



NEWS ADVISORY

Nov. 17, 2023

For immediate release

City to Swear in Mayor-elect Davis and Council Representative Farmer

Mayor-elect Andrea Davis and Ward 2 City Council Representative Sierra Farmer will take their oaths of office on Monday, Nov. 20, at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers at 140 W. Pine St.

Missoulians elected Davis as their next mayor earlier this month, following Mayor Jordan Hess' year of service. She will serve through 2025.

Davis is a Montana native who has called Missoula home since 1998 when she transferred from Flathead Valley Community College to the University of Montana, where she studied Organizational Communications and Environmental Studies. She has worked for 22 years building homes Montanans can afford. She spent five of those years at the Missoula Housing Authority as Director of Planning and Development and 17 years at Homeword, 15 of them as executive director. During her tenure at Homeword, she has overseen the creation of more than 1,500 homes across the state and provided education for thousands of Missoulians wanting to buy their first homes and make informed financial decisions. She has also worked on state policy to secure permanently affordable homes for Montanans. She has served on several boards of directors, including Mountain Line, the Missoula Economic Partnership, NeighborWorks Montana, the Montana Nonprofit Association and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for the Federal Home Loan Bank. She lives in central Missoula with her husband, Denison, and rescued husky dog, Luka, and loves the recreational and cultural amenities Missoula offers.

The City Council appointed Farmer to the Ward 2 seat vacated by Jordan Hess when he assumed the mayor's seat in September of 2022. Farmer won election to the remainder of the term, through 2025, in municipal elections earlier this month.

Farmer is a Missoula County native who grew up in Seeley Lake and later lived in the Westside neighborhood she now represents on the City Council. She earned her business degree and a Master of Public Administration degree at the University of Montana. She works for the Montana Department of Natural Resources managing State Trust Lands. She is delighted to serve her beloved Missoula. With her family, she enjoys rafting, skiing and hiking with her dog.

Davis will be sworn in by Marilyn Marler, former Missoula City Council President who now serves as Representative for House District 90 in the Montana Legislature. Farmer will be sworn in by Mirtha Becerra, her ward mate as City Council representative for Ward 2.

Confused about the terms? Here's what happened: When an elected official for the City leaves office unexpectedly, as happened with Mayor John Engen's death in August 2022, the City Council appoints a new person to serve until the next municipal election. The Council appointed Jordan Hess of Ward 2 to serve as mayor and Farmer to replace Hess on the Council. The next municipal election was earlier this month. Appointed officials can choose to run for the remainder of the original term, in this case through 2025. The mayor's seat and half the City Council seats will be up for election in fall of 2025. Normally, those elected in November are sworn in the following January for four-year terms.

For questions, contact: Communications Director Ginny Merriam at merriamg@ci.missoula.mt.us or 406-552-6007 (office) or 406-546-7692 (cell).