor)
- Councilman Johnson covered everything in the committee update.

- Council approved Bucksnot's request for a beer garden over Jubilee (Motion councilman Hansen, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)
- Megan Petersen discussed the possibility of a pump track at Backstrom Park.
- Council appointed Charles (Charlie) Clevenger to fill vacant council position #5 (Motion by councilman Johnson, 2nd councilman Hansen, all in favor). Charlie Clevenger was sworn in by mayor Rick Mead.

A summary of Councilman Hansens statement: that he feels the mayor did not engage in conduct that justifies a formal censor. He also feels that councilman Sawyer, who did not receive all the information he requested regarding caretakers at Jubilee Park he should have reached out to the mayor and/or council to seek answers before going to the state auditors office. Based on evidence and witness to the incident he does not feel the mayor engaged in misconduct warranting a formal censor, therefore Councilman Hansen made a motion to not censor the mayor.

Councilman Sawyer stated he would like there to be dialogue about this.

A summary of Councilman Sawyers statement: He still has not received information showing council approval for caretaker position, he did reach out to the clerk and there was a communication breakdown, he did ask for this to be handled discreetly and tried to handle it at a meeting but was attacked. Expressed concerns that Mayor Mead was attempting to redirect council members to access information through him first and he would decide who received information, referencing Ordinances 2026-02 and 2026-03 approved in March 2026 meeting. Spoke with council members regarding a concern city business conducted without council approval. The mayor insisted on reading aloud against my (Sawyer) request. Made an appeal and council was not allowed to vote. Mayor silenced him which wasn't legal when he was discussing city business. Mayor attacked him regarding his contacting the auditors office and costing the city money. The mayor broke ordinances regarding harassment and intimidation. Councilman Johnson asked for clarification regarding first paragraph Councilman Sawyer read. There was discussion back/forth between them regarding the procedure to gather information from city hall.

There was a lot of back/forth bantering regarding tempers between council members and mayor.

Mayor stated we have a motion on the floor, (Motion 2nd by councilman Johnson, councilwoman Gonzalez – yes, councilman Sawyer – no)

Public Participation:

Citizen Punk acknowledged the flags on Hwy 7 that were put up by Dan & Nema Mortensen and Donated by StickInd.

Citizen Richard stated he knows council did approve caretakers in park.

Citizen Tessa asked if there were care-takers at Jubilee Park, she remembers caretakers in park from when she was young.

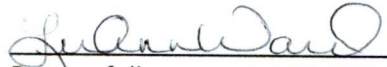
Citizen George asked how the city council would handle the placing of flock cameras in Morton.

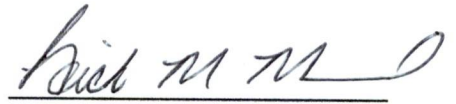
Citizen Kyle asked how citizen complaints are handled.

Citizen Tara addressed her complaint about councilman Sawyer being attacked, discussed her complaint form, stated everyone needs to respect each other and the people.

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

Adjourn 8:40 pm


Respectfully, LuAnn Ward, City Clerk


Ricky Mead, Mayor