

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

March 12th , 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. Jerry Hall 13.

2. Dena Wilson 14.

3. Kelle Ventling 15.

4. Sandy Bauwens 16.

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 12, 2026**

On March 12, 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 Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, Dena Wilson, Marge Taylor, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. Marge Taylor felt that mayor and council had done a pretty good job, however, years ago the town was the cleanest town, she's going to dump a truck load of s..t, park a car where it shouldn't be, and take up an alley. Mayor shared that letters went out about concrete in road, and second letter sent to Shaw about cleaning up garbage left from the flood. Mayor wanted to know if the town could legally clean it and send them a bill. Dennison addressed this early as he had to leave due to his child being sick. He would file an abatement action with the local city court, and the city court would then issue an order allowing us to then go clean-up, then put it on his property taxes. In the future having an ordinance in place would make the process faster or amend if one is currently in place or use state statute. Dena Wilson asked about the Buckmiller's Conex trailer on Town property, fence that is off, and abandoned car. There was discussion over abandoned and unlicensed vehicles

Correspondence was next on the agenda. None

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Mayor stated that Michele's performance review was completed. Councilwomen Taylor shared that she had complaints at zoning meeting regarding alleys being blocked. Councilman Wilson asked if signs are posted in alleys for no parking or emergency lane, No? Councilman Caton has missed 3 consecutive meetings, one was for medical reasons, mayor will text him.

Councilwomen Taylor moved to move discussion/decision up on the agenda regarding invoice from Umbrella, LLC, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Councilwomen Taylor has a problem as a bill was never sent to Michele since she has been here, never was on the agenda on where to store empty sandbags. She remembers a conversation and Nate says, "I have some in the storage area". She asked why we never had a bill? Clerk shared that the agreement was made between Shane and Jay Carter. The contract was not signed. Dennison stated that if it's not signed, it's not a contract. Clerk to write a letter for Dennison to review regarding letter not to pay, unless they can provide more paperwork.

Mayor shared that he and Michele met with Carbon County to hear about a low-income housing project they are working on and to see what property would be available for development. Mayor shared that they come in and build the houses, and the city slowly sells them the property. The owners would have to keep the house for 5 years, if they sell it, they get 1% of the equity. Mine Spur Loop and the section between Montana and the highway that MDT owns is the only property the Town really has. They would be 3-bedrooms, 2-bath, 2 car-garages, 1,500sq ft. The Town doesn't generate revenue by selling the property, we generate revenue on full tax basis. Council was interested in getting more information.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. None

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

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

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: Kelle Ventling shared their last meeting was January 8th, each representative gave a report. She shared all the updates that had been done at the Clarks Fork Valley Museum, 2nd craft show in December held at the museum, updated report for Montana Preservation they had changed their mind on the cement pad already in place for Ray's School. Future work planned for the old jail with a museum sign put on it. Grant possibility for the work. Sixty-seven sites in Carbon County are listed on the historic registry and more to come.

Old business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding possible litigation with Stillwater Conservation District/River Project was next on the agenda. Dennison prepared a letter and gave it to Michele, she will print it out so you all can read through it, as risks are involved, and put it on the agenda for next month on whether we go forward or not. Big risk, substantial cost for litigation, complex and time. Would city recoup attorney fees? Unlikely. He has spoken with MMIA, they would not assist because it's us enforcing contracts. MMIA only protects us if we are sued. Has not talked directly with the engineer, he's not signing off on the final project, due to not being done to engineering plans. Carbon County put money into the project, because by law, they have to maintain the bridges in Carbon County. Councilwomen Taylor asked about future flooding and who's is liable. Terry will call the engineer. Kelle Ventling will take it to the governor's office and is moving forward. Dennison stated it might cost around \$50,000-\$100,000. There is a statute of limitation of 8 years on contracts, over number of years for negligence. Councilman Wilson asked about time frame. 1-2 years with three governmental entities involved. More discussion was had.

With Dennison having to leave, items were moved around. Councilman Wilson pointed out that mules needed to be removed from a section of the Amended Ordinance #531.

New business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision on pursuing a health benefits investigation. Dennison stated that the Council has to decide whether to make a referral to the sheriff, and then the sheriff is the one that does the actual investigation, if the town council decides not to do it and make a referral then it won't go forward. Dennison had to leave the meeting.

BMS Pay option for autopay, e-billing, text& pay, and communication directly with citizens was next on the agenda. Michele shared that it would integrate into the Black Mountain software, currently residents can pay by check, cash or with credit card online. It would cut down on postage, approximately \$160-\$180 per month, postage is .61 cents per postcard. It will cost \$1,200 per year, taken out of sewer, water, garbage funds. Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to accept the BMS Pay, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor — aye.

Discussion/Decision to change start of insurance benefits from date of hire to waiting period to 1st of month following hire date. Michele shared that insurance is not pro-rated as of start date, it covers a full month even if start date is in middle of month. Our policy had our insurance provided upon hire date. Councilwomen Taylor motioned to change the policy to the first of the month following the hiring date, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor — aye.

Invoice from Umbrella, LLC was already discussed

Discussion/Decision to pursue a health benefits investigation was next on the agenda that we had already been through. Mayor asked if everybody understood what was being discussed. So, somebody made a decision to supply employees with 100% and coverage for families, and so we now can't take it back and it was never voted on. Two people who were involved were Mr. Nottingham and clerk Harley Riddle, and this was money spent by taxpayers without a vote. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to turn over to the Carbon County Sheriff's Department, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision to amend December 11th minutes regarding new signer on Bank of Bridger and Valley Credit Union. Michele shared that all the paperwork to change signers on the accounts is done, this will be to update the records to remove Robert Haseman as a signer on accounts. Valley bank signers still need to be updated. Councilman Wilson made a motion to amend minutes, 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 new zoning map was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Taylor shared that everything in blue is residential R2 with min. 1,200 sq ft houses, the only places that got changed is where historically, the houses are about 800 sq ft colored purple and sporadic lots that are much smaller and changed to Residential A1. Historical businesses downtown usually don't live in a business, but you may reside in that business, but you must have a storefront, we're not specifying how big it is, or how many days you're open. The only thing with historical business, you have to provide yourself with at least one parking spot behind the business. B has always been trailers they are colored orange, this changed to A2-B in case somebody wants to buy one, then they want to put a house on it, as the lots are big enough. The trailer park is the only place for single wide trailers. It has been over 20 years since they have gone over the zoning ordinances. Councilwoman Taylor stated that once something is zoned commercial it can never be changed. There are properties that have city services that need to be annexed in. Jay Carter's property is within the city limits, might need a seller's permit.

Discussion/Decision on complaint forms and process was next on the agenda. Nothing was received from Dennison, who will work on it for next month.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Amended Reading of Ordinance #531 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Governing the Use of Animals within the Town of Fromberg was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Taylor has some objections to the number of meat birds plus chickens on a 50 x 140 lot and suggested 25 meat birds on a half of acre. Councilman Wilson would like to keep it as it was discussed at the last meeting. It can always be amended in the future if it becomes a problem. Councilman Wilson motioned to accept Amendment to #531, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

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 left early

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike gave his report on pumps, Microcom, wood chips for Sagar beds, convicts (Mike's term for Community Service), waiting on parts to fix bulk water, internet at tanks, lagoons,

and pump house helping with skata system, alarms now go to phone, cell meters, Troy Downing grant, replace back door in meeting room, reorganized their office, met with Aaron Brown from trailer court, congratulations letter from Susan Bawden DEQ, 4-10 hour days, lagoon boat is done, no parking signs for alleys, emergency sewer fix on Bartlett, \$16,000 worth of parts and fire hydrant left up on Barlett, fire hydrants, speed signs, work on list to go out to bid.

Upgrade credit card unit at Bulk Water. Councilwomen Taylor motioned to upgrade unit, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to purchase five meters per month, review in July 26, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Michele reported that there were three outstanding FEMA projects open, and could not find the correct documentation, Annalee from DES closed out the project for us. I highly recommend hiring somebody to handle the paperwork and permits with future disasters. Working with the auditor. Kirstin Sweet gave a recommendation for new worker's comp company, MMIA will no longer offer the service as of 7/1/26..

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 9:15 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

February 12 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. Philip Elkins | 13. |
| 2. LEX D. NEUMAN JR. | 14. |
| 3. Jerry Lail ✓ | 15. |
| 4. Sherry Davis | 16. |
| 5. Aaron Brown | 17. |
| 6. Sandy Bauwens ✓ | 18. |
| 7. Don Wiley ✓ | 19. |
| 8. Mark Lopez ✓ | 20. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

On February 12, 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 Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, William Kennedy, Philip Elkins, Lex D Newman Jr., Sherry Danielson, Aaron Brown, Dena Wilson, Marge Taylor, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. No public comment.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. Mayor read out loud letters from Elton Kirtley and Musselshell Co., and did not read Nexus, CPA letter. Water/sewer project triggered federal audits, the project put us over the \$750,000 threshold for two years.

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor stated that we need to advertise for a volunteer to oversee future emergency services. There will be a go bag with boots, hard-hat, camera, whiteboard, etc. to document fire or flood damage, we need a couple of volunteers for this position. Mayor to evaluate Michele.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. The mayor called for the Sheriff report. Josh McQuillan reported Jan 14 through February 9th. Fromberg patrol time was 55 hours, 37 minutes. Fromberg calls for service 35 hours, 33 minutes. Calls were welfare checks, dogs, traffic, fire in town, one burglary, and abandoned vehicles. Sandy Bawdens thanked them for their service. Public Works is using the program that the Sheriff department offers to people that need to complete community service at no cost to the Town.

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

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor shared that the first part of the map is complete and will have Tome Kohley print off a new map of the proposed changes. Second part will be for the historic district. Mayor shared an update of Larry Richardson, the Morehead's removed their fence that was out of compliance and are moving, hate to see them go.

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: Kelle Ventling wasn't able to make the meeting.

Old business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding possible litigation with Stillwater Conservation District/River Project was next on the agenda. Dennison is still preparing a statement, final documents from the Engineer are not finalized. Engineer has a problem with contractor, contractor said engineer was wrong, contract ended up way overbudget, Councilwomen Taylor stated that Carbon County is waiting for our decision. Mayor, we joined MUCFA they might be able to help with planting and supplies. Councilwomen Taylor also shared that they could possibly plant 2,000 for us. Dennison stated there are a lot of players, Carbon County, Stillwater Conservation, Carbon Conservation District, contractor, engineer, would take years and a cost to the Town. Dennison will have something in writing by the next meeting.

Sherry Danielson with the Trailer Court was next on the agenda. She was there to represent the tenants. Aaron Brown a shareholder at 120 Montana Avenue was committed to working with the Town, as well as paying the Tax Lien. Mayor stated that Mike Ventling had a great conversation with Aaron Brown regarding the meters.

Mike Ventling hasn't determined the best route yet, Mike has asked Cody DeRudder to look at the project to get a cost on the Trailer Court side, the town will brunt more of the cost of new curb stops and meter pits, and the Town is upgrading as we go. Mayor stated that it needs to be done correctly. Councilman Wilson stated we need to move forward, and nothing is currently readable. Kennedy stated that rent will go up to cover the costs. Sherry Danielson asked will you upgrade the whole city with curb stops and meters, Mike Ventling stated that all new construction will have meter pits. Currently at trailer court one curb stop is available, he cannot shut anyone off. Sherry would like to see the meters in the hot water compartment with Bluetooth meters in the line to be shut off. Councilman Wilson, put meter pits in, as they cannot go onto private property. More conversation about pricing, fixed incomes, solutions, come up with a plan, send information to Sherry and she will forward to Aaron. Councilman Wilson, time to get things done.

Discussion/Decision on old Town Dump was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor had an idea of dry camping, and boat and camper storage, Dennison 100% can be done, there is potential, go slow. Time to lease, sealed bids must meet minimum, how long, year to year, could be overgrazed. Some history of the area was given. Minimum bid to be \$1,000 for the year. Councilman Wilson stated we might need a community clean-up day. Councilwoman Taylor shared that there are tires, bathtubs, water troughs, gas tank, etc. on the property now. A motion to redo the lease agreement and advertise was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

New business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision for proposed relocation of property boundaries between Jacob and Laci Karp and Town was next on the agenda. Proposal from Kate Stout, Red Lodge Surveying LLC. was \$3,000-\$ 3,500 and \$400 for review, Dennison would prepare deeds at no cost. A motion was made by Councilwomen Taylor to split the costs and seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows to relocate property boundaries and split costs: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision regarding a complaint form and process was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor would like a complaint form and guidance policy written by Dennison, for the citizens, council person etc. Councilman Wilson stated that they could come to City Hall, 100% confidential to keep from retaliation. Dennison stated that a resolution could be made about this and how are these complaints are handled.

Discussion/Decision regarding garbage funds was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor stated that past due garbage fees could not go on tax liens. Could they go to small claims? Dennison shared that what should happen, there should be a reconciliation between town and Ryan from Republic and a list of payments paid and not paid and this list should be given to the drivers and cans pulled for unpaid bills, but it has never happened in the past and has never happened with the Town's he has worked with. Mike Ventling stated that if your water is shut off, then they will pull garbage can. Councilman Wilson asked how we were paying, the Town pays per can. Dennison, we are paying the bill directly from Republic but then not being paid by the citizens. Councilman Wilson asked if we could produce a list, clerk yes from Black Mountain Software. Dennison, in theory, give them a list, and they will not pick up garbage until they are paid, but has never been done. Clerk, we would like to do a combined audit in Town when we are looking at water meters and garbage cans. Sandy Bawdens asked about garbage piled up. Councilwomen Taylor stated garbage tags need to be purchased, otherwise its considered theft of services. Clerk to make a Facebook post regarding the need for \$2.00 extra tags. Councilman Wilson asked if we need an ordinance making something enforceable. Dennison stated that is something the city could think about is passing a resolution or ordinance about what happens if they don't pay the trash fees, which we don't have. Councilwoman Taylor, maybe we can amend our current ordinance for taking trash cans for non-payment. Councilman Wilson stated that sewer and water is how the Town survives.

Discussion/Decision for Public Works purchases needed was next on the agenda. Mike Ventling shared that Leo from Montana Rural Water was graciously helping with mapping of manholes, curb stops, etc. Diamond Maps will be \$250.00 per year for the service to access on the computer or phone. Councilman Wilson thought it was 100% worth it and a key to success. Five free cell meters are ready to install, 18 more are on the way with the trade ins on the old meters at the shop, Michele will be taught on the new cell meters, they are capable of sending notices of leak detection. Shut off notices were put out, new antenna for the meter reader, working on meters to get to a new starting point. Mike and Nate take responsibility for the system, rules and regulations that they follow. Previous guys ran into the tires on the grader, \$1,300 for 2 new tires to be installed on site. A motion to repair grader tires was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Second Reading of Ordinance #530 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to prohibit public camping was next on the agenda. A motion to accept the second reading 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. Public Comment: Karp asked about parking during a festival, it would need to be approved by the council ahead of time.

Second Reading of Ordinance #531 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Governing the Use of Animals within the Town of Fromberg was next on the agenda. Cara Springer commented on the new ordinances regarding fowl and was it supposed to be sq. yard for sq. ft? She raises meat birds to feed her family, honeybees are listed as domestic livestock, sheep and goats need a companion. Councilman Wilson stated that the sheriff would enforce and monitor, and he supports having animals on small properties. Councilwomen Taylor stated that not everyone is an animal lover. Councilman Wilson stated the meat chickens are raised for 6-8 weeks. Councilwoman Taylor shared about flies and smell. Councilman Wilson stated that we need to find common ground. Councilwomen Taylor stated that we will adjust to have bees, and Councilman Wilson thought that 25 meat birds is fair per lot, and 2 goats or 2 sheep per ½ acre. Councilwomen Taylor stated the Montan Fish and Game could end livestock in Town if the Bears present more of a problem in the future. Councilman Wlson stated that this ordinance is extremely lenient compared to Joliet, Bridger and Red Lodge, you need to take your neighbors into consideration, its fair and better than nothing. Dennison recapped: include bees, increase goats and sheep to two per ½ acre, 4 per acre, chickens same 12 per 50x140 lot, 25 meat birds at one time. Councilman Wilson stated that meat birds are not free-range birds. A motion to pass #531 and attach amendments at next meeting and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye

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. Councilwomen stated that a rate increase will need to be done, if not gotten under control.

Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Dennison was good. Councilwomen Taylor asked about health insurance not going to the council. Dennison shared that in 2023 somebody changed it went from the city providing employee coverage, around 2023-2024 somebody changed it, the city was providing insurance to the employees and to include family. There was an email from the clerk at the time that was going to talk with the

Mayor about whether that was approved or not. In 2023 one of the employees and family were put on insurance. There is no record of the city council of the change, there is no record of the mayor making the change. We just have the record of the clerk going to ask the mayor. Today we have the employees being given this additional benefit for themselves and family members. It is easy for governmental entities to give benefits to employees, but hard to take back. There is a process in place where the city could amend that, will not be quick, probably 2027-2028 to change. The city would provide notice to employees, opportunities to object to the change, and there is a whole process in place if they object. There is no written authority for the change, we don't know if the clerk took that upon themselves, or if the mayor approved at the time, we do know that the city council did not approve at the time. Councilman Wilson thought they had discussed and voted on coverage for employee and spouse. Dennison stated that it is very hard to take away, and a substantial compensation package. Councilwoman Taylor was concerned about the sustainability regarding the cost, maybe looking at a stipend. Dennison had two thoughts about whether the council wanted to make a criminal complaint to sheriff to investigate whether there was malfeasance, or theft, statute of limitation would be five years. Put it on the agenda to see if they want to take action with the Sheriff. Dennison, going forward, do we want to keep it like it is or if the council wants to change it to how it was, it's going to be hard to withdrawal compensation. Councilwoman would like to look at a stipend. Councilman Wilson would like to explore option to cover the cost to cover the people we have, stipend leaves them hanging, stop dwelling on past stuff, what are we chasing, move forward, and look at the positive. Mayor, we will put on next agenda to discuss.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike Ventling gave his report: New chlorine pump up and running, there will be a violation notice again in January regarding chlorine levels, flow meter was purchased through MRW for half price, tests are up to date, curb stops leaking will be replaced in the summer, new blower at the lagoon was quoted for \$10,000 to repair, they repaired it for \$847.00, repair other motor that has bearing noise, new boat for the lagoons was purchased, service contract with Micro Comm works great, generator electrical was eaten by rodents due to soybean coating, only 206 hrs on generator, in 2022-2023 PW was told to put mice bait out and plug holes-nothing done, got a new gas sniffer, convicts (community service) helping to clean-up

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Clerk asked if council or public had any questions on her report.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman 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 9:30 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

Special

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

January 28 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. MARK Seyler

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2. JERRY Hall

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3. Dena Wilson

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2026**

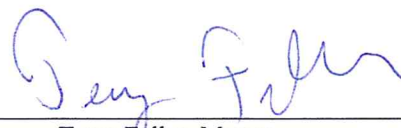
On January 28, 2026, a special meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mark Seyler and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Shane McKeever, Nate & Katie Caton, Jerry Hall, Dena Wilson, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. None

The topic regarding water/sewer charges at old trailer site located at East River and Third Street was up for discussion/decision. Mayor asked when you're going through this, is there any time at the council that you, ever mentioned the situation. Nate, nothing ever mentioned at council meetings, after post meeting. Mayor stated that someone was recording by camera or taping. Shane provided a folder with documentation for the Council, they would like to contest everything that wasn't a stick-built house, as they had removed services that went to the trailers. They have a list of addresses from MDU and Northwestern Energy that all services from those addressed were removed, and they removed the water to the best of the ability. Post flood, they sat down with Jay and the mayor, Jay had no time to help remove water meters, and it got put on the back burner. Then Jay left, Marcus came, Marcus left, the kids came and they left, and the clerk left. They had started this process in November 2022. They dragged their feet, and waited till a good point to resolve, and now they are out \$36,000.00 and would like to get it resolved now. Nate shared that to match the growth policy you have to have a curb stop, be annexed, readdressing with Tom Kohley, and everything had to go back to the county to make sure they were doing everything correctly. The only thing they could do was to develop on East River Street, because that was the only thing with a curb stop. Never once did we think we were trying to cheat anybody or steal anything. So that's the only reason that the only houses that we have completed had curb stops. After many more discussions, that are recorded and will be on the website, it was agreed upon that the original (6) lots (color coded in paperwork) before amended plat was completed in January 2026 will incur non-active fees for water/sewer that were to be paid to the Town, and all other addresses and fees paid would be refunded to Umbrella LLC that had to be paid to Carbon County to record their amended plat map. Moving forward for January 2026 Town billing with their filed amended plat plan (8) non-active water/sewer fees would be charged moving forward. Note: (2) of the properties have been sold 208 East River, lien paid and 207 "A" street, lien paid. A motion to go forward with the 6 for past billing, then go forward adding the two with Michelle to designate addresses and to remove the others from the Black Mountain software, seconded by Councilman Seyler. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler—aye and Councilwomen Taylor—aye.

