

January 20, 2026

The City Council of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, met this day in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The Honorable Mayor Doug Schossow called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Present: Honorable Mayor Doug Schossow  
Councilmember Loren Boyett  
Councilmember Bill Garcia  
Councilmember Jon Kaper  
Councilmember Jeff Morford  
Councilmember James Parks  
Councilmember Brian Urdiales

The meeting was also attended by City Manager Brent Nation, Police Chief Loren Sharp, City Attorney Geoff Wilson, Community Services Director Matt Underwood, City Treasurer Kasie Edson, Director of Utilities Doug Linton, Director of Public Works Tom Acre, Social Media/Public Information Officer Kasie Muhlbach, and City Clerk Jill Curtis.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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Sue Boyett with united Way invited Mayor and Council to United Way's first town hall event to be held at the Gene Doty Center next Friday January 30. She had handouts for Mayor and Council. Roger Cox at 601 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. verified that council had received or had been forwarded his letter regarding Phillip K. Dick, a world-renowned author from Fort Morgan. Cox believes Dick should also be honored like Glenn Miller and have the FMPL named after Phillip K. Dick.

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#### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND COUNCIL ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

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Mayor Doug Schossow asked for nominations of councilmembers to serve as mayor pro tem for the next two years. Councilmember James Parks nominated Councilmember Jeff Morford, and that was seconded by Councilmember Brian Urdiales. Councilmember Loren Boyett nominated Councilmember Jon Kaper, which was seconded by Councilmember Bill Garcia. With no further nominations, the council voted for mayor pro tem on paper ballots, which were tabulated by City Clerk Jill Curtis and City Manager Brent Nation. The result was a vote of 4-3 in favor of Kaper remaining as mayor pro tem for the next two years.

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#### **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD**

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Councilmember Kaper stated three applications were received for appointments to the Senior Center Advisory Board from Cyndi Eberhart, Dawn Benham and Jo Westhoff. Councilmember Jon Kaper offered a motion to appoint the applicants, which was seconded by Councilmember Parks and approved unanimously.

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#### **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER MOHAMED ABDIRAHMAN AND RECRUIT BRANDAN LEAKE**

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Chief Sharp introduced Recruit Brandan Leake, who is working for the Police Department part-time and learning the job and getting a foot in the door. Leake is ready to go to academy once there is an opening. Sharp then introduced Mohamed "Moe" who is unique and put himself

through policy academy. Mo came from Aurora wanted to find a community that fit him. Mo thanked the council and stated he loves this community.

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**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024 MODEL TRAFFIC CODE**

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Police Chief Loren Sharp said this measure will allow the police department to write tickets into the city for expired vehicles and unregistered vehicles. Some council and staff discussions followed, and Parks offered a resolution to approve the Ordinance amending the previously adopted 2024 Model Traffic Code and scheduling a public hearing on the Ordinance for Feb. 3. That resolution was seconded by Morford and approved unanimously.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CARRYING OVER 2025 BUDGET ITEMS TO THE 2026 BUDGET**

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City Treasurer Kasie Edson explained that this Resolution would make the budget balance by carrying over funds that were budgeted for 2025 but not expended. These were mostly capital projects that were delayed for various reasons.

Kaper offered a resolution to approve the Resolution allowing carryover of 2025 budget items for various capital projects, which was seconded by Parks and approved unanimously.

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**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FIREWORKS**

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Nation stated that the city is working on cleaning up some ordinances that have outdated language in them and this is the first one. He explained that in the table file is the cleaned up revised version and this resolution is not abolishing fireworks, only cleaning up language. Kaper had concern about a section that stated the fireworks will be confiscated if they were still in possession past the dates in the ordinance. Chief Sharp stated that should be re-worded. Park made motion to table the Ordinance, Nation said it could be tabled, or council can approve it and the city would give the attorneys two weeks to reword that section in time for the public hearing slated for February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parks offered a resolution to approve the ordinance with corrections, and scheduling the public hearing for February 3, which was seconded by Morford and approved unanimously.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF VACANT PROPERTY AN ABANDONED WELL SITE (DIAZ-REY)**

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Director of Utilities Doug Linton presented the resolution and stated the property is an abandoned well site that the city no longer has a purpose for it. Kaper offered a resolution to authorize the sale of the abandoned well site property with a second from Parks approving unanimously.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF VACANT PROPERTY AN ABANDONED WELL SITE 506 EUCLID LLC**

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Linton stated this resolution authorizing the sale of property is also an abandoned well site and the property runs adjacent to the 506 Euclid LLC and they have agreed to purchase it. Schossow asked if this needs to be done for each piece of property, Nation explained that they are 8 total that were brought to council earlier and the city is picking them off one by one. They city is selling for a price enough to cover title and attorney fees. Boyett offered a resolution approving the sale of property with a second from Parks, approving unanimously.

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**SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 1328, AMENDING CH.20  
LAND USE CODE OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE ADDRESSING AND REGULATING THE LAND  
USES OF KENNELS, PET DAYCARE BOARDING AND SMALL ANIMAL GROOMING**

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Mayor Schossow outlined the guidelines to be followed during the public hearing, and City Clerk Jill Curtis confirmed that proper legal notice of the hearing had been published. Acre stated that this Ordinance changes zoning to allow for overnight night pet boarding, pet daycare, cattery, rabbitry and small animal grooming. Urdiales asked if this was for special use and Nation stated it is just to change zoning. Pam Bland spoke and stated she would greatly benefit if this passed. Applicants Kerry and her daughter Isnala Cross spoke and said they are very eager to be back in business as the building they were renting had been sold and they have been out of business for over a year. Once this passes, they are ready to begin providing the services they offer. They thanked the council.

Parks moved to close the public hearing, with a second from Garcia and approved unanimously. City Attorney Geoff Wilson advised the council of its options for action, and Parks offered a resolution to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance No. 1328 and publish by title only with a second from Urdiales, approving unanimously.

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**CONSENT AGENDA BY RESOLUTION**

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Curtis presented the Consent Agenda for Council consideration as follows:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for December
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Jan. 13, 2026 City Council special meeting

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine business by the Council and will be enacted with a single motion and a single vote by roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is deemed necessary, that item should be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Parks offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Morford and approved unanimously.

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**REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF**

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Nation pointed out that the sales tax numbers were in the council packets, mentioning the numbers are still flat. The city is still moving forward with the comp plan and looking for volunteers to participate on the steering committee. Brian Urdiales volunteered. Nation then let the council know what agenda items will be coming up in the next few meetings.

Chief Sharp said that part of officer training includes CIT – Crisis Intervention Training. Since they deal with so many mental health calls it is a priority to have officers trained in CIT. The police department has had a bicycle program for nearly 30 years; this year the department was able to get a grant for 3 E-bikes which will be upfit with flashing lights.

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**BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Curtis announced current bids and upcoming meetings.

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Morford motioned to move to executive session at 6:50 p.m. for a conference with the City attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) – Animal Shelter contract with the Humane Society

The executive sessions began at 6:58 p.m. and ended at 7:37 p.m. and were attended by the mayor and councilmembers, City Attorney Geoff Wilson, City Manager Brent Nation and Police Chief Loren Sharp. At the conclusion of the executive sessions the council returned to the regular open meeting, where Kaper reported that the council had met in an executive session for the purposes stated on the agenda and discussed the animal shelter contract with the Humane Society.

Mayor Schossow adjourned the Jan. 20, 2026 regular meeting at 7:38 p.m.

/s/ Doug Schossow

Mayor

/s/ Jill Curtis

City Clerk