

AGENDA

The City of Hardin
406 N. Cheyenne Avenue
Hardin, MT 59034

September 15, 2026

AUDIO RECORDING BEGINS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor: _____

Alderspersons: Steven Hopes _____ Clayton Greer _____ Chris Sharpe _____
George Toyne _____ Jeremy Krebs _____ Antonio Espinoza _____

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Meeting 09/01/2026 Public Hearings 09/01/2026 Claims

PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda items only): 3 minutes per person

MAYOR:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Personnel Committee/City Policy: Mayor
- Sewer & Water: Hopes
- Streets & Alleys: Hopes
- Law Enforcement: Toyne
- Parks & Playgrounds: Krebs
- Finance/Landfill: Greer
- Impact Fee Advisory: Greer
- Resolutions and Ordinances: Sharpe
- Economic Development: Toyne

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Big Horn County Hospital – Update Inmate Bills

NEW BUSINESS:

- Interlocal Agreement – City/County Garbage Services
- Dispatch Board Appointment from Council
- Friends of the Depot Requests – Monster Mash October 31st
- Storm Water Enterprise Fund
- TIFD Annual Report

STAFF REPORTS

- Public Works:
- Finance:
 - Event Notice - Continuing Disclosure- TIFD
- Police:
- Legal:
- Economic Development:

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 3 minutes per person

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Employee Anniversaries: Jake Kinder, 1 year; Randy Melville, 20 years; and LaRicia Smith, 3 years

City Website: hardinmontana.gov - email addresses @hardinmontana.gov

Request for Bids/Estimates & Addendum – Phase I of the City’s Wayfinding Implementation Project – Due by 3:00 p.m. September 25, 2026

City of Hardin Job Openings: Full-time: Police Officer and General Laborer. Part-Time: General Laborer- Landfill

CLOSED SESSION: LEGAL Update

Meeting adjourned at _____P.M.

AUDIO RECORDING ENDS

Additions to the Agenda can be voted on by Council to add to the Agenda for the next Council meeting.
Agenda items will need to be submitted by Wednesday noon before a Tuesday Council meeting.

**THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY of HARDIN, MONTANA**

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing To Increase Rates and Charges for the Users of the Water System was opened at 5:45 p.m. by Mayor Ramsey.

Present at the hearing were:

Council Members Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, and George Toyne. Jeremy Krebs joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Economic Development Director Tina Toyne, Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public

Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting for discussion and Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Hodges, resident, asked if the City has considered waivers or extensions for undue hardship for individuals. There was discussion about the previous sewer rate increase and the current proposed water rate increase. (Krebs joined the meeting) Hodges asked for clarification if it is possible for individual could prove undue hardship. Hopes asked Knudsen if it can be done. Knudsen noted it is possible, he could look into it. Council is given broad authority to set rates. Greer noted the City does not raise rates for no reason; the cost of chemicals going up, equipment, labor, etc. There was further discussion about the proposed increase.

Mayor Ramsey asked for any comments. There were none.

The Public Hearing closed at 5:52 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and setting Mill Levies, Assessments and User Fees was opened at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Ramsey.

Present at the hearing were:

Council Members Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, Jeremy Krebs, Antonio Espinoza, and George Toyne.

City Staff: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Economic Development Director Tina Toyne, Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, and City Attorney Jordan Knudsen.

Also present physically: Members of the Public

Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting for discussion and Public Comment. There was no Public Comment.

Lehr provided a review of the proposed Budget for FY 2026-2027, Mill Levies, and Landfill Fees.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:21 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING: The Regular Council Meeting for September 1, 2026 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Riley Ramsey presiding by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present: Steven Hopes, Clayton Greer, George Toyne, Antonio Espinoza, and Jeremy Krebs. Chris Sharpe was excused

Also present: Finance Officer/City Clerk Andrew Lehr, Public Works Director Michael Hurff, Jr., Economic Development Director Tina Toyne, Deputy City Clerk Angela Zimmer, City Attorney Jordan Knudsen and Interim Police Chief Tyler Nedens.

Also present: Several Members of the Public

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS & CLAIMS: Mayor Ramsey pointed out a correction that is needed on the Council minutes of August 18, 2026. Mayor Ramsey will not be gone on the September 1st meeting, he will be out the first meeting of October. Hopes motioned to approve the Council Minutes of August 18, 2026 to include the amendment noted by Mayor Ramsey. Krebs seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Budget/Finance Committee minutes of August 18, 2026 as written. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. Greer motioned to approve the Landfill Committee minutes of August 18, 2026. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Greer made a motion to approve the claims for September 1, 2026 excluding claim number 34222, for Stahly Engineering, at this time. Greer clarified his motion is to not include the \$150 portion of the claim number 34222 for Stahly Engineering. The amount of claims Greer motioned to approve: \$102,198.47 - \$150.00 = \$102,048.47.

	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
April & May, 2026	34212, 34237, 34238	\$ 1,760.50
June, 2026	34211, 34245	6,106.44
July, 2026	34210	<u>\$ 1,046.50</u>
August, 2026	34209, 34213-34214, 34216-34232, 34234-34236, 34239-34244, 34246-34249, 34251-34264, 34266-34267, 34269-34278	<u>\$ 93,285.03</u>
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$ 102,198.47
TOTAL Submitted		\$ 102,198.47

Hopes seconded the motion. Alderman Toyne had a question about claim number 34223, from Stahly Engineering, and read aloud a letter that was attached to the claim. Toyne asked for an explanation. Bill Cassell, of Stahly Engineering, noted there has been more time in the project than was budgeted/contracted. He provided information about the cause and noted this is a complex project; unforeseen things come up. On a voice vote, the motion passed. (4/1) Espinoza abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 3 minutes per person
There was no Public Comment.

MAYOR:
Mayor Ramsey reported he has been in communication with the Police Chief candidate. He will be given a little more time before the City moves forward looking at other candidates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Personnel Policy/City Policy:
Mayor Ramsey reminded Council of his previous request to review the Personnel Policy Manual for any changes they would like to discuss.

Sewer & Water:
Hopes reported work continues to be done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Streets & Alleys:
Hopes noted there is work being done by the Wilson Building; new curb and gutter. The City Crew is working to get the dura patch machine set up. Moses Gonzales will be blading alleys soon.

Law Enforcement:
Toyne reported an officer left for the academy and the City Police Department has increased their hours on the street.

Parks & Playgrounds:
Krebs reported cameras have been purchased and installed at South Park; the concrete slab at the skate park, in Wilson Park, has been completed; and a contractor is replacing a section of concrete that is heaved up at Heimat Park.

Finance/Landfill:
Impact Fee Advisory:
Resolutions & Ordinances:
Economic Development:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Ramsey reported the City received the Year-End Evaluation for the Pilot Community Tourism Grant Program and also received information from the Department of the Air Force about communication testing they are doing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Ramsey reported Knudsen has information about the request for a handicap sign to be placed at Northern Chiropractic, P.C. Knudsen noted he looked at ADA regulations both in the state and federally; he could not find much for regulations for on street parking. He noted as far as street parking, nothing specific. He noted there may have to be an area for a wheelchair to turn around or pass on the sidewalk; he reviewed the regulations. Knudsen noted it would be appropriate for the City to put up the sign and paint the curb. Hopes motioned to approve for the city to take care of the handicap sign at Northern Chiropractic and paint the curb. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Toyne abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Greer motioned to approve Pay Application NO.14, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, submitted by Northcon, Inc. in the amount of \$766,401.97. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Cassell, of Stahly Engineering, provided a review of Change Order NO. 5 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The change order encompasses three change requests. Greer motioned to approve Change Order NO. 5 submitted by Northcon, Inc. in the amount of \$35,420.54. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Hurff reviewed estimates for curb and gutter replacements at the addresses of 5 South Terry Avenue and 10 4th Street West. Ramsey noted Council is approving the projects, not the dollar amounts. Greer motioned to approve both projects. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Toyne abstained.

Knudsen noted he and Mayor Ramsey attended a meeting last week with the Big Horn Hospital Administration and their attorney regarding inmate bills. They want to keep negotiating. There was discussion of State Law, Montana Code Annotated, exemptions that apply to the City of Hardin that exempts the City from payment of almost all of the bills. State Law directs them to the County if they cannot collect from the patient, their third-party private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare. The hospital is still interested in the previous offer to pay \$25,000 and then four years of \$10,000 or another offer. There was further discussion. Toyne motioned to make a \$25,000 payment this year followed by four \$10,000 payments every calendar year; one \$10,000 payment for the next four years. Lehr asked for Toyne to specify Fiscal Year not calendar year. Toyne agreed. There was further discussion. Hopes Seconded. Espinoza asked if we don't have to pay it and it will go to the County, why are we offering anything. More discussion followed. Knudsen noted if there is a counter offer, it will be brought to Council. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Espinoza voting Nay.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works:

Hurff reported the City Crew has been working hard. A 3-way valve will be replaced on the 6th Street lift station this Thursday. The City Crew will be using the durapatcher for potholes; they will be documenting where it is used; try it with different types of potholes to see what kind of long term results it produces; and the cost of a durapatcher vs using cold mix will be looked at. He asked Cassell, of Stahly Engineering, what the timeline was on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. He reported the approved change order will add about six days; they are on schedule. He reviewed details of another change order that will be brought to Council.

Finance:

Lehr reported the City received the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Valuation for FY 26; the City received notice we were not awarded a Community Development Block Grant for

the Capital Improvement Plan; the city does not want to lose MCEP funding that was awarded for the project. The TIFD Notice and Disclosure Notice will be on the next agenda.

Police:

Interim Chief Nedens reported the department has expanded patrol hours; he reviewed calls for service and reported Officer Longstreth left for the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and Officer Sederes has about a month and a half of field training.

Legal:

Knudsen reported there is Closed Session scheduled for legal matters.

Economic Development:

Toyne reported she continues working with regional, state, and local partners on several ongoing projects. She attended a MEDA Workforce Connect meeting; she has been focused on moving the Wayfinding Implementation Project into the bidding phase; she attended a Zoom meeting with Project Manager Alexandria Edwards and Destination IQ regarding the tourism website and Travel Storys; she has been in contact with local businesses for community listings for the Visit Southeast Montana website. Toyne noted she has had discussion with a local business about the City involvement with Reimagining Rural and she continues communication with HRDC regarding local properties they own.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Resolution NO. 2449 – Assess Unpaid Assessments Against Real Property. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2450 – To Increase Rates and Charges for the Users of The Water System. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Espinoza seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2451 – Assessing Lighting District NO.1. Krebs motioned to approve the Resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2452 – Assessing Lighting District NO. 54. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2453 – Assessing the Cost of Garbage Disposal. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Toyne seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2454 – Adopting the Final Budget Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2455 – Taxes/Levies Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Hopes seconded. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution NO. 2456 – Amending the Landfill Schedule. Greer motioned to approve the Resolution. Toyne seconded. Toyne then asked about the fee scale for the landfill; referencing *“City of Hardin residents hauling non-business waste in a vehicle no larger than a ¾ ton pick-up or an equivalent size trailer will not be charged a dumping fee.”* He asked what makes the difference of what size truck it is. On a voice vote the motion passed. (4/1) Toyne Opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 3 minutes per person

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Ramsey announced the new City Website is hardinmontana.gov and all City email addresses use the same prefix with hardinmontana.gov. Request for Bids/Estimates & Addendum for Phase I of the City’s Wayfinding Implementation Project are Due by 3:00 p.m. September 25, 2026

City of Hardin Job Openings: Full-time positions: Police Officer and General Laborer and Part-time General Laborer Landfill.

Greer motioned to close the Council meeting at 7:50 p.m. for a CLOSED Session - Legal Update. Toyne seconded.

The Closed Session began at 7:53 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Riley Ramsey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrew Lehr, Finance Officer/City Clerk

DRAFT



CITY OF HARDIN CLAIMS APPROVAL REPORT

Submitted for City Council Approval

September 15, 2026

Month	CLAIM No.	Monthly Total
July, 2026	34222, 34283, 34319, 34333, 34335	\$6,305.98
August, 2026	34279-34282, 34284-34296, 34298-34318, 34320-34322, 34324-34332, 34334, 34337-34338, 34340	\$1,337,162.01
Claims Total (Expenditures)		\$1,343,467.99
August, 2026		\$249,370.91
TOTAL Submitted		\$1,592,838.90

Claims or Expenditures over \$5,000

per Resolution #2189

Vendor	Purpose	Check #	Amount
Matovich Oil Co	Gas, diesel, oil, DEF, etc	43108	\$15,494.90
First Interstate Bank (Mastercard)	credit card purchases	99201	\$5,170.37
Jordan Knudsen	Legal Services	43103	\$9,000.00
Hawkins	Chemicals, supplies	99195	\$5,118.56
Approved Previously at September 1, 2			
Northcon Inc	Waste Water Project Contractor	-99204	\$766,401.97
Montana Dept of Revenue	Contractor Gross Receipts	-99202	\$7,741.43
Transfer to US Bank Trustee			
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOC	TIFD Debt Payment	-99197	\$474,218.20
Exempt from Resolution 2189			
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	Electric Utilities	43113	\$23,318.22

CITY OF HARDIN
Claims Report

For the Accounting Period: August, 2026

Vendor	Type	Claim #	Check #	Amount
HEALTHEQUITY	CL	34279	-99191	\$256.77
MONTANA MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL AUTHORITY	CL	34280	43109	\$187.50
BILL'S AUTO PARTS	CL	34281	43080	\$1,110.94
MATOVICH OIL CO.	CL	34282	43108	\$15,494.90
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK (MASTERCARD)	CL	34284	-99201	\$5,170.37
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK (MASTERCARD)	CL	34285	-99200	\$778.00
FIRST INTERSTATE BANK (MASTERCARD)	CL	34286	-99199	\$10.00
BIG HORN COUNTY	CL	34287	43085	\$568.00
NORTHCON, INC	CL	34288	-99204	\$766,401.97
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	CL	34289	-99202	\$7,741.43
HARDIN DO IT BEST	CL	34290	43099	\$530.34
ANDREW LEHR	CL	34291	43084	\$241.54
BIG HORN COUNTY NEWS	CL	34292	43087	\$92.05
APG YELLOWSTONE NEWS GROUP	CL	34293	-99196	\$533.92
BIG HORN COUNTY ELECTRIC	CL	34294	43086	\$2,432.79
VERIZON WIRELESS	CL	34295	-99203	\$465.13
WESTERN EMULSIONS INC	CL	34296	43122	\$892.50
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOC. CTR.	CL	34298	43120	\$53.40
VISIONARY BROADBAND	CL	34299	43121	\$261.16
JORDAN W KNUDSEN	CL	34300	43103	\$9,000.00
SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	CL	34301	43116	\$372.00
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO	CL	34302	-99194	\$1,626.41
DIS TECHNOLOGIES	CL	34303	43091	\$742.22
TNT SPRINGS INC-BILLINGS	CL	34304	43118	\$717.75
HOSE & RUBBER SUPPLY	CL	34305	43101	\$129.96
NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	CL	34306	43112	\$167.97
HAWKINS, INC	CL	34307	-99195	\$5,118.56
BIG SKY FIRE EQUIPMENT	CL	34308	43088	\$75.00
HOLLOW POINT EXCAVATIONG	CL	34309	43100	\$3,150.00
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING	CL	34310	43083	\$787.00
BIG SKY LAWN CARE & PLOWING	CL	34311	43089	\$600.00
BIG SKY LINEN & UNIFORM INC	CL	34312	-99198	\$187.20
RDO EQUIPMENT	CL	34313	43115	\$69.33
HARDIN BUILDING CENTER	CL	34314	43097	\$102.52
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC	CL	34315	43093	\$1,803.00
HARDIN CHEVROLET INC	CL	34316	43098	\$466.40
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOC	CL	34317	-99197	\$474,218.20
ECOLAB INC	CL	34318	43092	\$100.07
MOSES GONZALES	CL	34320	43110	\$324.98
LARICIA SMITH	CL	34321	43106	\$469.36
KRYSTAL VESTAL	CL	34322	43104	\$469.36

CITY OF HARDIN
Claims Report

For the Accounting Period: July, 2026

Vendor	Type	Claim #	Check #	Amount
STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES INC	CL	34222	43081	\$2,444.25
BVHC, INC DBA ONE HEALTH	CL	34283	43082	\$3,000.00
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	CL	34319	43090	\$557.58
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO	CL	34333	-99193	\$108.80
NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	CL	34335	43112	\$195.35
				\$6,305.98

CITY OF HARDIN
Claims Report

For the Accounting Period: August, 2026

Vendor	Type	Claim #	Check #	Amount
FERGUSON WATERWORKS #1701	CL	34324	43094	\$2,056.29
KUNTZ LAW FIRM	CL	34325	43105	\$412.50
HEALTHEQUITY	CL	34326	99190	\$30.00
MSU EXTENSION - COMMUNITY VITALITY ATTN	CL	34327	43111	\$40.00
YOCHUM CONTRACTING INC	CL	34328	43123	\$334.60
TRU PIPE INC	CL	34329	43119	\$1,350.00
FIREMASTER DEPT 1019	CL	34330	43095	\$76.25
HOSE & RUBBER SUPPLY	CL	34331	43101	\$4,728.37
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	CL	34332	43113	\$23,318.22
SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	CL	34334	-99192	\$134.99
SEAN JOHNSON	CL	34337	43117	\$402.99
IRIS JEWEL ROWRY	CL	34338	43102	\$250.00
LYNN'S SUPERFOODS	CL	34340	43107	\$107.80
				\$1,337,162.01

CITY OF HARDIN

Check Report

September 1, 2026

Vendor	Type	Claim #	Check #	Amount
BILL'S AUTO PARTS	CL	34281	43080	\$1,110.94
STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES INC	CL	34222	43081	\$2,444.25
BVHC, INC DBA ONE HEALTH	CL	34283	43082	\$3,000.00
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING	CL	34310	43083	\$787.00
ANDREW LEHR	CL	34291	43084	\$241.54
BIG HORN COUNTY	CL	34287	43085	\$568.00
BIG HORN COUNTY ELECTRIC	CL	34294	43086	\$2,432.79
BIG HORN COUNTY NEWS	CL	34292	43087	\$92.05
BIG SKY FIRE EQUIPMENT	CL	34308	43088	\$75.00
BIG SKY LAWN CARE & PLOWING	CL	34311	43089	\$600.00
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	CL	34319	43090	\$557.58
DIS TECHNOLOGIES	CL	34303	43091	\$742.22
ECOLAB INC	CL	34318	43092	\$100.07
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC	CL	34315	43093	\$1,803.00
FERGUSON WATERWORKS #1701	CL	34324	43094	\$2,056.29
FIREMASTER DEPT 1019	CL	34330	43095	\$76.25
HARDIN BUILDING CENTER	CL	34314	43097	\$102.52
HARDIN CHEVROLET INC	CL	34316	43098	\$466.40
HARDIN DO IT BEST	CL	34290	43099	\$530.34
HOLLOW POINT EXCAVATIONG	CL	34309	43100	\$3,150.00
HOSE & RUBBER SUPPLY	CL	34305	43101	\$129.96
HOSE & RUBBER SUPPLY	CL	34331	43101	\$4,728.37
IRIS JEWEL ROWRY	CL	34338	43102	\$250.00
JORDAN W KNUDSEN	CL	34300	43103	\$9,000.00
KRYSTAL VESTAL	CL	34322	43104	\$469.36
KUNTZ LAW FIRM	CL	34325	43105	\$412.50
LARICIA SMITH	CL	34321	43106	\$469.36
LYNN'S SUPERFOODS	CL	34340	43107	\$107.80
MATOVICH OIL CO.	CL	34282	43108	\$15,494.90
MONTANA MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL AUTHORITY	CL	34280	43109	\$187.50
MOSES GONZALES	CL	34320	43110	\$324.98
MSU EXTENSION - COMMUNITY VITALITY ATTN	CL	34327	43111	\$40.00
NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	CL	34335	43112	\$195.35
NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	CL	34306	43112	\$167.97
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	CL	34332	43113	\$23,318.22
RDO EQUIPMENT	CL	34313	43115	\$69.33
SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	CL	34301	43116	\$372.00
SEAN JOHNSON	CL	34337	43117	\$402.99
TNT SPRINGS INC-BILLINGS	CL	34304	43118	\$717.75
TRU PIPE INC	CL	34329	43119	\$1,350.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOC. CTR.	CL	34298	43120	\$53.40
VISIONARY BROADBAND	CL	34299	43121	\$261.16

September 1, 2026

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September 9, 2026
Hardin City Council
406 N Cheyenne Ave,
Hardin, MT 59034

Dear Mayor Ramsey and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, I am writing to request support for our upcoming community event, *Monster Mash on Center*, scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM in downtown Hardin.

This family-friendly event provides a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treating experience, supports local businesses, and brings our community together downtown. Last year, 800+ children participated, and we anticipate even greater attendance this year.

To help ensure the safety and success of the event, we respectfully request the following support from the City of Hardin:

1. **Street Closure:** Closure of the 200 block of Center Avenue on Saturday, October 31st from 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM (to allow time for set-up and tear-down).
2. **Street Cleaning:** Assistance with street cleaning before and after the event to provide a clean and safe space for families.
3. **Sanitation Support:** Placement of one ADA-accessible portable restroom with a handwashing station near the event area for public use.
4. **Safety Support:** Police presence during the event to provide a safe environment for families.
5. **Participation:** In 2025, the City Crew, Hardin Police Department, and Hardin Volunteer Fire Department participated in our Trunk or Treat event. Their involvement was greatly appreciated by the community and added to the success of the event. We would be delighted to have each of these groups participate again this year. We would also love to see Mayor Ramsey and members of the City Council join us and participate in the festivities.

We deeply appreciate the City of Hardin's continued partnership in helping us host safe and successful community events. Thank you for considering our request, and we would be happy to provide any additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Edwards
Secretary, Board of Directors
Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
hardinchamber@gmail.com

CITY OF HARDIN, MONTANA
TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICT

Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2026

The Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD) was created to develop an Industrial Park and provide funds to finish the Industrial Park Infrastructure.

The Hardin Industrial Infrastructure District is a Tax Increments Financing (TIF) District. The largest entity in the District is Rocky Mountain Power, Inc. Under MCA 15-24-3001 Rocky Mountain Power, Inc. was exempt from property taxes until January of 2015. In April 2012, Rocky Mountain Power, Inc. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (reorganization).

In September 2006, the City issued \$12,600,953 of revenue bonds, with an interest accretion phase of \$8,319,047 for total bond principal of \$20,920,000, to finance all or a portion of the costs of construction and installation of certain industrial infrastructure projects in relation to Rocky Mountain Power Inc. that operate a 116MW coal-fired electric generation station and related facilities. The City was required to begin making scheduled principal and interest payments on March 1, 2015. The bonds are secured by a lien on the Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD). The City has not received sufficient revenues to pay the full amount of interest as it comes due, nor any of the principal amounts. The TIFD revenue bonds are considered to be in default because the principal and full interest payments have not been paid as scheduled.

Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD) Bond Default: In 2013, the parent company of Rocky Mountain Power, Inc. and its affiliates filed for bankruptcy. As a result of the bankruptcy the market value and resulting taxable value of the power plant dropped significantly. The remaining taxable values of property within the Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD) are insufficient to allow the Schools, County and City to assess sufficient taxes in incremental taxes to meet the debt obligation of the TIFD bonds.

ACCRUED INTEREST

Because the full amount of interest was only paid for the first interest payment, the interest amount due is \$653,750 semi-annually or \$1,307,500 annually. When the full interest payment is not made, the next scheduled interest payment becomes the same as the last full amount paid. Therefore, the annual interest amount due remains at the most recent scheduled interest payment that was paid on time. A schedule of interest payments and accumulated accrued interest is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Scheduled Interest	Actual Interest Payments Made	Accumulated Accrued Interest
2015	653,750	(653,750)	-
2016	1,307,500	(777,064)	530,436
2017	1,307,500	(871,559)	966,377
2018	1,307,500	(312,627)	1,961,250
2019	1,307,500	(394,606)	2,874,144
2020	1,307,500	(1,135,803)	3,045,841
2021	1,307,500	(430,842)	3,922,499
2022	1,307,500	(653,750)	4,576,249
2023	1,307,500	(629,102)	5,254,647
2024	1,307,500	(707,929)	5,854,218
2025	1,307,500	(1,550,000)	5,611,718
2026	1,307,500	(1,580,000)	5,339,218

TIF District Bonds Scheduled Amortization Schedule: Principal and interest payments are illustrated as follows assuming that the full amount of interest due continues to not be paid on time:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest
2026	\$ 10,010,000	\$ 5,611,718
2027	1,285,000	1,307,500
2028	1,365,000	1,307,500
2029	1,450,000	1,307,500
2030	1,540,000	1,307,500
2031-2032	5,270,000	3,268,750
Totals	<u>\$ 20,920,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,110,468</u>

EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2026

All expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 were related to interest payments for the Revenue Bond or related service fees.

490200 Revenue Bonds	FY26 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY26 Remaining
620 Interest	1,580,000.00	1,580,000.00	-
630 Paying Agent Fees	11,060.00	65,500.00	54,440.00
Totals	<u>1,591,060.00</u>	<u>1,645,500.00</u>	<u>54,440.00</u>

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

To comply with continuing disclosure requirements provided in the official statement of the bond issuance, paragraph (b)(5) of Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Exchange Act, the City is required to provide annual reports of specified information and notice of occurrence of certain events, if material. The list of information to be disclosed is as follows:

1. Annual Financial Information to each Repository and the Underwriters on or before the first report date after the end of the relevant fiscal year of the City and on or before each Report Date thereafter while the bonds are outstanding. Audited financial statements should be submitted at the same time, however, if they cannot be submitted at the same time, they should be provided within 30 days of being provided to the City.
2. May provide Annual Financial Information by specific reference to other documents and information. The other information would include information reports and official statements relating to other debt issuances of the City.
3. The City also has to provide notice of any of the following events with respect to the Series 2006 Bonds, if material:
 - a. principal and interest payment delinquencies
 - b. non-payment related defaults
 - c. unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
 - d. unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
 - e. substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
 - f. adverse tax opinions

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Base Taxable Value</u>	<u>Incremental Value</u>	<u>Current Taxable Value</u>
2015	465,144		465,144
2016	465,144	1,168,223	1,633,367
2017	465,144	1,481,624	1,946,768
2018	465,144	1,311,146	1,776,290
2019	465,144	1,341,444	1,806,588
2020	465,144	653,092	1,118,236
2021	465,144	527,425	992,569
2022	465,144	423,007	888,151
2023	465,144	1,396,908	1,862,052
2024	465,144	1,227,889	1,693,033
2025	465,144	1,491,613	1,956,757
2026	465,144	1,304,431	1,769,575
2027	465,144	696,796	1,161,940



