

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
606 Manitou Avenue  
April 7, 2026

The City Council of Manitou Springs met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 7, 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 Natalie Johnson  
Mayor Pro Tem Judith Chandler  
Councilor John Shada  
Councilor Julie Wolfe  
Councilor Nate Nassif  
Councilor Carey Storm  
Councilor Gloria Latimer

**F. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

**G. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Storm moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Latimer. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

Sharon Scanlan, Manitou Springs resident and owner of Cherokee of Manitou, commented on repeated excavation in the right-of-way adjacent to her business, which has disrupted drainage and contributed to flooding and muddy conditions. She raised concerns about incomplete restoration following the recent Creek Walk Trail work, including an unpaved area and an open hole that poses a safety risk. She also reported that construction activity blocked access to her business, resulting in significant revenue loss, and emphasized the need for improved coordination and communication with affected property and business owners.

**I. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. March 17, 2026 City Council Minutes

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

2. Action on Reappointment of Robin Kovats to the Open Space Advisory Committee
3. Action on Reappointment and Status Change for Open Space Advisory Committee Member Sheryl Cline
4. Action on Status Change for Open Space Advisory Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan

Councilor Latimer moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

#### 11. March 17, 2026 City Council Minutes

Councilor Latimer noted that the date for the informal community meeting announced under Council Correspondence was incorrect and should be dated March 24, 2026.

Councilor Latimer moved to approve the minutes as amended to correct the meeting date as noted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried (7-0).

### **J. PRESENTATION**

1. Proclamation No. 0326, a Proclamation to Recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Councilor Storm read Proclamation No. 0326 into the record, recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Catania Jones, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Services for El Paso County, expressed support for the proclamation. She reported that in 2025 there were 24,462 calls to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Hotline in El Paso County, noting that calls help connect families to resources and provide valuable information for caseworkers, even when they do not result in an open case. She emphasized the Department's commitment to child safety and the importance of community partnerships, and highlighted supportive programs including the Center on Fathering and an upcoming Men's Resource Fair on April 17, 2026.

2. Proclamation No. 0426, a Proclamation Recognizing April 24, 2026 as National Arbor Day

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler read Proclamation No. 0426 into the record, recognizing April 24, 2026 as National Arbor Day. She noted that Manitou Springs is a certified Tree City USA community and commended the City.

## **K. BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 0926, A Resolution of the City of Manitou Springs City Council Adopting Updated Non-Reservoir Triggers for Water Restriction Levels 1-4

Public Services Director Schmitt explained that the proposed resolution would update the City Code to incorporate additional data-based triggers for water restrictions beyond reservoir levels. He noted that while current thresholds are based on raw water supply, the update would include factors such as turbidity, system water loss, infrastructure failures, emergency conditions, and the need to maintain adequate water supply for firefighting. He added that the approach aligns with practices used by other municipalities and incorporates guidance from partner agencies, including Colorado Springs Utilities, as well as considerations such as drought conditions and fire danger levels to provide a more comprehensive and responsive framework.

There was a brief discussion about the water tank. Public Services Director Schmitt stated that the water tank project is estimated to take three months. He explained that the tank has reached a critical stage and requires rehabilitation to prevent deterioration. The project includes draining the tank and completing interior lining work, which requires specific temperature conditions. He noted the work is scheduled for spring to align with higher water availability and maintain supply during construction.

Water Treatment Plant Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) John Elwell added that while the timing is not ideal and temporarily reduces finished water capacity, the work is necessary due to the tank's age and interior deterioration. He indicated that additional conditions may be identified once the tank is fully drained and accessible.

There was a discussion about funding the water tank rehabilitation project, during which Public Services Director Schmitt explained that the project is part of a larger State Revolving Fund loan that includes multiple water system improvements. He noted that the funding carries specific compliance requirements, and that the project must be completed within the required timeframe. He added that the City also received a grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to support the project.

Councilor Storm expressed support for the changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler moved to approve Resolution 0926, A Resolution of the City of Manitou Springs City Council Adopting Updated Non-Reservoir Triggers for Water Restriction Levels 1-4. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler shared that the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Legislative Update was rescheduled to April 8, 2026. She added that the State appears to be facing a budget shortfall, which may have some impact on the City.

Councilor Latimer shared that she has had two residents contact her to express support for reinstating free or low-cost charging stations at Schryver Park. She announced that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Diamond Jubilee Celebration for their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 30, 2026.

There was a brief discussion about City Council Open Mic Nights. Mayor Johnson explained that the format will be informal and is expected to be a learning experience. She noted that the City will observe how the community self-regulates the discussion and that the Council will navigate participation rules as the process develops.

Mayor Johnson announced that the CML Conference will be June 23, 2026 through June 26, 2026, and that the City Council is meeting for a Budget Work Session on Thursday April 9, 2026, at 8:00 AM in City Hall. Mayor Johnson shared that the Pikes Peak Area of Council Governments (PPACG) expressed interest in a human trafficking initiative, including a proclamation and other materials, such as posters.

## **M. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**


City Administrator Howell reported on the following:

- There is a Blood Drive on April 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Community Congregational Church of Manitou Springs.
- Volunteers completed 8 hours of work in Black Canyon Open Space over the weekend of April 4, 2026 through April 5, 2026.


## **ADJOURN**

With no other items to discuss, Councilor Latimer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wolfe. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Attest:



Elena Krebs, City Clerk



Natalie Johnson, Mayor

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