MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

July 1, 2025

A regular meeting of the Montrose City Council was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Elks Civic Building at 107 S. Cascade Avenue. Said meeting was posted in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

PRESENT

Dave Frank, Judy Ann Files, J. David Reed, Ed Ulibarri, Bill Bell, Ann Morgenthaler, Chris Dowsey, Greg Story, Lisa DelPiccolo, Paige Sharp, David Bries, Jim Scheid, Scott Murphy, Alandra Niane Baca, Nik Pridy, Jon Sullivan, Tim Cox, Blaine Hall, Chris Velasquez, Larry Witte, Shane Brandt, Greg Stunder, Alex Wall

ABSENT

Doug Glaspell

GUESTS

Michael Badagliacco, Randy Havens, Ron Smith, John Brown, Steve Waters, Liane Waters, Barry Plesher, Kathy Plesher, Cliff Faurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dave Frank called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

HONORING OUR HEROES – VETERANS RECOGNITION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor Dave Frank and the Montrose City Council proclaimed July 2025 as Honoring Our Heroes – Veterans Recognition Month in the City of Montrose. Mayor Frank presented the proclamation to Amy Eifling and Amy Stahlin with Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

John Brown thanked the City Council for recognizing veterans and spoke in support of a formal non-sanctuary city declaration by City Council.

Cliff Faurer spoke in support of the improved bike trail by the new public works facility site. Mr. Faurer also spoke in opposition to high-density housing near the Cobble Creek development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council considered the minutes of the June 17, 2025, regular City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Judy Ann Files, seconded by J. David Reed, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, regular City Council meeting as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

BALLOT QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER 2025 ELECTION

City Council considered whether to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 4, 2025, Coordinated Election ballot related to amending the Montrose City Charter.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey reported that the purpose of this agenda item is to notify the Montrose County Clerk that the City intends to place a question on the November 4, 2025, Coordinated Election regarding proposed updates to the City Charter. Mr. Dowsey stated that proposed Charter amendments were discussed at the May 19, 2025, work session. An ordinance will be presented at the July 14, 2025, work session, with a hearing on first reading on August 5, and public comment accepted on second reading on August 19.

Public comment was accepted.

Michael Badagliacco spoke in opposition to placing the question on the November 2025 ballot instead of the 2026 municipal election ballot.

A motion was made by Judy Ann Files, seconded by J. David Reed, to notify the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 4, 2025, Coordinated Election ballot related to amending the Montrose City Charter. All voted yes. Motion passed.

COLORADO AVENUE RIGHT OF WAY PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

City Council considered $50,000.00 in expenditures to purchase right of way along Colorado Avenue immediately west of Rio Grande Avenue in support of a future roundabout and roadway reconfiguration at the intersection.

City Engineer Scott Murphy reported that the roundabout is part of the strategic plan for the Rio Grande corridor, and a parcel needed for the roundabout recently became available. Mr. Murphy said the acquisition was discussed in executive session where parameters were set for negotiations, and the negotiations were successful. Mr. Murphy reviewed the location of the property and said it is not the only acquisition needed for the roundabout. Funding for the property purchase will be paid from reserves.

Public comment was accepted.

Cliff Faurer spoke in support of including this planned roundabout in the Transportation Plan within the Comprehensive Plan.

A motion was made by J. David Reed, seconded by Judy Ann Files, to authorize $50,000.00 in expenditures to purchase right of way along Colorado Avenue immediately west of Rio Grande Avenue as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RIO GRANDE AVENUE RIGHT OF WAY PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

City Council considered $52,636.00 in expenditures to purchase right of way along Rio Grande Avenue at its intersection with East Oak Grove Road in support of a future roundabout at the intersection.

City Engineer Scott Murphy reported that this is a similar situation to the previous agenda item. Mr. Murphy stated that a portion of the previous Russell Stover property is needed for construction of a roundabout at Rio Grande and E. Oak Grove. Negotiations following an executive session to set parameters were successful, and the value of the property was determined based on the recent sale of the overall Stover property. Mr. Murphy said the geometry of the roundabout shifted north due to limitations with adjacent federally owned property and a nearby driveway. Construction of the roundabout is planned in 2026 along with the first segment of the Rio Grande extension.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by J. David Reed, seconded by Ed Ulibarri, to authorize $52,636.00 in expenditures to purchase right of way along Rio Grande Avenue at its intersection with East Oak Grove Road as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RIO GRANDE DRY UTILITY RELOCATION AND INSTALLATION EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

City Council considered $818,251.41 in expenditures for construction of the Rio Grande Dry Utility Relocation and Installation Project. This includes the award of Change Order No. 2 to Williams Construction's Public Works Site Fill Contract in the amount of $438,251.41, up to $360,000.00 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association for powerline relocation and street lighting, and up to $20,000.00 in expenditures to Black Hills Energy for natural gas mainline relocation and extension.

City Engineer Scott Murphy reported that the Public Works Fill Project was completed early. Mr. Murphy said a window of opportunity exists to relocate utilities for the road and roundabout projects and the new Public Works facility ahead of schedule which creates efficiencies and cost savings.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the bid process and recommended approval of the expense authorization. Mr. Murphy said this project is scheduled for completion before building construction begins in August or September. Funding will be provided from budget reserves.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Judy Ann Files, seconded by J. David Reed, to approve $818,251.41 in expenditures for construction of the Rio Grande Dry Utility Relocation and Installation Project as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY OVERALL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

City Council considered the authorization of the remaining portion of the Public Works Facility Project in the amount of $66,262,041.00.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid reviewed the need for a new Public Works facility and said the age of the facility and limitations of the existing site will not allow for adequate renovations. A study conducted in 2016 determined that existing space is not adequate and the site of the new facility was secured in 2023.

Mr. Scheid said Blythe Group was selected to complete the design which is currently at the construction document phase and includes 10 structures on 16 acres. Mr. Scheid said FCI Constructors was selected as Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC). Mr. Scheid reviewed the budget process and said that as detailed design progressed the costs were reduced to $74.6 million with a construction guaranteed maximum price of $59.2 million.

Mr. Scheid reported that the project is mainly funded through Certificate of Participation borrowing of $55 million which was approved by City Council in May 2025. The remainder of the funding will be provided from General Fund reserves and enterprise funds.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by J. David Reed, seconded by Ed Ulibarri, to authorize the remaining portion of the Public Works Facility Project in the amount of $66,262,041.00 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE 1 CHANGE ORDER

City Council considered the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Phase 1, Change Order #1, for additional design of Return Activated Sludge (RAS) piping improvements for $104,843.00, bringing the total authorization for the project to $1,454,843.00.

Utilities Director David Bries reviewed planned repairs to the 40-year-old Wastewater Treatment Plant including replacement of the aerators, the UV system, and the original screw pumps. Mr. Bries stated that options to replace the screw pumps include installing a new pump station or retro fitting the existing screw pump pits with centrifugal pumps and using the existing structure. Mr. Bries said that refining the design for the second option will result in significant savings.

Mr. Bries stated that the $30 million project will be funded by issuing a revenue bond, and a total project cost authorization will be brought before City Council. Construction is expected to begin early in 2026.

Public comment was accepted. No comments were received.

A motion was made by J. David Reed, seconded by Ed Ulibarri, to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Phase 1, Change Order #1, for additional design of Return Activated Sludge (RAS) piping improvements for $104,843.00 as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

No staff reports were provided.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files reported that three City Councilors and several staff members attended the Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference in Breckenridge last week.

Mayor Dave Frank said he was honored to be re-elected to the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board. Mayor Frank also reported that he attended the Children's Museum "Unbirthday Party" fundraising event on June 28.

Ms. Files provided an overview of community events planned for the Fourth of July.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m., the meeting adjourned with no further action taken.

ATTEST:

Dave Frank, Mayor

CITY OF MONTROSE
CITY SEAL
COLORADO

Lisa DelPiccolo, City Clerk