

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Hardin Government Study Review Commission Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2025

5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Public comment

Agenda

1. Approve Minutes of previous meetings:
 - a. October 22, 2025
2. Update on Website
3. Amendments to current time table
 - a. Current time table attached
4. Additional outreach events

Adjourn

Local Government Review Study Commission – City of Hardin

Time table

All meetings of the Study Commission are open to the public.

DATE	ACTION
November 26, 2024	First Study Commission meeting, City Council Chambers
December 11, 2024	MSU Local Government Center Study Commission Training, Billings, MT
December 18, 2024	Regular monthly meeting of the Study Commission established to be held on the 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., at City Council Chambers, 401 N. Cheyenne Ave., Hardin, MT 59034
February 19, 2025	Timetable formally adopted
March 19, 2025	1 st Public Hearing – to gather citizen input on the form, functions, powers and problems of city government.
March – December 2025	Draft and adopt a Tentative Report
December 17, 2025	Public Hearing on Tentative Report
July 15, 2026	Adopt the Final Report
August 10, 2026	Provide Big Horn County with ballot certificate if a change is proposed to be placed on the June 2, 2026 ballot.
August – September 2026	If final report proposes alteration of local government, prepare public education materials to help citizens understand the proposal and compare the proposal with existing form, structures and powers
September-October 2026	Approve public education materials, and conduct public forum
November 3, 2026	Election Day – if voters approve a proposed alteration of the government, initiate transition planning for 90 days
January 1, 2027	Study Commission terms of office ends Adopt a transition advisory plan Deposit all minutes and other study commission documents with Big Horn County Clerk and Recorder Submit copy of the final report and any proposed changes to the MSU Local Government Center

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE STUDY COMMISSION SHALL BE ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:30 P.M., AT THE HARDIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 N. CHEYENNE AVE., HARDIN, MT 59034

Hardin Local Government Review Study Commission

October 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

At 5:33 p.m., Chairperson Carolyn Dawes called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioners Carolyn Dawes and Randy Mercier. Commissioner Jason Stephenson was absent. Also present was Jordan Knudsen, ex-officio member.

Members of the public present: none

Public Comment: none.

Randy moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of August 20, 2025, and Carolyn seconded. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Outreach events:

Discussion on the outreach event of September 3 ,2025. Carolyn was happy about the event, but expressed that many of the comments were outside the scope of the commission. Carolyn noted that one person did raise concern on going to self-governing from the general powers. Carolyn and Randy both agreed that even though one person raised concerns, the self-governing still appears a good fit for Hardin.

Carolyn and Randy then discuss whether November 2026 should still be the date that the commission puts the matter on the ballot. Jordan said that the timeline could be amended, and that the topic should be placed on the agenda. Carolyn asked Jordan to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion on website. Randy and Carolyn discussed the website. Carolyn asked if the commission should move forward on the website. After additional discussion, Randy and Carolyn agreed to proceed with the website.

Carolyn asked Jordan if the upcoming City Council elections would have any impact on the Commission. Jordan answered that they would not.

Randy asked if se should do any more outreach events. Discussion, and Randy and Carolyn agreed that if another outreach event, it should be limited to self-governing verses general powers. Jordan agreed this was a good idea.

Due to multiple absences, Jordan stated that he would try to reach out to Jason Stephenson to find out if he wanted to keep his position on the Commission, or if he had other thoughts about continuing.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, at 5:30 pm, according to Jordan.

Carolyn then moved to adjourn, and Randy seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of November, 2025

Caorlyn Dawes, Chairperson