

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 #1685 on Monday, September 15, 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 explained the City Attorney had been experiencing internet outage in the Flathead, unsure if he will be able to join later.

Approve Approve minutes for Regular Council meetings #1683 dated August 18, 2025 and #1684 dated September 2, 2025:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve meeting minutes 1683 and 1684, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Mayor Williams noted one correction to meeting #1684: the name on page three should be "Christy Derry," not "Gary."

Public Comment:

DC Orr commented Bill Corbett's name was misspelled in the minutes and on the agenda.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Committee Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported the Montana Department of Transportation released the FY25-29 Transportation Improvement Program, which lists upcoming road projects. Copies are available in his office or online.

Building report: 3 permits were issued in August, 1 residence, 1 carport, and 1 deck for a total of \$1,506. Year-to-date totals are 6 permits for \$2,230, compared to 10 permits totaling \$5,185 by this time last year.

Mr. Sikes updated Council on a major water leak discovered in Reese Court. City crews and contractors found several lines merging incorrectly, capped them, and ran a new line, believing the leak had been repaired. Unfortunately, earlier this morning it was discovered water was still leaking. Testing showed it was chlorinated city water, so the leak is on a water line. Excavation will continue to track down the leak, and Reese Court residents may be without water for four to five hours during the repair.

Parks: Councilor Berke reported the Committee had discussed placement of the wings and will be bringing a recommendation forward to Council at the next meeting.

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported for the month of July that LVFD responded to 8 calls, 3 city, 4 Rural Fire District, and 1 outside city and RFD. 1 vehicle, 1 grass/wildland, 3 mutual aid, 1 false alarm, 1 power line, and 1 miscellaneous at the Couty landfill. For a total of 78 calls for 2025.

Board of Health (BOH): Councilor Smith reported the Board met earlier in the evening to discuss the need for a liaison from the BOH with the Libby Asbestos Superfund outreach (LASOC). Jason Rappe gave a brief presentation about the controlled groundwater area. A few years ago, the City of Libby had asked the BOH not to proceed with a controlled groundwater area as they were trying to negotiate with IP. Jan Iverson and Amy Fantozzi were appointed as liaisons.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

Tabitha Viergutz, LOR Foundation, announced the “Hearts of Gold Celebration of Service Gala” will take place November 21, 2025, at the Memorial Center, explaining the event. Inviting local nonprofits to reserve free tables to highlight volunteers, about ten tables remain available.

DC Orr explained the proposed Transparency and Accountability Committee (TAC) aims to ensure council decisions are guided by reason, follow proper procedures, and reflect the will of the people to help restore trust, fairness, and respect in city governance.

New Business:

Legal Services’ Agreement related to AFFF/PFAS Litigation Services-introduction:

City Attorney Chisholm explained a national class action lawsuit concerning PFAS contamination has a December 31, 2025, filing deadline, no PFAS issues are confirmed in Libby’s currently, but if there are issues later the city would not be able to join the class action after December 31st.

Mr. Sikes explained recent water system tests showed no PFAS detections, but unsure about the sewer testing, still reviewing the report. Mr. Sikes emphasized the need to

carefully review all test results and stressed the importance of joining the national PFAS lawsuit, as it could affect how the city manages contamination and potentially reduces costly corrections, which other cities are looking at \$10–20 million.

Council Smith inquired what AFFF stood for. Mr. Sikes explained it stood for the lengthy spelled chemicals.

Mayor Willaims explained since Mr. Chisolm is unable to connect to finish the introduction, the item will be on the next agenda.

LOR – Transportation Grant:

Tabitha Viergutz, LOR Foundation, presented a request for \$6,729 to purchase additional traffic control signage, bases, and cones for the Streets Department.

Public Comment:

DC Orr supported the use of LOR grant funding and suggested doing a traffic study before placing the signs to avoid unnecessary or obstructive signage.

Councilor Smith **MADE A MOTION** to accept LOR funds the transportation safety signage, Councilor Zimmerman **SECONDED**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

LOR – Reserve Program Grant:

Tabitha Viergutz, LOR Foundation, presented a grant award of \$27,982 to outfit four sets of duty gear for Libby Police Department's reserve officer program.

Chief Ercanbrack explained the purpose of the reserve program and why this grant is necessary. Community members have expressed interest in volunteering as reserve officers, but the upfront cost of equipment is costly. A volunteer is normally expected to purchase their own body armor, duty belt, firearm, and radio, which together amount to approximately \$3,000, an expense few are willing or able to take on without compensation. The grant would be able to provide four complete sets of gear that can be checked out and shared among reserves.

Councilor Taylor inquired whether training or other expenses would add costs beyond the grant award. Chief Ercanbrack explained training for reserves would be conducted entirely in-house. Each volunteer who is not already a certified officer must complete an 80-hour training course with the department, which covers use of force, legal issues, patrol procedures, and scenario-based exercises. Training is provided by department staff and

does not create an extra cost for the city, beyond the cost of enrolling volunteers in Workers' Compensation coverage.

Public Comment: None

Councilor Zimmerman MADE A MOTION to approve the grant from LOR for Libby City Police Department in the amount of \$27,982, Councilor Burger SECONDED. Councilor Smith voted **AGAINST**.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

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

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

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business:

Chamber of Commerce request for long-term building lease:

Mayor Williams explained the draft lease was not ready yet and the Chamber was unable to attend; item will be postponed until October 6th meeting.

Community Development Coordinator Job Description-discussion:

Mayor Williams highlighted the meeting that was held with KRDC, which consisted of Jen McCully, Kristen, Gail, herself, and DC Orr from the public. The only agreement from that meeting was that we would continue to look for information from communities who might have a City Economic Development or Community Development organization that combined efforts. Leann, put it out on the Listserv for clerks, and did not get any information back, so going to try another tactic to get information.

Councilor Burger suggested waiting until the next meeting to see if more information can be received.

Public Comment: None

Discussion will continue October 6th agenda.

General Comments from Council:

Councilor Kolp confirmed with Mayor Williams inquiries, he has received his certificate of election by proclamation and would be attending the first LOR Recreation Committee meeting to consider serving as liaison.

Councilor Taylor pointed out Ian Smith's name was still on the mailbox and suggested updating the name. Ms. Monigold confirmed the name would be updated.

Councilor Smith commented "that the last number of years, in my experience here in Libby, this has been one of the most civilly engaged councils that I've experienced. And so, I just want to say thank you, and I appreciate everyone, even if we have differences of opinions, we can engage in. Thank you."

Councilor Kolp reported that Ben Montgomery will move forward with picnic table installation at the skate park following reimbursement for sod. Ms. Monigold clarified Council previously approved benches, not a table. Mayor Williams advised the matter be clarified at a future meeting to stay within the approved budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Mayor Peggy Williams

Attest: _____
Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold