

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting Minutes
606 Manitou Avenue
January 7, 2025

The City Council of Manitou Springs met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 606 Manitou Avenue, in the City of Manitou Springs, County of El Paso, and State of Colorado.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Mayor John Graham
Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Fortuin
Councilor Judith Chandler
Councilor Natalie Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Councilor John Shada (Arrived at 6:02 PM)
Councilor Julie Wolfe (Excused)
Councilor Michelle Whetherhult (Arrived at 6:22 PM)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ROLL CALL

All members of the City Council were present for the roll call.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Johnson moved to approve the agenda as amended with Section H (Police Department Swearing in Ceremony) and Item G4 (Ratification of the Election of the Manitou Springs Fire Chief and Oath of Office) before Section E (Public Comment). The motion was seconded by Councilor Chandler. The motion was carried unanimously (5-0).

H. POLICE DEPARTMENT SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Graham expressed appreciation for the Manitou Springs Police Department (MSPD) Officers and the services they provide for the community. He then proceeded with swearing in the MSPD Officers.

G4. Ratification of the Election of Manitou Springs Fire Chief and Oath of Office

Mayor Graham stated that the Fire Department elects the Fire Chief and that the City Council ratifies that vote. He proceeded to swear in Fire Chief Keith Buckmiller, Deputy Fire Chief John Forsett, and Assistant Fire Chief David Crawford. He presented a plaque to the new Deputy Fire Chief Forsett in recognition of the former Fire Chief's service. Mayor Graham expressed appreciation to the Fire Department on behalf of the City Council and the City of Manitou Springs.

Councilor Shada moved to ratify the election of the Manitou Springs Fire Chief. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chandler. The motion was carried (5-0).

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rich Block, 8700 North Street, Suite 310, Fishers, Indiana 46038, from Paragon, shared that the company owned the La Fon Property and shortly after purchasing the property the zoning code changed. He explained that they had applied for a density variance for apartments they intended to build on the site and that the variance was denied by the planning commission. Mr. Block requested the City Council consider changing the zoning code.

Megan Day, 12 Capital Avenue, shared that she has 16 years of experience in planning and is currently an alternate on the Planning Commission. She stated that generally and historically zoning codes have been exclusionary. She expressed concern about the Manitou Springs zoning code and stated that the current code prevents development of affordable housing due to different restrictions. She added that Manitou Springs teachers, firefighters, police officers and city staff cannot afford to live in the city, and that the population is aging and decreasing due to younger families being priced out. Ms. Day suggested that the City Council consider revising the zoning code and support community building development proposals, such as the Paragon Apartment proposal, by allowing variances.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. December 17, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Consider Reappointing David Armstrong to the City Planning Commission
3. Requesting Approval of the General Services Agreement with Hammers Construction, Inc. for the Navajo Spring Improvements Project

Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

G. BUSINESS

1. Nomination and Election of a Mayor Pro Tem and Alternate/Back-up Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Graham shared that Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin indicated that she would like to step down from the Mayor Pro Tem role.

Councilor Chandler requested that the City Council consider postponing the nomination and election of Mayor Pro Tem to a meeting where the full City Council is present.

There was a brief discussion about the process for electing a Mayor Pro Tem and postponing the agenda item.

Councilor Shada moved to approve Councilor Johnson as Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin as the Alternate/Back-up Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin. The motion was carried (5-1) with Councilor Chandler as the dissenting vote.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 0125, A Resolution Establishing the Locations for the Posting of Notices for the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado

Councilor Johnson moved to approve Resolution No. 0125, A Resolution Establishing the Locations for the Posting of Notices for the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 0225, A Resolution Appointing Council Members and Staff as Liaisons to the Various Boards, Commissions, Committees, Agencies, and Organizations

Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin moved to approve Resolution No. 0225, A Resolution Appointing Council Members and Staff Liaisons to the Various Boards, Commissions, Committees, Agencies, and Organizations. The motion was seconded by Mayor Graham. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

I. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING INTO WORK SESSION

With no other items to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Fortuin moved to adjourn the meeting into a work session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Attest:



Elena Krebs, City Clerk


John Graham, Mayor