

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS  
CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
606 Manitou Avenue  
January 6, 2026

The City Council of Manitou Springs met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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 Julie Wolfe  
Councilor Nancy Fortuin  
Councilor Michelle Whetherhult

**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**

Mayor Graham suggested removing the Receive or Act on Council Correspondence and City Administrator Report sections from the agenda.

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

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Peggy Dlugos, 18 Kreg Lane, read a poem into the record, titled Start Close In, by David Whyte.

Bill Wysong, El Paso County Commissioner, thanked Mayor Graham for his service and commended him for his work. He also welcomed the newly elected Mayor Natalie Johnson.

## **F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. December 2, 2025 City Council Minutes
2. December 11, 2025 City Council Minutes

Councilor Chandler moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fortuin. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

## **G. PRESENTATION**

1. Comments from Outgoing Council

Councilor Fortuin reflected on her eight years of service, noting that while serving on Council is challenging, it is rewarding and a privilege to serve the community. She emphasized the importance of local civic engagement, encouraging residents to contribute in ways that suit them and to remain involved in strengthening community connections. She highlighted the value of asking questions, seeking multiple perspectives, and communicating directly with elected officials to resolve concerns. Councilor Fortuin also stressed the importance of celebrating successes and appreciating the community. She expressed gratitude to Ward 2 residents, City staff, local businesses, boards and commissions, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and community members for their contributions, and she wished the incoming Council success in their service.

Councilor Whetherhult thanked community members for attending and acknowledged outgoing and incoming Council members and the new Mayor. She reflected on the challenges of the past four years and expressed appreciation for the City Administrator, Council, and City staff, emphasizing their dedication and behind the scenes work. She encouraged residents to remain engaged and respectful when communicating with City leadership, noting the difficulty of public service. Councilor Whetherhult highlighted the value of the Citizens Academy, thanked Ward 3 residents for their support, and expressed her continued commitment to the Manitou Springs community.

Mayor Graham reflected on his six years and three terms in office by highlighting major City projects and improvements, including upgrades to the library, water system, streets, parking facilities, public safety infrastructure, open space preservation, fire mitigation efforts, and utilities coordination. He emphasized the collaborative efforts of City Council, staff, volunteers, and the community in achieving these outcomes. Mayor Graham thanked outgoing and incoming Council members, expressed confidence in the incoming Mayor, and conveyed appreciation for City staff, the City Administrator, and his family for their support. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Manitou Springs community.

## **H. OATH OF OFFICE – SWEARING IN OF MAYOR AND NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILORS**

City Clerk Elena Krebs conducted the swearing in of Mayor Natalie Johnson, as well as Ward One Councilor Nate Nassif, Ward Two Councilor Carey Storm and Ward Three Councilor Gloria Latimer.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Natalie Johnson  
Councilor Judith Chandler  
Councilor John Shada  
Councilor Julie Wolfe  
Councilor Nate Nassif  
Councilor Carey Storm  
Councilor Gloria Latimer

## **I. BUSINESS**

1. Resolution No. 0126, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Mayor John Graham

Mayor Johnson read the resolution into the record and suggested an addition after the fourth paragraph to state “Whereas, recognizing that Mayor Graham was the visionary leader behind our annual Indigenous Peoples Day.”

Councilor Chandler moved to approve Resolution No. 0126, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Mayor John Graham, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

2. Resolution No. 0226, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Councilor Nancy Fortuin

Councilor Storm read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Storm moved to approve Resolution No. 0226, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Councilor Nancy Fortuin. The motion was seconded by Councilor Latimer. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. Resolution No. 0326, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Councilor Michelle Whetherhult

Councilor Latimer read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Latimer moved to approve Resolution No. 0326, A Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation of Councilor Michelle Whetherhult. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. Resolution No. 0426, A Resolution Establishing the Locations for the Posting of Notices for the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado

Councilor Chandler moved to approve Resolution No. 0426, A Resolution Establishing the Locations for the Posting of Notices for the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wolfe. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

5. Resolution No. 0526, A Resolution Appointing Council Members and Staff as Liaisons to the Various Boards, Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Organizations

Councilor Latimer moved to approve Resolution No. 0526, A Resolution Appointing Council Members and Staff as Liaisons to the Various Boards, Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Organizations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

Mayor Johnson moved to elect Councilor Chandler as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mayor Johnson moved to elect Councilor Wolfe as Alternate Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chandler. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mayor Johnson announced that going forward City Council work sessions would start at 5:00 PM.

## **J. RECEIVE OR ACT ON COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

**Note for the Record** – This section of the agenda was removed during Approval of the Agenda.

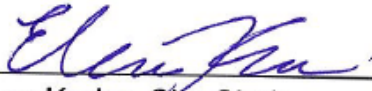
## **K. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

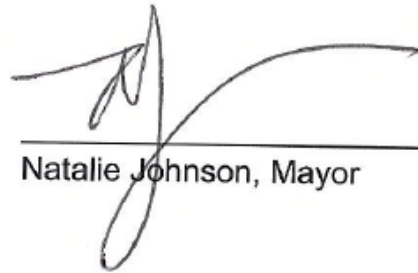
**Note for the Record** – This section of the agenda was removed during Approval of the Agenda.

## **ADJOURN**

With no further business, Councilor Chandler moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wolfe. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elena Krebs, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie Johnson, Mayor

*If you need this document in an alternative format, such as large print, accessible PDF, or Braille, please contact the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov](mailto:cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov) or (719) 685-2554.*