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

Adjourn at 6:45 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2026

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. JERRY Hall

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2. Sandy Bauwens

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3. Dow Wilson

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4. Elton Kirtley

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

On January 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 and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Jerry Hall, Sandy Bauwens, Elton Kirtley, William Kenneday, Mike Ventling, Public Works Director and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items not on the agenda. Jerry Hall asked about getting a marijuana dispensary in Town. Clerk shared that someone had made a call to Town Hall regarding opening a dispensary.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. Mayor read out loud a letter from Cara Springer regarding her objections to change in animal ordinance.

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor would like to see a "Go Bag" for flood emergency, with boots, camera, white board so everything is documented, maybe advertise for someone to cover the position. Second, she would like the garbage to be on the next agenda with it being \$17,000 in the hole, additional garbage needs \$2.00 tag per item, and garbage fees due do not go on tax liens. Clerk shared that she has several requests to Ryan at Republic for an audit. It was suggested that garbage cans get picked up if not paying their utility bills. Councilwomen Taylor also suggested that we have a representative go to the Beartooth RCD in Joliet they provide funding and resources for business and it can be for infrastructure as well. Board meetings are every other month and rotate between five different locations. Councilman Wilson asked about updating ordinance about pulling garbage cans. Dennison thought it would be nice to get the ordinances online and to tackle the water, sewer and trash cans, because they are pretty bad. Councilman Seyler asked about the delinquencies and the liens, clerk shared that \$21,000 was collected so far out of \$132,000. Councilwomen Taylor asked about performance review for Clerk. Councilman Wilson asked about basketball hoops in the roads, Dennison stated that there are plenty of laws on the books of impeding public roadways.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. The mayor called for the Sheriff report, they weren't there at the time, but we took the report a little time later. Fromberg patrol time was 68 hours, 47 minutes, calls for service, 17 hours 55 minutes, total patrol time 86 hours 42 minutes. Sandy Bawens asked what type of calls they were responding to, abandoned vehicles, civil processes, animal bits, medical, schools, and gas leak

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

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor shared that the zoning map is complete and will give back to Dennison. Mayor asked about the Floodplain map, nothing yet. Clerk talked to Shylea from DNRC and asked about the Floodplain ordinance, Shylea stated that maybe completed by the end of January, they just spent two weeks in Libby for their flooding. Mayor shared that Mark and Miranda Morehead's sewer was installed and signed off, and he couldn't even tell the work had been done.

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. Mayor stated do we want to litigate, or do we just

want to move on? Clerk shared that she had talked to Shylea and the Town had submitted a floodplain permit, which clerk didn't know about. The engineer has not signed off on the final on the floodplain permits. So, it's still sitting out there. So, the permit hasn't been closed? Because the engineer is saying it was not built to plans. and the water is raised higher than it's supposed to be, Dennison would like to follow up on this and get it nailed down. But what that means is that if the engineer is saying that the builder did not build it according to plans that's a great lawsuit to have. Especially, if the engineer will put that in writing to us, and I will contact him. What I would suggest is that I would probably move forward and start getting documents prepared for you guys, because I don't think the city or the Town of Fromberg should not make a decision just in the abstract. Councilwomen Taylor mentioned the O & M report for the project, a big thank you to Mike Ventling and wife for taking lots of pictures of the high water that they shared, and we also need to walk the river bank and check for erosion and stuff. More discussion was had about the river project. A motion to table for Dennison to get more information 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.

New business was next on the agenda. Discussion/Decision regarding letter sent by Attorney, Dennison Butler to William Kennedy regarding fence on Town Property. Mayor thought the letter was overzealous. He has infringed on the city property and on the city street quite a way. Councilwomen Taylor stated that the street is 60 or 80 feet wide in there; you have dogs with beware of dog's signs on city property, which makes her nervous. Councilman Wilson stated that it's on city property and has to be moved. Mayor will help measure off his pins at his house in relation to William's fence. Dennison stated you didn't know where the lines were, help find the property lines and adjust.

Discussion/Decision to join MUCFA was next on the agenda. The fee to join is \$100, training and grants are available, and a tree board will need to be created. A motion to join MUCFA was made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision to advertise leasing out old town dump property 39.5 acres off of McCormick. Councilwomen Taylor stated that the bridge and fencing is not in the best shape, cattle and horses have grazed on it before, it is dry land, water would have to be hauled, the idea of dry camping has been tossed around, but would have to be manned. Have Dennison draw up a contract, with a clause not to overgraze it. A motion to advertise property 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. Mayor asked how much? It goes out to bid, with a minimum amount.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #530 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to prohibit public camping was next on the agenda. Ordinance wasn't posted, as it should have been. A motion to table ordinance 530 till February meeting 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.

Ordinance #531 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Governing the Use of Animals within the Town of Fromberg was next on the agenda. Ordinance wasn't posted, as it should have been. Councilwomen Taylor suggested a short-term ordinance for 4-H animals but didn't want to get into changing the new ordinance too much. Erik Erickson shared that this ordinance would affect him big time. He has an outfitting business, and he

raises quarter horses, and trains horses. His place has always been farmland, with livestock, it's irrigated ag land, it's not city block, and this will affect him negatively, he doesn't have 20 horses there all year. He has six months of pasture, he has mares, the colts, two-year-olds, and three-year-olds at the house, where else am I going to keep them? He bought this place; I don't want to have to rent another place just to keep a few head of horses. They're all fed, fat, happy, and in good shape. Erik asked about current ordinance, one horse per ½ acre, now it will be one per acre. He has 12 and ½ acres, that leaves his stud, five mares, and five babies. What does he do with the one- and two-year-olds, it's going to affect the way he makes a living negatively. When he purchased the property in his due diligence, he went to the county, there was no limit on what he could have on the property. All his taxes go to Carbon County; Title company didn't even research ordinances for Fromberg because none of my taxes go to Fromberg. Are you not within our city limits? According to the Montana Revenue, he's not, according to Town map, he is. Elton Kirtley commented that he has about 30 horses most of the time. More discussion was had. Dennison stated what we need to figure out if he is rural? If he's rural, this doesn't affect him at all or is he within the city limits. A motion to table 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

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. Clerk needs to get health insurance information too Dennison. Councilwomen asked about use of Town equipment and Dennison shared the Musselshell County attorney apparently was voted out of the office, and that's why he never got back to us. The new County attorney just got into the office; she said that she's going to look into it and get back to us. She had sent a letter to the investigating officer John Croft, and he would get back with him probably tomorrow.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike Ventling gave his report: New lights in front Town Hall office, TV installed in Town Hall meeting room, bulk water up soon, flow meter on the way, conference with Nexus who designed Sagr system, mag meter might be wrong meter in sewer system, blowers, UV banks, backhoe repair ignition, sander is in the dump truck, ideas for fencing around well heads, well one is not down, chlorine pump, and gas leak. Councilwomen Taylor had question about the generator. Shut-off notices will go out to individuals in the first week of February.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Utility bills were completed today, \$38,879 for the month of December, past due was \$37,000. Working on payroll and payroll taxes, reporting for the end of the year, reviewed the fence at the Karp's house, deposits, paid bills, council packets, long conversation with Shylea DNRC, and reached out to Ryan at Republic again, trying to get audit done. Mark Syler came in and did his oath of office, met with Shane about the trailer court. Discussion was had about implementation of Ordinance #527.

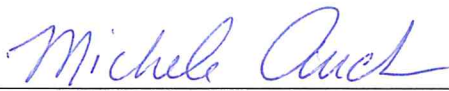
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Seyler--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourn at 8:10 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk