

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

The City Council held Council Meeting #1679 on Monday, June 16, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Peggy Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was completed, roll call commenced. Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Gail Burger, Melissa Berke, Ethan Kolp, Hugh Taylor, Kristin Smith, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Luedecke, in for Leann Monigold, Clerk Treasurer.

Prayer was offered by Mr. Mark Smith.

Mayor Williams welcomed all those in attendance.

### **Approve City Council minutes for meeting #1678 held on 2 June 2025:**

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve City Council minutes for meeting #1678 dated 2 June 2025, Councilor Berke **SECONDED**.

Councilors Burger, Smith, Berke, Kolp, Taylor, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Department Heads:**

**City Administrators Report:** Administrator Sikes reported that painting on Mineral Avenue is scheduled to start on 17 June 2025. The pavement is staying hot long enough now for the paint to dry. Work will start at the end of Mineral, and crews will work their way South. One block at a time will be barricaded just long enough for the paint to dry enough to be driven on. Painting will continue throughout the town for the next few weeks.

The restrooms at Fireman's Park are closed for the time being due to vandalism. This is the second time in the last four business days that someone has vandalized the restrooms by smearing feces on the walls, toilet, and sink. Crews cleaned them up, and the doors will remain locked for the time being. This is happening in the daylight with people all around. This will be discussed further tomorrow for the next steps to be taken.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Budget Committee will be meeting on 18 June 2025 at noon in city Hall.

Lights/Streets/Sidewalks Committee will be meeting on 27 June 2025 at noon in City Hall.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Julie Cornwall – 35 Regh Ave – Requested that the council look at photos of 25 Regh Ave, it is looking like a junkyard and violating ordinance 08.08.010. She stated that the property has gotten very bad over the last 2 years and requested that council members drive by and see for themselves and act.

D.C. Orr – 1117 Nevada Ave. – Stated that in a case such as the one at 25 Regh Ave., it is the City-County health board is empowered to deal with situations like this as a public health hazard.

### **Approve New Water Agreement with International Paper:**

Mayor Williams stated that the agreement is basically the same as the 2010 agreement, with a few updates, and turned the floor over to Mr. Allen Payne, attorney representing the City of Libby in these negotiations.

Allen Payne reported that this is a follow-up from the last meeting he attended, hoping to come to an agreement with IP, which they did. A short summary of what has gone on for the last 25 or so years with International Paper was provided to the Mayor and Council for review. Payne thinks this is the best agreement the city could have, even better than the 2010 one.

Mayor Williams and Councilor Smith both thanked Mr. Payne for sticking with the city in these negotiations for all these years.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve the New Water Agreement with International Paper.

Councilor Berke **SECOND**.

D.C. Orr – 1117 Nevada Ave. – Stated that the fact sheet did not supply a lot of facts, he submitted his comments in writing to the mayor. Also stated that this agreement commits the city to 20 years without giving much information on how it is supposed to work.

Mayor Williams took his comments for review, after which someone in the gallery asked Mr. Orr to read his facts sheet aloud. Mayor Williams allowed this if it could be done in the allotted 3-minute time. Orr read his comments, and the meeting continued.

After Orr finished, Mayor Williams corrected some of his information regarding the negotiations in that Chris Noble was not involved in these negotiations, nor did he replace Councilor Taylor on the committee, Noble had nothing to do with them at all.

Councilor Smith said that she hoped some of the newer council members would review the agreement and information to better understand the reason this agreement is in place. She is thankful that IP changed course and got back to working with the city.

Councilors Burger, Smith, Berke, Kolp, Taylor and Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

## **MOTION PASSED**

### **RIVERFRONT BLUES FESTIVAL noise variance request for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of August:**

Tabled to the next agenda as there was some confusion regarding meeting dates.

### **Approve Street Committee recommendation to abandon city-owned right – of - way discontinuing and vacating Colorado and Kootenai Streets and adjacent alley.**

Mayor Williams explained to the council that a positive vote will be a vote to move on to the abandonment process, which is detailed at the front of your packets. There is a lot of paperwork going back to the beginning, including minutes from previous meetings. The most important are at the end and have been put together by Sam Sikes, City Administrator, and he will go through them with you.

Sam Skies gave his presentation, explaining in detail the street abandonment.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve the Street Committee's recommendation to abandon city-owned right-of-way discontinuing and vacating Colorado and Kootenai Streets and adjacent alley.

Councilor Zimmerman **SECOND**.

Councilor Kolp asked what the cost would be to add water if desired and referred to slide 5. Mr. Sikes listed the costs to be approximately \$165,000 and would still need engineering and work would need to be done by a certified plumber and be approved by DEQ.

D.C. Orr – 1117 Nevada Ave – Stated that there were no packets out for the public to review.

Councilors Berke, Kolp, Zimmerman and Smith voted **FOR**.  
Councilors Burger and Taylor voted **AGAINST**.

### **With a 4-2 vote MOTION PASSED.**

This will move forward to the next meeting.

## **Approve Ordinance # 2056, Title 10, Chapter 24**

Councilor Smith: The Ordinance committee met about 10 days ago at the request of City administration, to address prolonged parking of trailers and vehicles in rights-of-way. Some language was put forward, and all council members were given a copy of the ordinance.

Also, it was recommended to include a right-of-way definition, sometimes folks are confused by what that means, hopefully a definition will help clarify this.

The proposal is to add language to Chapter 10-24, Stopping, Standing and Parking to include titled vehicles, add the words boat, utility trailers and RVs under section A.

Subsection 15, new language that says upon any street right-of-way notwithstanding designated parking areas in duration.

There are some streets that the grassy area extends into the right-of-way, no curbing or sidewalks and folks have taken it upon themselves to park in that area. This causes difficulty for the City Crews to successfully execute their jobs. This is the recommendation that came out of the Ordinance Committee.

Mayor Williams read the preamble to the ordinance aloud.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Ordinance #2056, Title 20, Chapter 24.

Councilor Berke **SECOND**.

Councilors Burger, Berke, Zimmerman, Kolp, Smith and Taylor voted **FOR**.

**MOTION PASSED.**

This was the first reading; the second reading will be on 7 July 2025.

## **APPROVE ALL CLAIMS RECEIVED TO DATE:**

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date.

Councilor Burger **SECOND**.

Councilor Kolp had a question regarding a Netflix charge on the Sewer credit card. Charlotte told him the charge had been removed.

Councilors Burger, Berke, Zimmerman, Kolp, Smith and Taylor voted **FOR**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**APPROVE ALL BUSINESS LICENSES RECEIVED TO DATE:**

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all business licenses received to date.

Councilor Burger **SECOND**.

Councilors Burger, Berke, Zimmerman, Kolp, Smith and Taylor voted **FOR**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:**

Councilor Berke asked about the baseball tournaments and the Firefighter Convention.

Councilor Smith said it was well received.

Mr. Sikes said that Loggers won on Sunday.

Mayor Williams said the restaurants were busy and the motels were full.

Councilor Burger said that there are a lot of events going on all summer and made a plug for the Summer Solstice event.

Councilor Taylor announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Town hall meeting for the Government Study Commission will be on 26 June 2025 @ 7:00pm.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Burger Second.

Councilors Burger, Berke, Zimmerman, Kolp, Smith and Taylor voted **FOR**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.**

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Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Charlotte Luedecke

