

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting Minutes
606 Manitou Avenue
May 6, 2025

The City Council of Manitou Springs met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 6, 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 Natalie Johnson
Councilor Judith Chandler
Councilor John Shada
Councilor Nancy Fortuin
Councilor Michelle Whetherhult

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Councilor Julie Wolfe (Arrived at 6:06 PM)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, except for Councilor Wolfe.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Shada moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fortuin. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. April 8, 2025 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
2. April 15, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
3. April 22, 2025 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
4. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document A133-2019 Agreement with Fransen Pittman for Hiawatha Gardens Pre-Construction Services Phase 1, 3 and 4
5. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document A133-2019 Agreement with Fransen Pittman for Hiawatha Gardens Pre-Construction Phase 2

Note for the Record – This item was pulled from the consent calendar as requested by Councilor Fortuin.

6. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 1 (Parking Lot and Restroom Structure)
7. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 2 (Pavilion and Plaza)

Note for the Record – This item was pulled from the consent calendar as requested by Councilor Fortuin.

8. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 3 (Old Mans Trail and Vehicular Bridge)
9. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 4

Note for the Record – Councilor Wolfe arrived at 6:06 PM.

Councilor Fortuin moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

F5. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document A133-2019 Agreement with Fransen Pittman for Hiawatha Gardens Pre-Construction Phase 2

Councilor Fortuin stated that she did not think it would be beneficial to have two open air pavilions across the street from one another and expressed concern about the costs

associated with phase two. She added that she felt the final concept did not get the time and consideration needed with some changes occurring late in the process.

Mayor Graham stated that he had concerns as well and noted the large amount of material presented for review.

Councilor Wolfe moved to approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document A133-2019 Agreement with Fransen Pittman for Hiawatha Gardens Pre-Construction Phase 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion was carried (6-1) with Councilor Fortuin as the dissenting vote.

F7. Approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 2 (Pavilion and Plaza)

Councilor Fortuin reiterated her concerns about the planned Pavilion and costs previously stated about item F5.

Councilor Chandler moved to approve the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Document B133-2019 Agreement with Davis Partnership Architects for Hiawatha Gardens Phase 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion was carried (6-1) with Councilor Fortuin as the dissenting vote.

G. PRESENTATION

1. Mountain Metro Presentation – Route 3 and Fall 2025 Schedule

Jacob Matsen, Transit Planning and Operations Supervisor with Mountain Metropolitan Transit presented the proposed bus schedule. He noted that there are two service changes a year, and that the change to extend Route 33 to include the Dillon Mobility Hub is expected to be implemented on September 28, 2025. He presented the proposed route along Manitou Avenue, with a planned layover at Fields Park for the next couple of years until the Dillon Parking Lot can accommodate buses and stated that the current layover time is six minutes. He explained that the extended route would result in a smaller number of round trips, with times between each stop increasing and suggested that the city may want to consider an additional bus. Additionally, Transit Planning and Operations Supervisor Matsen presented the plan to share the costs of Route 3 between the City of Colorado Springs and the City of Manitou Springs, providing free service to riders. He reviewed the current route which runs from the Downtown Colorado Springs Terminal to Old Man's Trail in Manitou Springs and presented the cost share plan with a total cost of \$52,222 for Manitou Springs and \$148,354 for Colorado Springs. He noted that a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) would be needed and that this change is expected to be implemented on April 26, 2026. He stated that the Manitou Springs Mobility and Parking Board (MAP) voted unanimously to support the proposed plan on April 23, 2025. He added that they hope

the plan will lead to reduced traffic in Manitou Springs and that the savings from what the city has paid for Route 36 could help pay for the costs of Route 3.

There was a brief discussion about Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in which Transit Planning and Operations Supervisor Matsen confirmed that CDOT does not need to approve the layover stops.

Transit Planning and Operations Supervisor Matsen noted that the stop at the Smischny Parking Lot would not be included in the new route.

Councilor Chandler commended the proposal and expressed appreciation for the thoughtful consideration for the plan.

Mayor Graham echoed appreciation for the proposed plan.

H. BUSINESS

1. First Reading of Ordinance No. 0625, an Ordinance of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, Amending Section 10.04.020(24) of the Manitou Springs Municipal Code to Reduce the Default Speed Limit on City Streets to 20 Miles Per Hour

City Administrator Denise Howell introduced the ordinance and noted that the subject was previously discussed during a City Council Work Session on April 8, 2025.

Police Chief Bill Otto confirmed that in areas without posted speed limits the default speed limit would apply.

