

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting Minutes
606 Manitou Avenue
July 21, 2026

The City Council of Manitou Springs met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 21, 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 Nathan Nassif
Councilor Carey Storm
Councilor Gloria Latimer

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson 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 roll call.

D. 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).

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Casey, Manitou Springs Resident and Business Owner, requested that City Council reconsider the ordinance requiring permits to park in the center lane. He questioned the effectiveness of the permit requirement, stating that while relatively few permits are issued, many citations are written, and suggested the ordinance no longer serves its intended purpose.

Kolleen Johnson, Manitou Springs Resident, expressed concern about the lack of communication with Englemann Canyon residents regarding the Barr Trail Mountain Race. She stated that the event created early morning noise and traffic impacts,

including blocked access that raised safety concerns, and urged the City to improve communication with affected neighborhoods for future events.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Presentation of Warrants
2. June 30, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
3. July 7, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
4. Request to Change Jehan-Ara Khan from an Alternate to Regular Member of the Historic Preservation Commission
5. Approval of Updated Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Manitou Springs and CRANE

Note for the Record – This item was pulled from the consent calendar as requested by Mayor Pro Tem Chandler.

6. Approval of Contract Amendment #5 with JR Engineering for the Ruxton Avenue Improvements Project

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

F5. Approval of Updated Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Manitou Springs and CRANE

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler expressed support for the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), noting that it better defines the relationship between the City and Creative Alliance Manitou Springs (CRANE). She requested removing provisions I(d) and I(e) related to funding Visit Manitou Springs and the CRANE Executive Director position, stating that those matters should be considered during the City's budget process.

There was a discussion about the proposed funding mechanism for future public art maintenance and administration under section II(i). CRANE Chair Farley McDonough explained that the purpose of the provision is to ensure that funding for long term management is already in place before the project is presented to CRANE for review, particularly for projects proposed outside Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage Board (MACH) grant process. Vice Chair Ralph Routon clarified that whoever is funding the project will also need to fund the additional 5% for management and maintenance.

Councilor Wolfe expressed support for removing the provisions related to funding Visit Manitou Springs and the CRANE Executive Director.

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler moved to approve the MOU with sections I(d) and I(e) removed, and section II(i) reworded to clarify who is responsible for paying the 5% for maintenance and administration. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried (7-0).

G. PRESENTATION

1. Monthly Financial Report

Senior Budget Analyst Nate Moore presented the June 2026 financial report. He reported that General Fund expenditures were at 47.14% through the first half of the year, generally tracking below budget. He noted that revenues were also on trend, with sales tax collections expected to increase during the peak season and stated that overall financial performance remains on track with the adopted budget. Senior Budget Analyst Moore added that Enterprise Fund expenditures also remain under budget, with revenues as expected as well.

There was a discussion about whether transfers from the enterprise were reflected in the report. Senior Budget Analyst Moore clarified that the Mobility and Parking Fund no longer includes shuttle expenditures, which are now accounted for separately in the Barr Trail Fund within the General Fund. He noted that the report would be updated to remove the outdated note regarding shuttle expenditures.

There was a discussion about the Mobility and Parking Fund in which Senior Budget Analyst Moore explained that the year over year decrease is largely attributable to the temporary closure of the Hiawatha Gardens parking lot. He noted that the closure was anticipated in the budget and is not expected to affect overall budget performance. Furthermore, he confirmed that the new parking kiosks were paid in full.

Senior Budget Analyst Moore reported that sales tax revenues are showing improvement compared to earlier months and expressed confidence that collections remain on track to meet the budgeted projections.

H. BUSINESS

1. Consider Appointing Sean Warner to the City Planning Commission

Applicant Sean Warner introduced himself and shared his background in military service, volunteer leadership, and real estate. He expressed interest in serving as an alternate on the City Planning Commission (CPC), stating that he views the position as an opportunity to contribute to the community while gaining experience.

Several Councilors expressed support for Warner's appointment. Mayor Pro Tem Chandler noted that his background and experience would benefit CPC.

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler moved to appoint Sean Warner to CPC as an alternate member. The motion was seconded by Councilor Nassif. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

2. Approval of Audited 2025 Financials

Jim Hinkle, with Hinkle and Company CPAs, presented the City's 2025 annual audit. He reported that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, with no significant deficiencies or material weakness identified in the City's internal controls. He also reported no disagreements with management or difficulties during the audit, commended staff for their responsiveness and transparency throughout the process and noted the audit would be submitted to the State Auditor on time.

City Administrator Howell noticed that the 2025 audit was the first year the City completed the audit early and the last assignment before the current Finance Director Rebecca Davis retires.

Councilor Latimer moved to approve the audited 2025 Financials. The motion was seconded by Councilor Storm. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The City Council and City Administrator recognized Finance Director Davis, honoring her for her nearly 23 years of services to the City.

Note for the Record – The City Council took a break at 6:43 PM and reconvened at 6:55 PM.

3. First Reading of Ordinance No. 0726, An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

Senior Budget Analyst Moore presented the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Chandler moved to approve Ordinance No. 0726, An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wolfe. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

I. HEARINGS

1. Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 0626, An Ordinance of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, Amending Provisions of Title 10, Chapter 26, of the Manitou Springs Municipal Code Concerning Automated Vehicle Identification Systems

City Attorney Jeff Parker presented the ordinance and suggested rewording section 10.26.030(e) from a hearing to dispute the notice of violation must be filed with the city to a request disputing the notice of the violation must be filed.

Mayor Johnson opened public comment at 7:21 PM and subsequently closed due to no public comment.

Councilor Wolfe moved to adopt Ordinance No. 0626, An Ordinance of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, Amending Provisions of Title 10, Chapter 26, of the Manitou Springs Municipal Code Concerning Automated Vehicle Identification Systems. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shada. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

J. RECEIVE OR ACT ON COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Councilor Storm commented on the ongoing speeding on Crystal Park Rd., highlighting the modifications that have already been made and suggested installing more speed bumps.

Councilor Wolfe commented that the speed bumps are relatively ineffective since they are small and suggested that they should be bigger to actually slow drivers down.

Councilor Latimer shared that she and Mayor Pro Tem Chandler will be hosting a neighborhood meeting regarding traffic calming on August 1st.

K. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

City Administrator Howell reported on the following:

- The rehabilitation work of the water tank is completed, and it will be filled next week, so there will be notices for water conservation for a couple of days.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. An Executive Session to hold a conference with the City attorney for legal advice pursuant to Section 5.1(c) of the City of Manitou Springs Home Rule Charter, concerning *Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway Company v. City of Manitou Springs, Colorado*, El Paso County District Court Case No. 2025CV30766

Mayor Johnson read the purpose of the Executive Session into the record at 7:34 PM.

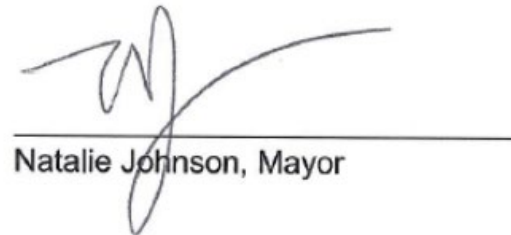
Councilor Wolfe moved to enter the Executive Session for the stated purpose. The motion was seconded by Councilor Latimer. The motion was carried unanimously (7-0).

The City Council moved back to Regular Session at 8:41 PM. Mayor Johnson confirmed the Executive Session was held solely for the stated purpose and that no formal decision was made.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Attest:


Elena Krebs, City Clerk
Natalie Johnson, Mayor

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