

MCA 2-3-212. Minutes of meetings. Minutes must include without limitation: (a) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (b) a list of the individual members of the public body, agency, or organization who were in attendance; (c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and (d) at the request of any member, a record of votes by individual members for any votes taken.

APPROVED MINUTES

The Libby City Council held regular meeting #1680 on Monday, July 7, 2025, in the Council Chamber at Libby City Hall.

Call to Order:

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

Present were Mayor Williams, Councilors Melissa Berke, Gail Burger, Ethan Kolp, Kristin Smith, Hugh Taylor, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Announcements: Mayor Williams announced the Thank You note received from Patty Rambo for allowing the memorial plaque in Riverfront Park and reminded everyone EPA's asbestos superfund update meeting is Tuesday, July 15th 6-7pm in the Ponderosa room.

Approve Approve minutes for Regular Council meetings #1679 held June 16, 2025:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve City Council meeting minutes 1679, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment:

DC Orr expressed concerns about Councilor Taylor not being at the last IP meeting and questioned the accuracy of previous minutes related to meeting attendance and stated his intent to submit a FOIA request for minutes of the closed-door meeting.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported the Water plant is running smoother due to decreased turbidity, allowing for maintenance and staff time off. The landfill accepted eight months of stored sewer sludge, and an RFQ will be issued for a Wastewater PER, estimated cost will be \$80,000 with RRGL grant paying \$40,000. WWC Engineering has begun the Hydrology Study and Spoils Pile plan. Phase I of the Spruce Street project is nearly complete, with Phase II expected to begin in late July or early August. Street work on 10th Street is under consideration. DEQ's annual asbestos inspection of Riverfront Park is

scheduled for July 17. The city is exploring the feasibility of installing a security camera at Fireman's Park restrooms due to ongoing vandalism and reminded Council that only official items may be posted on the City Hall board per Municipal Code 1.04.070.

Street Supervisor: Justin Williams reported Street patching, alley grading, and downtown painting are underway, with additional stencil work pending. Winter waste is being hauled to the dump. Sewer maintenance included camera inspections, root cutting, and jetting. A second seasonal worker has been added and is adjusting well. The Department of Labor conducted an inspection and noted one deficiency. Eight cemetery burials occurred in June. Water meter route updates continue, and reservoir water levels are being monitored and adjusted for retention.

Police Report: Chief Ercanbrack reported officers responded to 225 total cases in June, with 113 initiated by the public and the remainder by officers. Calls included 5 assaults, 8 disturbances, 6 threats, 4 thefts, 2 mental health calls, 7 vagrancy calls, 7 welfare checks, and 12 city ordinance violations, 12 DUI arrests, 6 additional DUI investigations, and 94 traffic stops. Increased officer presence and proactive policing have corresponded with a drop in reactive calls. Officer Steffenson will graduate from the academy in two weeks; he received the Top Shot award. All officers completed firearms qualification and DUI refresher training.

Finance: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported preparing for the upcoming audit and year-end financial reporting. Budget updates are in progress ahead of the rescheduled budget meeting on Wednesday, July 16 at noon. The new city website is live with minor improvements; updates are ongoing. A new Deputy Clerk, Evelyn, began training today.

Committee Reports:

Budget: Mayor Williams announced due to schedule conflicts the meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday the 16th.

Lights/Streets/Sidewalks: Councilor Burger announced a meeting was held June 27th and recommendations will be coming to Council on the next agenda.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

Karen Dinkins expressed concern over being initially objected to by the City Attorney during a recent public appeals hearing she attended via Zoom. She stated she was there as a private citizen, not in her role on the police commission, and felt the objection reflected a misunderstanding of public participation rights and expressed concern that the City Attorney's perspective on public participation may influence the mayor's approach to limiting public involvement.

DC Orr expressed strong opposition to the International Paper (IP) settlement, stating that it lacked transparency and excluded fair compensation for affected residents. He criticized the city's negotiation process, alleged secrecy, and lack of public engagement or opportunity for questions. Mr. Orr also called for the Council to establish a formal policy for responding to public questions.

Zach McNew, Rotary Club of the Kootenai Valley, expressed concern over the closure of the public restrooms at Fireman's Park. He acknowledged past community efforts in building the restrooms and emphasized their importance, especially during the busy season. While understanding the challenges posed by recent vandalism, he encouraged the city to explore solutions—such as improved lighting, security measures, and community involvement—to keep the restrooms open. He also noted the lack of accessible facilities for individuals with disabilities during recent events at the park.

Tracy McNew expressed concern about a recent incident involving the police department, in which a visiting physician was arrested despite negative breath and drug test. She described the incident as unjust and damaging to the community's reputation, especially given the physician's volunteer role supporting Libby's asbestos-exposed population. Urging Council to take the matter seriously and consider its broader impact.

New Business:

Approve Chainsaw Carving contest street closure and exception to open container request, September 3-7:

Eric Bunn and Brent Lane explained the event plan will be the same as in the past and will have more garbage cans out along with porta – potties.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to approve Chainsaw Carving contest street closure and exception to open container request, September 3-7. Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Riverfront Blues Festival noise variance request for August 8 and 9 into morning of August 10th:

Alida Snow explained request is until 1am each night.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve **Riverfront Blues Festival noise variance request for August 8 and 9 into morning of August 10th**, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Timberline closure request for 700 block of Mineral Avenue on July 8th-8am until 11am:

Councilor Zimmerman **RECUSED** himself.

Mayor Williams explained the request.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve Timberline closure request for 700 block of Mineral Avenue on July 8th-8am until 11am, Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Ordinance # 2056, Title 10, Chapter 24 (2nd reading).:

Mayor Williams read the Preamble.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Ordinance # 2056, Title 10, Chapter 24 (2nd reading), Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2057, setting the salaries and wages of elected officers, appointed officers, and city employees:

Clerk/Treasurer Monigold explained that this resolution has been approved in the past during the finalization of the budget. However, to streamline the payroll process with the start of the fiscal year on July 1, it was recommended to bring it before the Council for approval. The increases outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), with a 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a 1% step increase.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution #2057, setting the salaries and wages of elected officers, appointed officers, and city employees, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

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

Public Comment: None

Mayor Williams reminded the public that if anyone is interested in viewing the claims they are available during the day of the meeting.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business license applications received to date:

Moms Needs, Performance Restoration dba. Servpro of Spokane County, and The Kayotic Gnome.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all business license applications received to date, Councilor Smith **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

Street Committee's recommendation regarding the abandonment of the city owned right-of-way off City Service Road:

Mayor Williams explained Sooter's request is back under unfinished business. After visiting with Jeff this past week, he's got a couple of loose ends he needs to tie up. The publication has been put out for next week's paper so that we can move on to that process and hopefully have a vote on July 21.

Mayor Williams explained the Community Development Fund will be put back on. To discuss the recommendation regarding the grant writer, information was handed out and we will talk about it on the next meeting.

General Comments from Council: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: _____
Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold