

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Ronan City Council
March 11, 2026**

MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ronan convened on March 11, 2026, at 6:20 P.M., in Ronan City Hall. Those present were: Mayor Ryan Corum, Council present: Larry Hall, Ellen Kaphammer, Lindsay Meyers, Julie Moore, Mark Nelson, and Micah Robertson. City Attorney Ben Anciaux, Police Chief Rob Jacobson, Public Works Director Dan Miller, and Deputy Clerk Gwen Zolber were also present.

ORDER/PLEDGE

Mayor Ryan Corum called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

Julie made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting. Mark seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Ellen Kaphammer would like to clarify that her vote during the February 25th Council Meeting for the Ronan Irish Community's Agenda item was against the open container, and not the parade itself. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Claims

The Council reviewed the list of claims owing as of March 11, 2026. Ellen made a motion to approve the payment of the bills, as listed. Larry seconded the motion. Discussion was held. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Pawn Shop Zoning

Mark made a motion to approve the change in zoning for the parcel located at 35958 Round Butte Road to allow "pawn shop" to be added to the list of uses in section 10-1-7(F) *USE* with conditional approval in place for operational performance with State and Local laws that will sunset in two years. Lindsay seconded the motion. Discussion was held pertaining to the Public Meeting that preceded the Council meeting. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Brownfields Phase I

Mark made a motion to allow Mission West Community Development Partners access to the public property at 228 Main Street, for completion of their Brownsfields Program "Phase I site assessment", to identify Recognized Environment Conditions of actual or potential hazardous substance contamination on the property. Larry Seconded the motion.

Mission West's Karl Sutton provided a letter from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (D.E.Q.) that states the City of Ronan will not be held responsible for costs of remediation, should remediation be necessary due to findings of the Brownsfields and that D.E.Q. will not impose violations if any are found during the evaluation of the site. The letter also offered D.E.Q. is willing to meet personally with the City Council or other interested parties that have questions or concerns. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Brownsfields Phase II Julie made a motion to allow Mission West Community Development Partners access to the public property located at 103 Main Street, for completion of their Brownsfields Program "Phase II site assessment", including removal of underground tanks if tanks are found during their investigation. Mark seconded the motion. Discussion was held comparing and contrasting to the 'Phase I' the Council just voted on. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Mink Lane Ball Fields Lindsay made a motion to allow facility use of Mink Lane softball fields and concession building for girls' youth recreational softball practice and games from March 15-June 6, 2026. Julie seconded the motion. Sandra Wirz with Ronan-Pablo Youth Softball Association advised they will be repairing fencing and siding on the dugouts due to damage sustained last year. She also requested garbage cans be placed by the first full week in April as that is when practice is scheduled to begin. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Police Commission Appointment One of the two applications presented to the Council for consideration, Robert Jennison, removed himself from candidacy, leaving Marlene Melton as the remaining applicant. Mark made a motion to approve the appointment of Marlene Melton to the Police Commission Board. Julie seconded the motion. Brief discussion was held. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

SQK Quality Meats Larry made a motion to allow SQK Quality Meats permission to use a shotgun (one shot) during business hours on rare occasions to slaughter an animal, such as a long-horn or thicker-skulled animal, that cannot be knocked with a captive bolt (mature bull or bison). This is expected to occur with about 1% of the animals harvested at SQK Quality Meats. The General Plant Manager will advise the City of Ronan at least a day in advance of this occurrence. Mark seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Estimated opening date is April 1, 2026. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mark: Attended a county public hearing regarding the Commissioners' resolution raising solid waste fees; suggested Ryan introduce himself and

Ryan agreed.

Dan: Operation specialists for the treatment plant came through and had a positive visit, will be back after it is up and running to evaluate while operational. Three water employees attending school soon. Need to replace the 'seasonal' employee who did not the work winter months.

Chief Jacobson: Friends of the Children called requesting a Letter of Support. They provide a 12-year commitment to children in more of a full-time mentoring capacity than after school programs like the Boys & Girls Club provides.

Mayor Ryan Corum: Learnings from the Municipal training he attended this past week: Council members who see comments regarding the City of Ronan on social media platforms should only respond with the suggestion the complainants attend and raise their concerns at a City Council meeting. Council meetings can be recorded from anywhere in the room it is being held in. The City Council's authority lies in its quorum and only the Mayor can give directives to City employees, Council members may not make requests of City employees, including the attorney, except through the Mayor. Roads in need of repair are not unique to Ronan, it is an issue found across the state. Motions can be made after discussion to include any possible clarifying information that occurs in said discussion.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Ryan Corum, Mayor

Attest:

Gwen Zolber, Deputy Clerk