

**CITY OF THOMPSON FALLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 8, 2024



The City Council meeting was held at the Thompson Falls Junior High School Gym, 316  
Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Council Members Present:

Raoul Ribeiro, City Council President  
Hayley Allen-Blakney, City Council Vice President  
Katherine Maudrone  
Earlene Powell  
Shawni Vaught  
Larry Lack

City Officials Present:

Rusti Leivestad, Mayor  
Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Tim Goen, City Attorney  
Erica Franck, Assistant Clerk  
Chris Nichols, Police Chief  
Jason Thornton, Police Officer

Others signed in: Sign in sheet attached.

Rusti Leivestad opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Chelsea Peterson made note of who was present.

The Council passed a motion 6-0 to approve setting the agenda. (Maudrone, Allen-Blakney)

Standing Committee Reports- None

Community Decay Update – None

Information: Mayor, Rusti Leivestad stated the city is setting the Zoning Committee meeting for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. prior to the regular City Council Meeting.

**ACTION TAKEN**

1. The Council made a motion 6-0 to appoint Raoul Ribeiro as City Council President. (Vaught, Powell)
2. The Council made a motion 6-0 to appoint Hayley Allen-Blakney as the Vice President. (Maudrone, Ribeiro)
3. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. (Powell, Lack)

4. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the City Council Procedure changes. (Ribeiro, Powell) Public Comment: Tamra Shear asked for a copy of the proposed changes.
5. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the MOU between the City and the Sanders County Dog Training Club. (Ribeiro, Allen-Blakney)
6. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the MOU between the City and Montana Dakota Services, Inc. regarding a donation for play equipment at Ainsworth Park. (Ribeiro, Lack) Public Comment Melinda Thompson asking who will maintain the park equipment after it is installed. Beth Junge asked what the playground will look like. Mary Taylor with MDS talked about the plans and area that the new equipment will be placed.
7. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the MOU between the City and Thompson River Animal Care Shelter TRACS. (Ribeiro, Vaught)
8. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve Resolution #840 HB355 Funding for Streets. (Riberio, Maudrone)
9. The Council made a motion 6-0 to table the Wastewater project request for Reimbursements for Phases 1 & 2. (Vaught, Lack) Public Comment: Kristin Wing asked about phases 1&2, Melinda Thompson asked for a timeline for phases 1 & 2. Jake Susic encouraged the board to use local vendors for projects and do their due diligence.
10. The Council made a motion 6-0 to approve the Wastewater Project request for reimbursements for Phases 3 & 4. (Maudrone, Allen-Blakney)

Unscheduled Public Comment:

Gussi O'Conner wants radar signs on Main Street to slow down traffic. The city is looking into grants.

Steve Oswald spoke about the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and how he went into the office and met with the City Clerk and saw no issues like Cindy Bronner did that he thinks the City and the staff are doing a great job.

Cindy Bronner- She spoke about the meeting at the city regarding the budget, requested documents from the pool project and where the funds went and who was paid to do the work. She accused the city of having secret meetings and not letting the public know. She also made a statement that the city is two years behind in their audits.

Nanette Blake asked if the city has an emergency preparedness plan in place. She was told that Bill Naegeli, Emergency Manager, Sanders County created an Emergency Operation Plan.

Jake Susic spoke in favor of the radar signs and would like people to slow down on Main Street.

Catherine Dewitt spoke in favor of the radar signs and wanting to help find money to fund the radar signs.

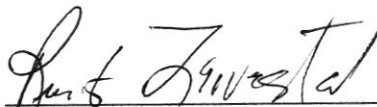
Nancy Johnson spoke to the Council regarding adding 50 more signatures for the Orchard property petition. She gave them to the mayor.


Kristin Wing wanted to know if the Wayfinding grant money could help pay for the radar signs. She also stated that the 3 Special City Council meetings were not posted at the Sanders County Courthouse and was informed that they were emailed to the courthouse on December 18, 2023, for the December 20, 2023, meetings. She was also informed that the agendas were also posted on the window at the City Hall, on the City Website, on the City Facebook page, Sanders County 411 Facebook page, Sanders County Information and Events Facebook page, Sanders County, Valley Bank, First Security Bank and Library.

MAYORS REPORT –

1. Met with Travis (State Road Department) to look at complaint on Main Street where water not adequately draining into drain from recent rains, concerned when it becomes icy.
2. Discussion with tobacco specialist about being on agenda – suggested Feb which is “quit smoking month”.
3. Research inquiry by Solid Rock Estates about plowing, relayed info to resident making request.
4. Met with Mary Taylor for the playground project at Ainsworth Field
5. Chelsea and I met with Cindy Bronner and Helen Jensen to clarify Cindy’s misunderstanding of our accounting process. A recap of that meeting is included in your packet.
6. Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting.
7. Had a discussion with a resident about their concerns with the Town Pump changes and loss of motel space.
8. A copy of my proposed letter to FERC is included in your packet, restating the comments I have made to Kim McMahon of Pinnacle and in December’s meeting of items I think would be reasonable for FERC to consider in the relicensing process.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rusti Leivestad, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Chelsea Peterson, City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Thompson Falls City Council Meetings



**Public Hearing regarding HB355 Funding for Streets on the City of Thompson Falls  
Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT**

**Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.**

**and**

**Regular City Council Meeting at the  
Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT**

**Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**\*\*SWEAR IN THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ELECT A NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND  
VICE PRESIDENT**

**OPEN MEETING**

**ROLL CALL OF THE COUNCIL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SET THE AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA: Claims, Minutes, Financial Reports, Court Report, Water Shut-off**

**List/Arrangements**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**INFORMATIONAL: None**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Rusti Leivestad will present the Agenda Item unless otherwise listed.**

**1. City Council Procedure changes**

**Public Comment**

**2. MOU between the City and the Sanders County Dog Training Club**

**Public Comment**

**3. MOU between the City and Montana Dakota Services, Inc. regarding a donation for play equipment**

**Public Comment**

**4. MOU between the City and Thompson River Animal Care Shelter TRACS**

**Public Comment**

**5. HB355 Funding Resolution for Streets**

**Public Comment**

**6. Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 1 & 2**

**Public Comment**

**7. Wastewater Project Request for Reimbursements Phases 3 & 4**

**Public Comment**

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 minutes**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**ADJOURN**

**\*\*There may be issues discussed during the meeting which may not be listed on the agenda. If a decision is required on items of significant interest, it will be scheduled for another date/time and posted within the required 48-hour notice. This schedule is subject to change without notice but will be posted within the required 48-hour notice. If you have any questions, please contact 406-827-3557.**



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Public Hearing regarding HB355 Funding for Streets on the City of Thompson Falls  
Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT  
 Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.

and  
 Regular City Council Meeting at the  
Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT  
 Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Sign in Sheet

READ

NAME (Please Print)	WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ✓ = yes	Street Address
Please Print		Please Print ~ thank you
✓ ROB VINEZ		208 Church St
✓ Gussie O'Connor	✓	501 Mant St.
<del>Wendy Johnson</del>	✓	Mt Silcox Rd -
✓ Kristen Wray	✓	1214 Holley
✓ Steve Oswald	✓	2035 Gallatin TF





HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Public Hearing regarding HB355 Funding for Streets on the City of Thompson Falls  
 Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.

and

Regular City Council Meeting at the

Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Sign in Sheet

READ

NAME (Please Print)	WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND IF YES WHAT AGENDA ITEM NUMBER? √ = yes	Street Address
Please Print		Please Print ~ thank you
Tracy ZENTZ		19 Moccasin Ln
Marty Sharp		25 Taxi Way Court Thompson Falls
Rebecca Sharp		25 Taxi Way Ct. T.F.
Steve Oswald		203 S. Gallatin TF
Ernie Winkler		Ledge
Jake Susa		1206 Helix Ave
NANCIE BLAKE	Yes - zoning	105 PARK ST
Bob Williams		Robert Hill
Leslie BRANT		441 Cherry Cr Rd
Mike Wells		25 Sycamore Ln. TF
Melinda Thompson		219 Park St
Randy Duffield		" "
Gussie O'Connor	Yes	501 Main St,
Cady Branner	Yes	93 Cherry Creek.
JAMBA SHAR		704 Maiden Lane + 712 Maiden Ln
LUNNERS BETH JUNGE	2	407 E. 4TH AVE.
Jason VanHool		30 Laric Loop



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Public Hearing regarding HB355 Funding for Streets on the City of Thompson Falls  
 Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.

and

Regular City Council Meeting at the  
 Thompson Falls Elementary School Junior High Gym, 316 Columbia Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

Sign in Sheet

<p><b>NAME</b> <b>(Please Print)</b></p>	<p><b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND IF YES WHAT AGENDA ITEM NUMBER?</b> √ = yes</p>	<p><b>Street Address</b></p>
<p><b>Please Print</b></p>		<p><b>Please Print ~ thank you</b></p>
<p>✓ ROB VIENS</p>		<p>208 CAUCH ST.</p>
<p>✓ Nancy Johnson</p>		<p>Citizen</p>
<p>RICKI CLARK</p>		<p>409 Adams</p>
<p>ROB CLARK</p>		<p>409 ADAMS</p>
<p>Valerie Walker</p>		<p>Out of town</p>
<p>DEAN Johnson</p>		<p>MT State Dr</p>
<p>✓ Krista Wynn</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>1214 Haley</p>
<p>Mary Taylor</p>		<p>out of town</p>
<p>Toba Leiveslag</p>		<p>534 Maple St.</p>
<p>JASON PETERSON</p>		
<p>✓ Jack Johnson</p>		<p>160 Rainier Dr. TF</p>
<p>Karen Sheets</p>		