

Approved  
**Minutes for:**  
**Libby City Council Working Meeting**  
**6:00 PM Tuesday February 23, 2016**

Council Members in Attendance: Brent Teske, Allen Olsen, Dejon Raines, Brian Zimmerman  
Members Absent: Peggy Williams, Barb Desch

Councilman Teske opened the Council with discussion of "Assignment of Committee Positions". Councilman Teske stated there has been multiple chairs to the committees and a few committees that don't even have a chair. It would be a good idea to talk about what committees council members would like to participate on.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Cemetery-Park committee: Peggy Williams (chair), Dejon Raines, and Brent Teske. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else had an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Building Committee: Brent Teske (chair), Allen Olsen, and Peggy Williams. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else had an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. Councilman Teske then stated he would like the Building Committee to be chaired by someone else.

Councilwoman Raines asked "what did the Building Committee entail". Councilman Teske responded "The Building Committee deals with maintenance and oversight of the city buildings. It is currently working on a contract with the Montana Athletic Club. It also deals with the sale of 520 Utah Avenue and dealing with the old city hall building that has roof damage". Councilwoman Raines volunteered to be on the Building Committee and chair the committee. Councilwoman Raines stated she "would have to recuse herself from any vote on the sale of 520 Utah Ave". Councilman Teske asked if anyone else had an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Resolution/Ordinance Committee: Peggy Williams (chair), Brian Zimmerman, and Brent Teske. Councilman Teske stated that Barb Desch was on the committee earlier, but he and Mrs. Desch had switched committees a while ago. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else had an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Lights/Streets/Sidewalks Committee: Barb Desch (chair), Brent Teske, and Allen Olsen. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else had an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. Councilman Zimmerman stated "because of his background he would like to be on Light/Streets/Sidewalks". Councilman Olsen offered to give up his position on

Lights/Street/Sidewalks so Councilman Zimmerman could be on the committee. All attending members were acceptable to the committee as Barb Desch (chair), Brent Teske, and Brian Zimmerman.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Budget & Finance: Barb Desch (chair), Dejon Raines, and Allen Olsen. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else has an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske stated that the newest sheet of standing committees listed the Judicial Committee as "Appointed as needed to fill City Judge Position". Councilman Olsen conveyed he felt that the committee should have been left alone. Councilwomen Raines and Councilman Zimmerman volunteered to be on the Judicial Committee with Councilman Olsen. All attending council members were acceptable to the committee as Allen Olsen (chair), Dejon Raines, and Brian Zimmerman.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Personnel Committee: Dejon Raines (chair), Brian Zimmerman, Allen Olsen. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else has an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. Councilwomen Raines stated she saw a problem with the way the newest sheet of standing committees listed the Personnel Committee as "only as it deals with union contract". Councilwoman Raines believed that the Personnel Committee would also involve updating the outdated City of Libby Personnel Policy. Raines stated that the outdated Personnel Policy had instructions for the Council Personnel Committee to deal with city employee disciplinary matters. Raines conveyed that the Personnel Committee should create personnel policies, but not handle matters of disciplinary action with city employees. She stated the outdated city personnel policies were in conflict with what the State had advised at the latest local government training. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else has an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current Fire Committee: Brian Zimmerman, Allen Olsen, Brent Teske. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else has an interest in the committee or if they saw a problem. All attending council members were acceptable to the current committee.

Councilman Teske asked if anyone would be interested in the Insurance Police Committee. Councilwoman Raines suggested that it be two separate committees. Raines stated that at the latest local government training it was recommended that the council create a safety policy for its employees. The policy would improve city employees' work environment safety and could potentially start reducing the city's insurance premium. All attending council members were acceptable to the Insurance/Police Committee becoming a separate Insurance Committee and a separate Police Committee. All attending council members were acceptable to the Insurance Committee as: Dejon Raines (chair), Peggy Williams if she would be willing, and Barb Desch if she would be willing. All attending council members were acceptable to the Police Committee as: Allen Olsen (chair), Brian Zimmerman, and Peggy Williams if she would be willing.

Councilman Teske listed who was on the current CAG Committee: Allen Olsen. Councilman Olsen stated he has been to one CAG meeting in six years and doesn't foresee a need for it. Councilman Teske asked if anyone else has an interest in the committee. No one had an interest.

Councilman Teske asked if anyone would be interested in the KRDC committee. Councilman Olsen said he would be interested in talking with them. Councilman Teske stated if Councilman Olsen could not attend a meeting with KRDC then he would go in his place.

Councilman Teske began discussion on the Ordinance for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mandatory City Council Meeting of the Month. Councilman Teske said he didn't know if Councilwoman Williams submitted the ordinance request to the previous city attorney because there were 4-5 things submitted during the attorney transition.

Councilman Zimmerman asked "What would happen if we didn't need a second meeting of the month? Would the meeting be cancelled?" Councilman Teske replied that' he could not imagine there not being something that didn't need to be discussed'. Councilwoman Raines stated that she believed they would also have to simultaneously change the attorney contract to reflect there being 2 mandatory meetings a month. Councilman Teske stated that there would also need to be a change to the ordinance and the council policy to reflect a 2<sup>nd</sup> mandatory meeting.

Councilman Teske began discussion on the topic of hiring an outside independent attorney. Councilman Olsen stated "hiring an independent attorney is needed to define the council/mayor roles and responsibilities'. He also felt the public needs an opinion on the COPP Lawsuit. Councilman Olsen also wanted an opinion of open meeting laws.

Councilman Zimmerman stated he thought it's going to depend on the decision of the COPP.

Councilman Teske responded to Councilman Olsen by stating the roles and responsibilities are defined by State law.

Councilman Olsen stated he had put calls into MMIA to see what the city's liability is in the COPP case. The calls have went unanswered. Councilman Olsen said the 1<sup>st</sup> phone call was the day of the Council training.

Councilwomen Raines said maybe a letter from the Council to MMIA would be more successful in receiving an answer from MMIA.

Councilman Olsen stated he would like to get a legal opinion on open meeting laws in regards to emails.

Councilwoman Raines responded she would prefer to exhaust all free or already paid for avenues in getting answers to these questions before we spend any dollars on an additional attorney.

Councilman Olsen stated he would be willing to table the legal opinion of an outside attorney for a month to see if he could get some of the questions answered by our existing attorney and other sources.

Councilman Teske began discussion on the topic of the revised water sewer policy. Councilman Teske stated that ultimately the revised water/sewer policy would ensure that nobody should ever be able to get more than 2 months in the rears.

Councilwoman Raines asked is the rate policy had been posted in the front office. Councilman Teske checked and did not see the rate policy posted in the front office. Councilman Teske stated that Jim Hammons was working on having it posted.

Councilman Teske stated the council should look at revising the water/sewer policy to include a description of a payment policy/scale in the event someone can't pay their water/sewer bill and schedules a payment plan with the city.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM

## Proposed List of Committees

CEMETERY-PARK:	Peggy Williams (chair), Dejon Raines, Brent Teske
BUILDING:	Dejon Raines (chair), Allen Olsen, Peggy Williams
RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE:	Peggy Williams (chair), Brian Zimmerman, Brent Teske
WATER/SEWER:	Brent Teske (chair), Dejon Raines, Brian Zimmerman
LIGHTS/STREET/SIDEWALKS:	Barb Desch (chair), Brent Teske, Brian Zimmerman
BUDGET & FINANCE:	Barb Desch (chair), Dejon Raines, Allen Olsen
JUDICIAL:	Allen Olsen (chair), Dejon Raines, Brian Zimmerman
PERSONNEL:	Dejon Raines (chair), Brian Zimmerman, Allen Olsen
FIRE:	Brian Zimmerman (chair), Allen Olsen, Brent Teske
INSURANCE:	Dejon Raines (chair), <b>Peggy Williams &amp; Barb Desch (if they want to)</b>
POLICE:	Allen Olsen (chair), Brian Zimmerman, <b>Peggy Williams (if she wants to)</b>

**NOTE:** *Peggy Williams and Barb Desch were not at the council working meeting on February 23, 2016. At the February 23, 2016 meeting it was discussed who would like to be on which committees. None of the attending council members suggested that Councilwoman Desch or Councilwoman Williams be removed or switched from any of the committees that they currently are on. It was suggested that Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Desch be on the insurance committee if both Councilwoman were agreeable to it. It was also suggested that Mrs. Williams be on the POLICE committee if she was agreeable to it.*