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NOTICE OF CONTINUING EVENTS OF DEFAULT AND DEFAULT DISTRIBUTION

City of Hardin, Montana
Tax Increment Industrial Infrastructure Development Revenue Bonds
(Rocky Mountain Power, Inc. Project) Series 2006
(CUSIP No.* 412236AA9)

Please forward this notice to beneficial holders.

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association as successor in interest to U.S. Bank National Association is the Trustee (the "Trustee") under that certain Indenture of Trust, dated as of September 1, 2006 (the "Indenture"), by and between the City of Hardin, Montana as Issuer (the "City"), and the Trustee, which governs the above-referenced bonds (the "Bonds").

There are multiple events of default that have occurred and are continuing due to the Trustee not having enough funds to pay interest and principal as they become due beginning September 1, 2015. The Trustee is evaluating its available options, actions and remedies under the Indenture as a result of the occurrence of an Event of Default under the Indenture. **Under the Indenture, holders of at least a majority of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding Bonds have the right to direct certain of the Trustee's actions under and subject to the conditions contained in the Indenture, which include (among other things), providing the Trustee with an indemnity against liability satisfactory to the Trustee. At this time, the Trustee is applying funds received towards interest in arrears.**

On September 10, 2026, the Trustee will make a Default Distribution in the aggregate amount of \$474,218.20 which is the equivalent of interest on outstanding par of \$20,920,000 paid at a rate of .022668174 which is equal to \$22.668174 per \$1,000 face held to the holders of record 9/09/26. This represents the balance of the interest that was due on 3/01/22, as well as a portion of the interest due on 9/1/22. The balance of interest due on 9/1/22 in the amount of \$288,750.00 as well as the interest due on 3/1/23, 9/1/23, 3/1/24, 9/1/24, 3/1/25, 9/1/25, 3/1/26. and 9/01/26 in the amount of \$653,750.00 for each respective date will be due and unpaid at the time of this distribution. Following this distribution there will remain approximately \$70,000.00 in the Debt Service Reserve Fund (the "Reserve Fund").

No assurances can be given with respect to the amount or timing of any future distributions to holders of Bonds. Prior to any distribution to Bondholders, funds held under the Indenture are to be used first for payment of the fees and costs incurred or to be incurred by the Trustee in performing its duties, as well as for any indemnities owing or to become owing to the Trustee. This includes fees and costs incurred by counsel and other agents or professionals the Trustee employs to pursue remedies or other actions to protect the security or other interests of holders, as well as compensation and expense reimbursement for the Trustee's extraordinary administration services, including charges for time spent at the Trustee's currently prevailing hourly rates.

The Trustee intends to send further notices to holders as material developments occur. Holders with questions about this notice should direct them to: Sandra Spivey, Vice President, U.S. Bank National Association, Nevada Financial Center, 2300 West Sahara, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 (telephone: (702) 286-8630 or email: sandra.spivey@usbank.com). Holders with questions may also contact Bondholder Services at (800) 934-6802, option 7.

Other information concerning the Bonds can be found on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") website at www.emma.msrb.org.

Please note that the Trustee may conclude that a specific response to particular inquiries from individual holders is not consistent with equal and full dissemination of information to all holders. Holders should not rely on the Trustee as their sole source of information. The Trustee makes no recommendations and gives no Tax advice.

**U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association,
as Trustee**

September 3, 2026

*CUSIP numbers are included solely for the convenience of Bondholders. The Trustee shall have no responsibility with respect to the selection or use of any CUSIP number, nor is any representation made as to the correctness of any CUSIP number, either as printed on any Bond or in this Notice.