

Town of Fromberg

Special Council Meeting

June 23, 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. <i>John McDunn</i> | 13. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 23, 2026**

On June 23, 2026, a special meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 5:13 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mark Seyler and Tammy Taylor. Others present were John McDunn, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. None

Mayor stated the Great West has dogged us a couple times and we need engineering at the trailer court project and at the wells. Mr. Dunn shared his thoughts about the well project, and we may not need DEQ to review if we do not extend the well casings. Department of Homeland security was here to access what people can break into. Haley from MRW needed the assessment as she is going after money from National organizations to help us out, we need to develop a plan, get a stamp from an engineer so it has some credibility, go through a deviation process due to the wells in the floodway, get a permit and build around the wells only. The issue is we have to have a shovel ready plan to go for granting. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve John McDunn as Engineer for Fromberg, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwomen Taylor—aye. More conversation was had.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Taylor and seconded by Councilmen Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor aye.

Adjourn at 5:34 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

Town of Fromberg Council Meeting

June 11, 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. JERRY HALL | 13. |
| 2. Sandy Bauwens | 14. |
| 3. Elton Kirtley | 15. |
| 4. Mary Kiefer | 16. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 11, 2026**

On June 11, 2026, meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mark Seyler, and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Elton Kirtley, Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, Marge Taylor, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. Elton Kirtley thinks the trees in the park should be lopped off for safety. Mayor stated that we did call Montana power again to get some freebie work done. Elton believes they are too dangerous and should be taken down. Councilwomen Taylor will email Kelly Franklin to find out information on June 18th MUCFA event in Billings, she will send tree ordinances to Dennison so we can be eligible for help. Councilman Wilson brought up \$13K estimates, huge branch east side of park needs to come down. Mayor stated the trees are a legitimate concern.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. Mayor stated that we had some correspondence from Erik Erickson about the culvert pipe which we will talk about later.

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Mayor shared that the Bridger police force had contacted us about taking over the Sheriff contract, they can give us better service, hire another officer to take care of Bridger and Fromberg, Bridger's mayor would be a sponsor cause there's a grant available for a new hire, Marge asked we would see the revenue, Bert as our judge would work to adopt regulations so we see most of the revenue. Councilman Wilson thought response times would be faster.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Not present

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. None

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor shared that she had received a phone call from a guy on 3rd, the place sold next to him, and nobody told them they were in the floodplain. Michele was bounced by a realtor that she was absolutely wrong about the floodplain. The mayor stated that the Mooreheads threatened to sue the city, because the floodplain is right outside their door, their house isn't in it, but everything else is. Councilwomen Taylor stated that their house actually sits in it. If you have one part of your house in it, your whole house sits in it. They have a rider for not having to have flood insurance. Also, phone call was about the messed-up gravel on the road from the contractor not finishing the gravel from the sewer project. Mayor mentioned Larry Richardson house.

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: None

Old business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding possible litigation with Stillwater Conservation District/River Project was next on the agenda. Dennison shared that Jackie Papas declined to take it because she has other obligations, but in general has a conflict of interest. He has talked to two other attorneys, and they are looking over the paperwork, and will get back to him. Councilwomen Taylor asked if he has talked with any of the commissioners. He hasn't talked with them in a while, but they were very interested in taking Stillwater back to court because of all the shenanigans and double billing and everything that's taken place. They

would definitely jump on board once we do file a lawsuit. They have a legal obligation for the bridge and put a lot of money into it. Councilman Wilson asked if an audit can be done.

New business was next on the agenda.

