

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Ronan City Council

May 27, 2026

MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ronan convened on May 27, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., in the Ronan Community Center. Those present were: Mayor Ryan Corum, Council present: Larry Hall, Ellen Kaphammer, Julie Moore, Lindsay Myers, Mark Nelson, and Micah Robertson. City Attorney Ben Anciaux, Police Chief Rob Jacobson, Police Sargent Brandon Smith, Public Works Director Dan Miller, Clerk-Treasurer Kaylene Melton, 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

Mark made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2026 Regular Meeting. Larry seconded the motion. Brief discussion was held. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Lindsay made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2026 Special Meeting. Mark seconded the motion. Brief discussion was held. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Spring Creek Kitchen

Brittany Simonich – Mission West Development Partners has received approval to expand the Spring Creek Kitchen project, and is taking their first draw.

Flag Waving Event

Ellen Wickland – The public is welcome to join a recurring flag-waving event held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month between 4:30 P.M.-6:00 P.M. at Highway 93 and First Interstate Bank, in Polson. Participate by bringing flags or banners and wearing clothing to show appreciation for the country, law enforcement, veterans, and pro-life initiatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

Claims

Discussion was held. The Council reviewed the list of claims owing as of May 27, 2026. Mark made a motion to approve the payment of the bills, as listed. Julie seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. Larry, Ellen, Julie, Lindsay, and Mark voted in favor. Micah opposed. Motion carried.

Lighthouse Church

Arlene Templer – Discussion was held. Julie made a motion to grant permission to hold a “Celebrate Ronan” event in the City Park, Wednesday, July 8, 2026 from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Arlene Templer

stated that it is a family fun day with food, music, and activities. Ellen seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

Community Mural

Katie Elliott/Dan Miller – Discussion was held. Lindsay made a motion to Approve Street Closure of 3rd Avenue SW for “Mural project/community paint days” on Evolve Fitness’s building, Friday, May 29, 2026–Sunday May 31st, 2026. Larry seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. All voted in favor. No one opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake County Sheriff

Levi Read, Undersheriff – Expressed concerns regarding communication and operational collaboration between the Sheriff’s Office and the Ronan Police Department. Several members of the community voiced their opinions, including City Attorney Ben Anciaux, Lake County Commissioner Bill Baron, Dave Liegakos, and Chuck Holman (who also read a statement on behalf of an absent community member, Alan Corneliusen). Mayor Corum then allowed the Undersheriff a second opportunity to speak to provide remarks in response. Ronan Police Chief Rob Jacobson then spoke, thanked everyone for attending, and stated his commitment to the Ronan community, cooperation, transparency, and strategic resource utilization. Chief Jacobson noted that his and the Department’s ongoing actions align with these principles, and expressed pride in his officers and their commitment to their duties to the City of Ronan.

Street Planning Grant

Public Works Director Dan Miller – Discussion was held. Lindsay made a motion to Approve matching funds for Safe Streets for All planning grant in the amount of \$31,900.00. Larry seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. Larry, Ellen, Julie, Lindsay, and Mark voted in favor. Micah opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Lindsay: Expressed appreciation for the Sheriff’s Office, and noted a process provided by the Montana State University Extension Office for the City Council to meet with the County Commissioners. Stated that Ronan will look into finding funds in the budget to hire more officers.

Mark: Stated that the City is working to resolve the issue between the Sheriff’s Office and the Ronan Police Department. He added that the Council was using the instructions of House Bill 333, not knowing a new House Bill had passed. He noted that he spent upwards of 60 hours trying to understand and resolve this issue once it was raised in April. He concluded that once the law enforcement professionals come to an understanding, the Ronan City Council will meet with the County Commissioners and then decide how to best move forward.

Julie: Thanked everyone for attending. She noted the extensive time and

research put in thus far by the Council, Clerks, Ronan Police Department, and Attorneys regarding the issue raised by the Sheriff's, stating that it seems to come down to communication. She stated the Council had a productive meeting with the Sheriff's Office last week and felt progress was being made until today. She added that the City of Ronan will move forward following the law while working to keep emotions out of the process. She expressed belief in the Ronan Police Department, noting that while it may operate differently than the Sheriff's Office prefers, there is more than one way to operate.

Larry: Inquired about the process and timing for the Council to get an audience with the County Commissioners. Stated that the Ronan City Council and the Commissioners must deliberate, and then the Council will decide the plan forward. Noted that the lagoon issue must also be prioritized accordingly.

Ellen: Thanked everyone for attending and noted the Council has a lot of work ahead.

Micah: Noted comments regarding the historical quality of the police department and expressed appreciation for meeting with the Sheriff's Office to gain an additional perspective. Expressed concern that the Undersheriff's presentation possibly called into question the validity of previously-approved department expenditures.

City Attorney Ben Anciaux: Stated that more information is required regarding County marijuana revenues and funding splits between the County, State, and Tribe, noting that further additional questions must be asked. Even with all the research the Council members have done, we don't know all the questions we need to ask yet.

Mayor Ryan Corum: Stated that the roles of the Mayor and Council are clearly defined. Noted he met with Chief Robertson earlier in the day and advised him that the department would face heavy criticism during the meeting. Reaffirmed that the City is working diligently to find a solution.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 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