

Resolution
3/25/2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONTINUE ALLOWING FULL CAPACITY AT JOHNSON STREET SHELTER, DIRECT THE MAYOR TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF SHELTER SPACE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND FUND ANY REMAINDER OF THE HOUSING SPRINT'S FUNDING GOAL

WHEREAS, the City and County have prioritized providing services and shelter to residents without a home and committed to building a suite of long-term strategies to reduce houselessness in the community through efforts such as Built for Zero, and the creation of a community strategy to address houselessness; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has exacerbated and made more acute the need to provide services to Missoula's unhoused population, leading to the opening of the Johnson Street Temporary Shelter, a partnership of the City of Missoula, Missoula County, and the Poverello Center; and

WHEREAS, City and County leadership understands that the challenge of houselessness is complex, fluid, and will take significant time and resources to address, and is committed to working towards a community where all residents have access to the shelter and services they need; and

WHEREAS, the City and County have allocated budget authority in fiscal year 2025 for houselessness issues, including the Johnson Street Temporary Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City and County desire to collaborate on these issues to improve efficiency and effectiveness in allocating the limited funding available to support houselessness issues; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson Street shelter has served as many as 208 people in one night in recent months and continues to serve at least 150 people each night; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the \$400,000 goal for the housing sprint is not currently guaranteed to be raised; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the housing sprint will not house the majority of people who currently rely on the Johnson Street shelter for shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula entered into a two year contract for the Johnson Street shelter with the second year of emergency shelter operations being contingent upon the City receiving budget authority in Fiscal Year 2026 for the second year of services; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council intends to fund the Johnson Street shelter or other shelter options that can serve the same number of guests in the fiscal year 2026 budget at the same rate as the fiscal year 2025 budget, directing the Mayor to incorporate that into the Mayor' draft budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the Mayor to continue spending the budgeted funds on keeping the shelter open rather than wrapping up operations, only reducing capacity by the amount of people who have secured housing for at least a year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the directs the Mayor to fund the portion of the \$400,000 goal for the housing sprint that is not covered by other means.