UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF HOT SPRINGS
October 19, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hot Springs, South Dakota, was convened on October 19, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Mueller Civic Center with Mayor Bob Nelson presiding

Members Present
Dave Burris, JR Huddleston, Debra Johnston, Bill Lukens, Larry Pratt, Craig Romey and Gary Telkamp

Members Absent
Linda Varvel

Staff Present
City Administrator Aerial Allison, Finance Officer Misty Summers-Walton, Library Director Mary Terrones, MCC Staff Karl Bochert and City Attorney Austin Schaefer (out @ 6:15pm)

ALL ACTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Agenda
Mayor Nelson requested to amend the agenda by removing update item c) Tana Moorehead, US Small Business Administration. Moved by Huddleston, seconded Romey, to approve the amended agenda

Minutes
Moved by Johnston, seconded by Telkamp, to approve the minutes from the October 5th regular council meeting

Claims
Moved by Romey, seconded by Pratt, to approve the bills in between of $138,356.47
Moved by Burris, seconded by Huddleston, to approve the current claims of $88,407.51

Communications from the Public
Kerry Pile introduced Elisha and John Gift, as new managers of HS Community Garden and shared this introduction/transition is the final step in the transfer of management at the garden. The 7 Sisters Youth Garden is, and will remain, a separate entity that she will continue to be active in. She expressed full confidence in the new managers. Elisha and John both shared information about the non-profit organization, The Northern Nevada Moses Project DBA Random Acts 20:35 and answered questions from the Council regarding vision, board members and the current availability and use of plots. Mary Kate Nelson, President of the youth garden, also provided Council with information regarding the 42 plots in the community garden which were all used this last year, including 4 handicap-accessible beds, and that registration for spaces opens annually. In addition, there is also a large lower bed which has provided produce to the food pantry and participated in a couple different studies.

Council Updates
HS Library Director, Mary Terrones provide her quarterly update, reporting that the library has entered a slower season following the completion of summer reading. The annual YTD door count is 22,994, an increase of approximately 630 from the previous year, while book checkouts decreased by approximately 430. The library materials (books/DVD's) include over 22,000 titles and they have been working to remove outdated items while adding new options. Librarian Christine has returned and is developing new programming for all ages, including children's activities, adult and senior programs, painting classes, and a monthly Crafternoon. Recent programs included the Western Troubadours, with 30 attendees, and a new Silent Book Club. Quotes for improvements to the children's room were higher than budget allows so they are working on scaling down estimates to still include new book bins and seating.

SHEDCO Executive Director Andrea Powers provided a quarterly update. They have 3 tickets available to the WDT Foundation Gala if anyone would like to attend. Plans are underway to enlarge the campus and add a gunsmithing program; the Governor's Fund allocated $4 million toward the project. An advocate group has been formed from the Black Hills Area Economic Development group to work more closely with State Legislators. The Rural Development Business Grant was approved with $45,000 allocated to Hot Springs community engagement to be facilitated by Retail Strategies, work is expected to begin in 2027. She reported on the Boot 2 Business veteran training and the Catapult Stakeholder Group; efforts include improving workforce transitions for highschoolers and to retain graduates in the region. Next Era Resources, a solar power generation company plans to develop a project in FRC, anticipated ground breaking 2028. SHEDCO membership meeting scheduled for noon on 10/30 at the Winners Circle, and the annual banquet will be held on 1/15/27, location TBD.

Administrator Allison read the HS Volunteer Fire Department's quarterly update. From July through September, the department had 31 units respond to calls for service. Calls within the city included 2 structure fires (Jalapeños and a garage fire), two motel elevator/fire alarm calls, a propane tank pop-off on 3rd St., a vehicle accident, a downed power line, and 8 miscellaneous calls involving false alarms, non-emergencies, gas odors, and smoke reports.

Executive Session

Moved by Huddleston, seconded by Pratt, to go into executive session under SDCL §1-25-2 (3) Legal at 5:58pm. Present were Mayor Nelson, City Attorney Schaefer, City Administrator Allison, Finance Officer Summers-Walton and Councilmembers; Burris, Huddleston, Johnston, Lukens, Pratt, Romey and Telkamp. At 6:15pm all present exited the session and after a short break the meeting resumed at 6:18pm

Personnel

Moved by Huddleston, seconded by Pratt, to approve personnel items (a-c); Patrick Johnson, FT Airport Manager, $24.00/hr. (100% TOS), eff 10/20/26, Nicole Guerrieri, FT Admin Asst., $15.81/hr. 91% TOS eff 10/15/26-REVISED, Pete Miles, FT Water Maintenance Operator, Wastewater Collection 2 certification $27.13/hr. effective 10/14/26

Ordinance

Moved by Lukens, seconded by Huddleston, to approve the second reading of ordinance 1293: An ordinance amending Title XI: Business Regulations, Chapter 116: Cannabis Establishments; Sections 116.02, 116.04, 116.05 and 116.13. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting in favor

Resolutions

Moved by Johnston, seconded by Burris, to approve resolution 2026-27: A resolution segregating the surcharge for the improvements to the City of Hot Springs Wastewater System, for payment of a revenue borrower bond and yearly review of rate

Moved by Burris, seconded by Pratt, to approve resolution 2026-28: A resolution relating to the improvement of the Wastewater System; creating special funds and accounts for the administration of the money derived therefrom; authorizing and directing the issuance and sale of a revenue bond to pay the cost of said improvements; defining the terms and manner of payment of the bond and the security thereof and approving the form of loan agreement

New Business

Moved by Huddleston, seconded by Romey, to approve the Professional Services Agreement with AE2S for the design of improvements to the City of Hot Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) and associated effluent management infrastructure. After discussion, which included input from Jim Jones and Mike Saunders with AE2S, a roll call vote was taken with all members present voting in favor

Moved by Lukens, seconded by Burris, to approve and authorize the City Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Dakota Regional Water System, the City of Hot Springs,

Southern Black Hills Water System, Fall River Water Users District, The City of Edgemont and the Provo Area Water System establishing the joint goal of ensuring a safe and dependable supply of potable water for Municipal, Rural and Industrial users in the City and surrounding regional area. Jim Jones with AE2S once again answered questions. After discussion, which included a request from Council to remove the word "industrial" from the MOU, a roll call vote was taken with Burris, Huddleston, Johnston, Lukens and Telkamp voting in favor and Pratt and Romey opposed.

Moved by Huddleston, seconded by Johnston, to set a Public Hearing on 11/2/26 at 5:40 pm for Ordinance 1294- An Ordinance Revising Title XV Land Usage, Chapter 155 Zoning

Moved by Johnston, seconded by Pratt, to set a Public Hearing On 11/2/26 At 5:45 pm For Ordinance 1295- An Ordinance Revising Title XV Land Usage, Chapter 151 Manufactured Homes

Moved by Huddleston, seconded by Burris, to approve change order #3 for the Minnekahta Bridge Project to have an additional area of asphalt replacement on the west approach to replace prior existing pavement nearing the end of its service life, adding $11,509.26 for a new contract total of $1,444,318.50

Moved by Lukens, seconded by Huddleston, to accept the 2026-2027 propane quote of $1.299/gallon from McGas Propane for no more than 30,000 gallons to be delivered to various city locations as needed during the periods from 10/1/26-5/1/27

Moved by Burris, seconded by Telkamp, to approve the travel/training request from City Administrator Aerial Allison and Finance Officer Misty Summers-Walton to attend the Western Dakota Regional Water System Annual Meeting in Deadwood, SD on 10/22/26

Moved by Burris, seconded by Pratt, to approve the travel/training Request from Police Officers Katy Maciejewski and LexyJo Deneke to attend the Funeral Services of Minnehaha County Sherriff's Deputy Katherine Ann Frank on 10/19/26 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls, SD

Mayor Nelson deferred committee and other reports

Councilman Romey expressed his thanks and appreciation to the City Maintenance Crew for their excellent work replacing concrete under and around the viaduct as part of the Freedom Trail repairs.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Council, moved by Romey, seconded by Pratt, to adjourn at 7:49pm

Approved:

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Bob Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

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Misty Summers-Walton, Finance Officer

Published once at the approximate cost of $_____