Councilor Chandler stated that she would like to see all of El Paso Boulevard change to a 20 Mile Per Hour speed limit, rather than the current posted speed limit of 25 Miles Per Hour.

There was a general discussion about the impact the ordinance and posted speeds would have on speed limits in different areas of the city, in which City Administrator Howell stated that staff would do additional research regarding the Model Traffic Code to confirm.

City Attorney Jeff Parker confirmed that the City's current speed limits would be changed by the ordinance as the City has already adopted section 1101(7) of the Model Traffic Code, which enables the City to adopt their own speed limits, therefore, making the default speed limit 20 Miles Per Hour in residential and nonresidential districts. He explained that if the City Council is concerned about the definitions of districts referenced in the code or the ordinance, then more research should be done to ensure that the ordinance does not conflict with the Model Traffic Code and that the change does effectively accomplish what the City Council is trying to implement.

City Administrator Howell advised posting speed limits where changes will be made, rather than simply removing signs, to avoid confusing drivers who may be unaware of the change.

Councilor Wolfe suggested adding signage at each entry point to the city notifying drivers of the default speed limit for all areas without posted speeds, similar to what the City of Colorado Springs does.

Councilor Chandler expressed concern about the definitions being inclusive of El Paso Boulevard.

Councilor Shada moved to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 0625, an Ordinance of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, Amending Section 10.04.020(24) of the Manitou Springs Municipal Code to Reduce the Default Speed Limit on City Streets to 20 Miles Per Hour. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wolfe. The motion was carried unanimously (7-0).

2. First Reading of Ordinance No. 0725, An Ordinance Amending Title 2 with the Addition of a New Chapter 2.66 Concerning Elections

City Clerk Elena Krebs stated that the City's Charter does reference the laws that govern elections and some petition procedures, however the code is missing some basic framework regarding elections that would be procedurally beneficial. She explained that the ordinance will add a deadline for write in candidates with the option to cancel an election in the event where there are no opposing candidates, as well as defined requirements for Campaign Finance Laws for a simpler process.

Councilor Chandler noted that only 25 signatures are required to have your name added to the ballot for open City Council positions and expressed concerns about cancelling elections. She added that allowing residents to vote promotes fair and free elections, highlighting the importance of the act of voting.

Councilor Wolfe stated that allowing the city to cancel elections without opposing candidates would save money and suggested adding language deeming the unopposed candidates elected officials.

City Attorney Parker confirmed that the law allowing for the cancellation of unopposed elections does treat the new officials the same as an elected official.

Councilor Fortuin noted that the ordinance would give the city the option to cancel, which would be a beneficial option to potentially save on election costs.

Councilor Chandler added that an election allows the elected person to receive feedback of their support via the count of votes in favor. She expressed that she finds the process more characteristic of an appointed official than that of a genuinely elected official.

Councilor Wolfe moved to approve on first reading, Ordinance No. 0725, An Ordinance Amending Title 2 with the Addition of a New Chapter 2.66 Concerning Elections. The

motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion was carried (6-1), with Councilor Chandler as the dissenting vote.

I. RECEIVE OR ACT ON COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Councilor Fortuin shared that the URA met in the morning and that there will be a new owner of Colorado Lodge at the end of May who has plans to renovate the lodge.

Mayor Graham shared that there was an award ceremony for the Fire Department on Friday, May 2, 2025. He added that the new Fire Training Facility was dedicated to the former Fire Chief, John Forsett.

J. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

City Administrator Denise Howell reports on the following:

- Staff is monitoring storm drainage during the heavy rain.
- The potholes in front of the library will need to be repaired after the rain has stopped.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. An Executive Session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators, pursuant to Section 5.1(d) of the Manitou Springs Municipal Charter. This executive session concerns the Manitou Springs Metropolitan District.
2. An Executive Session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators, pursuant to Section 5.1(d) of the Manitou Springs Municipal Charter, concerning the management and operation of the Incline.

Mayor Graham read the purpose of the Executive Session into the record at 7:12 PM.

Councilor Wolfe moved to enter the Executive Session for the stated purpose. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chandler. The motion was carried (7-0).

The City Council moved back to Regular Session at 9:47 PM. Mayor Graham confirmed the Executive Session was held solely for the stated purpose and that no formal decision was made.

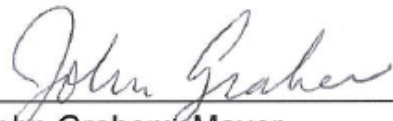
ADJORN

With no other items to discuss, Councilor Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Whetherhult. The motion was carried unanimously (7-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Attest:



Elena Krebs, City Clerk

John Graham, Mayor

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