Discussion/Decision regarding Robert Majerus being billed for two services one new non-active fee for water/sewer. Robert shared his piece of property is two lots, that he has had for three years and this is the first time he has received two bills. Mayor shared that the new city guys found several curbs stops around town. Robert asked if it was a city policy to charge regardless of whether it's in use or not. Yes, it was established many years ago to establish revenue for funding for a project being done. Dennison stated that there are only three buckets. Statutorily, we have three buckets that's either in use, not in use, or its abandoned. If abandoned, and it's done away with, it's never to be used again, if it's non-use, then there's the non-use fee, or if it's in use, you pay the fee or change the statue. Mayor stated that Tomahawk got a brand-new water meter, guess what the brand-new water meter showed, a leak. Mike is working on getting a set of sonic ears to try and find the leak or leaks, they are using 3,000 gallons a day. The problem is the well pumps have to run, electricity to move the water, hard to find on swamp area. Thanked Robert for coming.

Discussion/Decision to change signers on Bank of Bridger for Town court to Bert Kraft, Judge and Michele Auch, Clerk. Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to move to change signers, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion to carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision on trailer court that were billed for meter pit non active fees, when it turned out to be a valve for irrigation. Reimburse \$476.01 to JAB Properties when tax lien is paid in full and reimburse Karl Rude \$130.98, he paid in January 2023. Councilwomen Taylor motioned to reimburse said amount, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision regarding Erik Erickson irrigation ditch repair needed at the museum. Councilwomen Taylor gave some history, she also would not be able to vote as she sits on the museum board, there is currently a hole at the museum when it was jettied to clean out the culvert, after Erik does what he needs to do, then we can address the museum. We do not need a motion as no Town resources are being put it. Mayor wanted councils' permission to spend money. Mayor gave Mike permission to replace culvert under Harley due to rotting wood, and Erik is to provide culvert. Councilwomen Taylor shared that the ditch hasn't been maintain in over 12 years, it will need to be cleaned out more than once a year, Mike Ventling asked what happens when it floods someone, who is responsible? Erik would be.

Discussion/Decision regarding proposal for engineering services for Fromberg water main extension and well survey. Elton asks some questions about the direction of the work. Mayor shared that this was for the trailer court for individual meters and a 2-inch line, but since we are digging why not put in a 6-inch line with a fire hydrant at the end and extend for possible future subdivision. Mike was going to dig, but found out that it had to be engineered, otherwise their licenses would be in jeopardy along with the town. Councilman Wilson asked about the \$15,633 is for 6" mainline and other for survey on the well. We are working to incorporate into one big project and work to get a grant. Councilwomen Taylor moved to approve this provided we have grant funding, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision for a procedure/form to disconnect from Town services, who is responsible for costs. This was touched on earlier, does a new ordinance need to be made? Dennison stated that the city shouldn't establish an ordinance to fix one situation, does this affect a significant portion of the town, or is it a one-off case where variances can take care of the issue. Petri's and Mike Ewing's two lines were discussed. Councilwomen Taylor mentioned a water line that sits out next to her lot that has never been connected. Councilman Wilson asked what it takes to abandoned a line. Mike Ventling shared about recent repair at Yellow bank. More discussion was had. Elton Krtley in his opinion with all the problems, disconnecting and deterioration situations it is a can of worms and ought to stick to the three categories. Dennison stated to set-rule for the whole city weather the job is easy or hard doesn't matter. Councilwomen Taylor moved to table and have Michele reach out to clerk serve, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #532-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Regulating the Use and Storage of Propane Tanks. Councilwomen Taylor shared that the Town of Fromberg is in WUI zone, wildland, urban interface fire zone, so propane tanks must be buried or vault min of 15" based on soil conditions with sand on top. Councilman Wilson shared that the state in 2023 passed SB208 that pretty much prohibits local governments from enacting any bans or restrictions on energy choices, including fossil fuels, renewable energy, or their energy sources. It aims to prevent multiple policies from limiting energy options for residents and businesses, so Montana's already got a law. So, we follow state law on propane tanks. Councilwomen Taylor suggested post on website WUI zone and follow state guidelines. No new propane ordinance.

Ordinance #533-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to Prohibit Inoperative Vehicles Visible from the Public Roadway. Dennison shared that all junk vehicle laws at the State of Montana that are in existence from time to time. And there are statutes on this exact point. It's illegal to have inoperative vehicles, even on private property, it it's to be screened from roadways, a public roadway. Question about penalties for noncompliance was brought up. Dennison stated it would be the same as a public nuisance. The city could send a letter warning somebody that they need to clean up, if they don't, the city issues a citation to them. If the judge here adopts the state's ordinances, then more of the fines come to the Town. Use Ordinance #161 already in place.

The Consent Agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Dennison will be filing a citation regarding Shaw's yard clean-up, the Sheriff will serve, appear in court, not guilty or guilty, most plead not guilty, if found guilty they will get an abatement order allowing us to come in and clean it up and bill them. Councilwomen Taylor would like the Table of Fees to be updated. Second issue is Perkins Alley; paperwork was found that was done by Hope. There is a very good case to be made that it was transferred illegally. Mayor, and it still has a protected covenants on it. Correct, and so I just wanted to get approval, or even just say tentative, to start moving forward, sending letters, and start filing action with the court, to get this reversed, or at least take the action necessary to do it right. Specifically, there was never any notice to the public ever provided, or comment period. Mayor would like a motion made. Dennison, no you don't have to. Councilwomen Taylor asked how hard it is to annex places in that have city services. Dennison stated it's not hard, there are a lot of notice requirements, mailing, just a long process. He will get us some cheat sheet for the process. Mayor shared the Perkins Alley story.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike gave his report: Brand new mower that the mayor had to co-sign for is working really well. Marge shared that Linda said he's staying with the job till its paid for! Lagoon system has many issues, working with Chad to install flow meters on both lines, still have a leak in pond #1, DEQ is good with plan, Sagar system has a lot of room to play with, flow meters are not reading right, probably about \$1,500 to get the hard numbers to find out exactly what's going on. Yellow bank got hooked up with water, bulk water ready to go, waiting for one guy to log into system to update, #1 well still a problem, surge protector is on recall, new one should be in this week, electrician will come in and take a look, new Scada system to monitor in real-time \$130K look for grants, discussed the park watering and irrigation ditch, \$3,000 to get water to the ballfield, donation box at park, Nate's new meter showing huge water leak, and bat box not up yet.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Receipts were \$33,666.12, May billing \$39,000, past due \$ 22,207 May was busy with clerk school. Moved to Harmony Encore that reads cell meters, BMS going live with new payment portal, documents ready for Randy Kramer for the investigation on the health insurance, found that it went back to 2021 with Lacy when she was hired, emails with Eric Erickson and Chad regarding his sewer line not being hook-up after water/sewer project. Audit of Town services 211 active water service, 45 non-active 195 active sewer and 42 non-active, bank reconciliation, bills, claims, payroll, sent email and forwarded to Dennison that we are holding payment to Republic for audit not being done.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourn at 8:42 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG

COUNCIL MEETING

May 14 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. Emilie Eaton 13.

2. JERRY HALL 14.

3. Sandy Bauwens 15.

4. Dena Wilson 16.

5. Maria Lopez 17.

6. Quill Heywood 18.

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON MAY 14, 2026**

On May 14, 2026, meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mark Seyler, Nate Caton and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Emelie Eaton, Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, Dena Wilson, Marge Taylor, Cyrill Hergenrider, Jordan Davenport, Aaron Muhs Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. Marge Taylor thanked the council for cleaning up, her neighbor put dry weeds against Randy's fence it is a fire starter, she is tired of cleaning up the ditch, ditch is owned by another party. Councilman Seyler said his house is built on a commercial lot, state owns from his house to the highway and the weeds are tall, does the town normally mow that section. No, but public works will start mowing.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. There was no correspondence.

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Mayor shared about the culvert under the highway that was scoped and the state said it stopped where they had set blocks on wood, and they have now collapsed. Erik Erickson is supposed to have a culvert, and town will dig it up and drop in culvert. Railroad to come out to see what they have to fix. We can fix the Harley area, but we cannot dig in the state right of way. Councilwoman Taylor shared that she had called the new building inspector, the bathroom at Town Hall needs to be brought up to ADA code, sink not on the same wall as the toilet, issue going out the backdoor, send a map to him of the building and he'll go over it, park also needs an ADA parking space, either gravel, concrete, or asphalt, and picnic table area ADA too. Need to check the concrete walkway width, grind down raised concrete and/or remove, ramp into bathroom, concession area made wider, call Dick Taylor for advice. Mayor talked about knocking downtown hall or building out. Councilman Wilson stated that the Conex that's on city property still needs to be addressed.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Not present

Special Events Application for Carbon Stillwater Coed Softball was next on the agenda. Cyrill and Jordan requested open container be lifted during the season, they haven't had any issues in five year, no underage drinking, or driving drunk, they will provide a copy of the schedule and copy of liability insurance, all players sign a waiver, Fromberg is hosting the opening tournament on June 13th, team play on Mondays and Wednesdays. Practice is sporadic, runs until August. Sign to be put up, no drinking beyond this fence. Motion to approve application was made by Councilman Caton, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. Aaron Muhs application was next on the agenda. He is adding on a bathroom to existing garage where an old trailer used to be at 302 North Street, selling for contract for deed, turning it into an apartment or house. Councilwomen Taylor stated that he meets all the setbacks. RV is on property for six months while construction commences, completed before winter. A motion to accept Aaron's application was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Elton Kirtley was next on the agenda. He wasn't present but he had let Councilwoman Taylor know that he didn't meet specs, and he asked if he could put a storage shed that was moveable. She told him to check with Michele on the dimension of a shed.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor has sent everything to Dennison and getting really close to getting it done. She hopes to have time next month to actually have the map color coded. Ordinance is being done on the new zoning, and we need to work on annexing seven places in town, and this would increase our tax revenue.

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: None

Old business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding possible litigation with Stillwater Conservation District/River Project was next on the agenda. Dennison shared that Jackie Pappas hasn't gotten back to him yet on whether she can take the case. It sounds like she's still looking to see if there's going to be a potential conflict of interest. He will move on to the second on the list. Councilman Wilson asked about statute of limitations.

New business was next on the agenda.

Mayor moved to the Discussion/Decision regarding letter of interest from Emelie Eaton to look for grants for the Town up on the agenda. Emelie shared that her husband is Dennis from MRW, the Town is in need of various grant funds, CBDG, USDA, private grants, remodeling town hall, community gardens, she will need EIN# from Michele, she would like to meet and has some questions for the Town. Councilwomen Taylor's understanding from the proposal is that you don't charge anything for this until we get the grant and then it's 10%. A motion to accept Emily's proposal was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Mayor mentioned Troy Downing \$98,000 with 20% match, when the feds do the appropriations, then we'll find out whether we get any of that or not.

Discussion/Decision to change carrier for Worker's Compensation was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor had some questions. Clerk shared that it is the same policy as MMIA with the same coverage. Clerk to check that it covers volunteers. Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to accept the new workman's comp policy provided it covers volunteers, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion to accept the Montana Workman's Comp carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision on suggested policy updates and changes from Derrick Shephard MMIA was next on the agenda. Changes: Section 1: General remove Appendix A, change to B. Service Animals in the Workplace, make changes per Derrick lined in red as disciplinary actions are confidential, next page lined out sexual, Section 2, 2.110 work week change to Sunday through Saturday, add "40" worked as overtime under 2.130, add town attorney and mayor per comment DS6 pg. 11, 3.280 strike (c) and delete paragraph DB8R2, Section 6: Benefits 6.2 change w/c to Montana State Fund, Section 8 combine two paragraphs DS10, and add 7.780 Computer Use. Councilwomen Taylor motioned to accept the policy changes as discussed, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision regarding Nexus CPA exit interview. Clerk shared that on segregation of duties a dollar amount needs to be set for making adjustments on billing. \$100 was decided on before adjustments go for council approval. Corrective action for payroll benefit liabilities, this was already set up by Kirsten. Claim control weakness needs to have receipts that match, there were a lot of missing receipts for prior years, need to have all supporting documentation. Utility billing controls are what we've been doing, liens, sending out shut-off notices. MD&A is going to be a project for the clerk. And water revenue bond requirements is a work in progress need to have enough in reserves. Marge had comments about post office garbage cans, Cyrill had concerns about being out of compliance with the project we got approved for and concerned about another price change, due to people not doing their jobs. Clerk shared that we would do a rate study through MRW, now that PW has done an audit of the town. More conversation was had. A motion was made by Councilman Caton to approve \$100 adjustment fee for the city clerk, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision to appoint Judge. Councilwomen Taylor shared that we already work with Bert with our computers, he is close by, Bridger's judge, less travel time. Councilman Wilson motioned to hire Bert Kraft as the judge, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision to appoint a Tree Planning Board. History of the donations from Stillwater and Wheaton was shared by Councilman Caton. Councilman Wilson asked if the money could be used for the trees, as it's part of the park. Councilwomen Taylor doesn't feel like the \$25,000 was given to do trees that have been ignored for years, maybe a portion could be used. No money has been set aside for park equipment for repairs or budgeted for. Mayor has to appoint a tree board to get further help from MUCFA. There are tree problems all over town, Councilman Caton got a tree off a boulevard. Underground sprinkler system in both park and baseball field were discussed, Cyrill mentioned that the basketball court is used all the time, mayor said there is a pipe that needs to be ground down at the courts, new playground equipment \$50k plus, Mayor would like to go with Councilwomen Taylor on June 18th to help volunteer for MUCFA. Councilwomen Taylor will work on tree ordinances and send to Dennison this next month. They will make a tree inventory, which we will have to have. Safety zoned off trees in park through Northwestern Energy, more discussion was had. Mayor appoints council to the Tree Board, can't meet in one place outside of city council as it would be a quorum or email exchanges.

Discussion/Decision on replacement of surge protectors on wells, and new lawn mower will be discussed in Public Works report.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #532-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Regulating the Use and Storage of Propane Tanks. Councilman Wilson struggles with the difference between natural gas or propane, city interfering how a person wants to heat their house, they both are the same when it comes to hazards. Mike Ventling shared a story about 20lb BBQ bottle blowing up. Councilwoman Taylor stated that if we did the propane tanks, she would like propane tanks buried. Dennison stated existing propane tanks would be grandfathered in, laws are not usually retroactive. It would just be new builds, so we have a date to go by. Unless it's specifically written in the ordinance that it is retroactive. Councilman Caton would like to find out if we have something preexisting and do so more homework. A motion to table Ordinance 532 was made by Councilman Caton, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Ordinance #533-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to Prohibit Inoperative Vehicles Visible from the Public Roadway. 1st reading. Mayor read out loud. Councilman Caton thought this was already addressed, cars break down, why would anybody care what's on my place. Cyrill doesn't know if her neighbor has a business license for a residential area, he has vehicles on city property right in the alley way. Is city property just determined like city easement? Everybody parks their vehicles in the city easement. Jerry brought up an old matter regarding vehicles. Councilman Wilson stated abandoned vehicles on city streets, not on your own property. Cyrill stated abandoned vehicles on city property, public property have them covered. Dennison stated County will take vehicles for free, that is why you pay county taxes. If you're going to have people move them, provide them with information for the Carbon County to come get their vehicle for a donation. Councilman Wilson would like this reworded. A motion to table Ordinance 533 till we tighten upon, or what direction we truly want to go with on this, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

The Consent Agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Caton, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Dennison was open to questions. Councilman Caton asked about property at corner of A st and 2nd Ave, trash situation getting worse, with garbage flying around. He knows the Town has done due process what are the next steps. Mike Ventling shared that they have an open sewer line. Dennison's steps of action, 1st work with someone, 2nd file charges public nuisance, 3rd show up to court, 4th abatement action, 5th charge on taxes for clean-up. Clerk sent letters, and the last one certified mail on April 23rd.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike gave his report: pot holes with new mix that compact good, gravel Blewett and Bartlett, blowers working, dropped one for repair/spare, dropped electrical costs, lagoons may have a severe problem, possibly from the start, hole in liner, draining pond 1 into pond 2, possible to file for emergency gran, Councilman Caton shared post flood story of a couple guys coming down to check the system and said that the liner shifting from groundwater might have gremlins down the road, bulk water part in next week, new credit card reader installed, 8 cell meters installed, auction items, and work truck.

New lawn mower: Commercial grade \$14,000.

3-year plan 0%-\$372.00

4-year plan .9%-\$284.00

5-year plan 1.9%-\$234.00

Sell equipment to knock down price

Warranty on John Deere service work can be done by Public Works

A motion was made by Councilman Wilson to purchase mower at 5-year plan, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Major digging at Harley Ave for failing ditch, water for yellow bank, trailer park getting price from engineer, addressing in town needs to be addressed, DHS requiring protection of well, 30 curb stops to find, smoke test performed, Well #1 went down, surge protector was taken out, surge protector was on a recall, investigating into getting a replacement, otherwise \$5,200, ditch at ballfield was discussed.

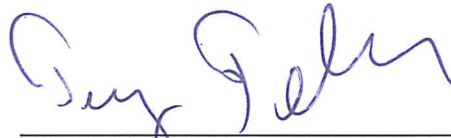
A motion to provide surge protector, if needed was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Mike Ventling stated that if it is replaced, our cost would just be to install it. Otherwise, a new surge protector is around \$5,200-\$5,5000. Lightning strike without up to \$30,000. Lastly, at the bottom side of Carbon where the fire was, they would like to know about getting hooked into water on Carbon, sewer on Bartlett, elevation is there, come down and under our road to tie into sewer. They have to dig it, we just tie in, Dennison with talk to Mike about it.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda.

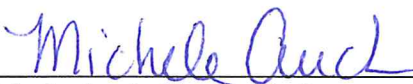
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Caton and seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourn at 9:00 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG

COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 9th 2026 ✓

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. JERRY HALL

2. SANDY BAUWENS

3. DENA WILSON

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 8, 2026**

On April 8, 2026, meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mark Seyler, Nate Caton and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, Dena Wilson, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. No comments

Correspondence was next on the agenda. Mayor shared that the Town had received a letter from Forest Mandeville, Carbon County Planning office regarding new purchasers that will be starting a dog kennel at 700 W River St, which lead to discovering that they are on city water and have not been getting a bill. Next the Mayor went over a letter from Rick and Julie Avants at 13 Billies Alley, next time when work needs to be done, they want us to get permission to enter their property to service towns sewer line that cuts through their property. Is there an easement in place already? Mayor shared that he had received a letter from Honor Coin Attorney who is representing Larry Richardson on his house in the floodplain, and he just wants to be left alone. We have communicated with Shylea, and it has gone up her chain of command on how to proceed.

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Mayor shared he had a call from Troy Downng, State Representative. We are in the running for cell meter money as we made the final cut and we will know in the fall when the appropriations committee will send out the money, \$78,000 with \$20,000 match from the Town. Councilwomen Taylor brought up elections and have Dennison help Michele with steps to fix. She also mentioned xing the streets and working with the County again like last summer, as it went really well. Councilman Wilson asked about the manhole on Mine Spur, and Conex at Buckmiller's.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Sherriff Josh McQuillen stated 70 hrs., 9 min. Fromberg patrol time, 27 hrs., 55 min. calls for service in Fromberg. Car checks, couple traffic stops, mental health calls. Helping Mike with labor detail and the Town is benefitting from the program. He talked about the history of the office in Town Hall, why the keypad was put in the office, there is really no equipment in the office, mainly a desk and a place to meet with people. At some point he will meet with Dennison to go through records there, some flood stuff in the office, phone was disconnected, call 911 emergency, 446-1234 for non-emergency.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. None.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. None

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: Councilwomen wanted to thank Kelle Ventling in pursuing a \$6,000 grant from Carbon County, it was recommended at their last board meeting of the Historic Preservation meeting that the museum had over 400 volunteer hours, and recommended that Fromberg get the whole amount.

Old business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding possible litigation with Stillwater Conservation District/River Project was next on the agenda. A call was put into Amy Bailey, Carbon County Conservation District. Amy had come into the office and dropped off a pile of paperwork. Discussion was had about quantities of trees, price per tree, what was charged, hydro seed bags, topsoil, removal of soil, changing bid amounts, the actual final number for the project is unknown. Tim Nottingham signed a new contract in October,

project done in September. Amy shared that we don't have all the documents, Sharon tried to erase all the documents, Amy was able to retrieve them, and the numbers didn't even come close to jiving. Councilwomen Taylor asked if an outside attorney would talk to us and see what we are looking at. Also, we were billed for \$40,000 for much, mulch was not installed. More discussion was had about this being a generational issue, protecting the bridge, protecting the Town wells, willows, burlap to hold soil, and Federal money was used for the project. Dennison shared the process to move forward, he will talk with a couple attorneys, they look into it, and then they'll come down and talk with the Town. Litigation is one of those reasons that the city council can go into a closed session, they'll come down and talk to you and have attorney client privilege. They'll talk about all the options and the risks and potential options going forward. Hire an attorney first then talk with the County. When attorney is hired, they will coordinate with Carbon County Conservation and Stillwater Conservation District so that they don't overlap, then make a pitch to the County about trying to get them involved as well. The county has an obligation, a legal obligation to make sure that the bridges are safe. Amy Bailey recommended Jackie Papez as she is already familiar with the situation. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to move forward with an attorney on the Riverbank project. Councilman Wilson seconded. . The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. After saying thank you and goodbye to Amy, more conversation about differences in paperwork was had and someone needs to be held accountable.

****Councilman Caton excused himself from the meeting, due to pinched nerve discomfort.**

Discussion/Decision of approval of new Zoning map was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor stated that no changes had been made since last meeting and since she is the one that made it out, the rest of the council will have to approve. Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the zoning map, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye.

New business was next on the agenda.

Open bid/s for old town dump property. Mayor opened the one bid the Town received from Erik Erickson and read out loud. He is willing to pay \$500 annually, due to the fact that the fence is in disrepair from neglect, and he has ditch rights for the Bartlett Canal. He would like the contract for three years, as the cost for materials is extremely high, the re-negotiate the terms then. He would put in a portable corral that will remain his property until completion of the terms of the lease. Councilman Wilson motioned to accept the bid, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision on back billing policy was next on the agenda. Public Works conducted an audit of Town services and found more services that weren't billed for. Councilwomen Taylor asked if this could be turned over to collections, nothing currently in ordinance, Dennison will look into, in past practice Public works would pull garbage cans for unpaid bills, Michele having trouble getting response from Republic about audit of garbage services and she believes a credit is due, Dennison shared that Red Lodge has the same problem, possible breach of contract, possible bid from MacKenzie, Councilman Wilson stated that we are correcting it now and moving forward.

Discussion/Decision for Bat Boxes in Town. Deputy Bry has a bat box that he would like to donate, but we need a place to put it, maybe by the well. Would need a permit! It was suggested at the sewer lagoon to help with mosquitoes. Or city park, baseball field, put them everywhere. Councilwomen Taylor motion to accept the

at box, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision for Judge Jackie replacement as of 5/31/26. \$200 per month. Jeff Schmalz, Justice of the Peace for Carbon County recommended by Jackie and Bert Kraft, Bridger Judge were interested. Per Dennison it was decided that the Job should be advertised for two weeks. Put on next agenda.

Discussion/Decision to reimburse gas for Councilwomen Taylor to attend Plan Smart, Build Strong Montana Land Use Series May 19th in Miles City for classes. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve Tammy for her trip to Miles City, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye.

. Councilwomen Taylor suggested that the rest of council get registered with Montan League of Cities and Towns for a newsletter the comes out with grants available and stuff like notices about ADA. The door at Town hall will need to be replaced for wheelchair access, ramp outside back door, remove one of the door at front entrance, move cabinet in bathroom, maybe change out toilet, bathrooms at the ball field would need to be addressed, try and get Dick Taylor to look at, check with HRBC or go see them over in Joliet to see if they have any grants available.

Discussion/Decision for Michele to attend Clerk School May 3rd-May 7th \$450.00 for 4 days. Conference is in Billings. Councilwomen Taylor moved to send Michele to Clerk School, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision for Post Office to have separate water meters for each apartment. Currently billed for three services. Currently three apartments and one business, ¾” line feeding everyone., possible 2” service line needed, owner is legally responsible. No way to shut off, come off main with correct size, meter vault, with separate meter and shut offs. Letter sent to owner about the water situation. Councilwomen Taylor moved to separate water meters, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Clerk to bill for 4 services. Main and the meter pay \$1000 connection fee.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Amended Ordinance #531-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Governing the Use of Animals within the Town of Fromberg 2nd reading was next on the agenda. Addressed the mules, meat chickens, and bees. Councilman Seyler motioned to accept the amended changing of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Ordinance #532-An Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Regulating the Use and Storage of Propane Tanks, 1st reading. Mayor read out loud. Mike Ventling has portable 100lb tanks, lagoons have 330- or 500-gallon tank, Councilwomen Taylor stated the Town provides natural gas, and some residents consider it a safety issue to use propane if you have a residential house, if natural gas available in city limits you probably should be hooked up to it. If something blows up MDU would pay, what happens when a propane tank blows up? Inspection needs to be conducted by State Fire Marshall, not local Fire Department unless they are qualified and certified.

fore discussion was had about size of containers. Councilman Wilson motioned to table the propane ordinance, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

The Consent Agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

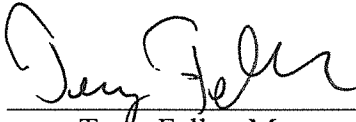
Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Any questions? Investigation started by sheriff on health benefits, we have zero of Tim's emails regarding Riverbank, or Larry Richardson. All records need to be kept for a significant period of time. Emails to the mayor are definitely in public information. Can the sheriff confiscate his computer? This is a very big problem when people start using their personal email address, especially for governmental work, and you obviously shouldn't. They should be kept separate and distinct. Tim Nottingham told us they were deleted, and he told Amy he would give them to her. If somebody destroyed public records, without authorization, that's a problem. This could lead to civil and criminal liability. If a FOIA request comes in, the city has 180 days to comply.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike gave his report, busy month, bulk water, plan for trailer park, major water leak Friday at trailer park, shut off water, truck broke down, testing up to date, \$1,400 in tires now the trucks rides smooth, mapping entire town, meter pits, shutoffs, 2 hooks-ups found have to pay non-active fees, east side of town done, 79 hook ups, MRW will GPS on diamond maps, curb stops, meters, found several home with 2 garbage cans, cell meters, fix diffuser in lagoons, I & I mid-May, Mayor arranged for boat delivery, pot holes filled on North Street, asphalt mix coming today, working on grants to get meters out of houses, talk of new truck, future equipment needs, Councilman Wilson asked about putting gravel in at his place on city property.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Michele reported that account receivable was \$25,848.00, working with auditors, USDA reports, many meetings for grants, updated property schedule, quarterly reports for payroll.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourn at 9:10 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk