

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 #1696 on Tuesday, March 2, 2026, in the Council Chamber at Libby City Hall.

Call to Order:

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

Present were Mayor Taylor, Councilors Brooke Bolin, Gail Burger, Brian Crompton, Ethan Kolp, Erica Schaefer, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) Councilor Zimmerman and City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Announcements: Mayor Taylor announced Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologist Sam is conducting the annual Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) trapping program. Ten deer have been captured, tagged, and fitted with radio collars. Asking residents not to be alarmed when they spot a collared deer in the area. Trapping is going well, no numbers are available at this time.

Approve minutes for Regular Council meeting #1695 dated February 17, 2026:

Councilor Bolin **MADE A MOTION** to approve council minutes 1695, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Councilor Crompton requested an addition to page four, to add Mr. Petrusha's statement for the record, that the levy had been pulled from the ballot, Noting there have been community concerns after a newspaper article published a few days later about the levy, to clear up miscommunication.

Public Comment:

DC Orr commented on the minutes regarding Councilor Burger's stating the reason for deactivating a social media account and expressed disagreement with that characterization. Councilor Burger raised a **Point of Order**, citing a personal attack. Mayor Taylor acknowledged the Point of Order, redirected Mr. Orr, and clarified the minutes accurately reflected Councilor Burger's statement as made at the prior meeting. Council did not discuss it further.

Jonathan Jameson noted the deactivation of the social media account followed an online discussion, where comments were being deleted by someone other than Ms. Burger, prompting the decision to deactivate the account.

Councilors Bolin, Burger, Crompton, Kolp, Schaefer, Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes introduced Gary Beach, the new Deputy City Administrator.

Gary Beach introduced himself and briefly outlined his prior experience, including eight years on city council and committees, his professional experience in management and construction-related projects.

Mr. Sikes provided an update on the lower reservoir project. The main coffer dam is in place. After filling the reservoir, it was found the rip rap was not holding sufficient head pressure, which would cause too much water loss heading into the drier summer months. Working with engineer Kevin Dusky of WWC Engineering, crews installed eco blocks and polypropylene liners between sections of rip rap to correct the issue without altering any plans or the overall stability of the structure. A full written update will be going out soon.

The health advisory had been rescinded following the completion of a directional flushing plan. Advocating for directional flushing be added to state rules and requirements with the DEQ rather than handled on a case-by-case basis, and will be working with Rural Water to push that effort forward so other communities are not caught off guard.

Mr. Sikes will be attending the Livingston Executive Forum. Topics will include a DES briefing on the recent water situation and a discussion of HB 542 and its potential effect on city property tax revenues.

Streets: Justin Williams reported for February: one water line replacement by a hired contractor, sampling passed; storm drain cleanout underway city-wide for the first time in years; wastewater treatment plant west clarifier drained and cleaned, plugged line near sand filter area jetted; 18 stop sign panels replaced due to fading; sweeping and alley work ongoing; one storm drain sump repaired with quick-set concrete; sediment removed from the lower reservoir intake screen area; new propane generator installed and online; pothole patching completed; wastewater treatment plant press hopper repaired; two cemetery digs; three safety meetings covering low visibility, struck-by injuries, and electrocution; one flag at City Hall replaced.

Five days of hydrant flushing were completed as directed by the engineer — 18 hours and 33 minutes of active flushing — resulting in the health advisory being lifted. The Cabinet Affordable Housing Project water and sewer work is complete with pressure and bacterial tests passed. At Hammonds and Second Street, water main tie-ins complete and sewer main extension to the west is underway; once done, the water main will extend across the road and west down Second Street. Cabinet Heights Road received two full days of work;

asphalt overlay is planned for April once reservoir work is wrapped up. Residents have been very understanding and communication has gone well.

Police: Chief Ercanbrack reported 315 calls for service in February compared to 125 the prior year, with the increase attributed to more proactive policing. Department investigated 125 cases including 2 assaults, 6 disturbances, 3 threatening calls, 5 thefts, 1 mental health call, 35 public assists, 3 juvenile problems, 3 walkthroughs, 8 city ordinance contacts, 22 suspicious vehicle/person contacts, 7 crashes, 9 DUI/drug cases, 112 traffic stops, and 51 agency assists.

Chief Ercanbrack is working on a Congressional Spending Grant application to replace all patrol vehicles, radios, and camera systems, estimated at just under \$400,000. The department has been without a body camera contract since Axon sought to nearly triple the prior contract price about a year and a half ago; a new one-time-purchase system has been identified as a replacement. To strengthen the application, Chief Ercanbrack reached out to Troy, Eureka, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office to combine requests under a single countywide application. The grant request will be brought to council at the next meeting and announced a new community complaint form for reporting city code and ordinance violations, officers will have forms on hand for proper documentation and follow-up.

Clerk/Treasurer: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported she has started pulling together financial figures to get ready for the upcoming budget process. First budget meeting will be scheduled for early-to-mid April. Letters will be going out to department heads to collect any requests or anticipated needs ahead of that first meeting.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

DC Orr thanked Mr. Kolp for his work on the Study Commission and explained he plans to add additional information to a previously submitted minority report for public record. Also expressed concerns about actions and disputes related to the Study Commission and noted seeking guidance from state agencies regarding those matters.

New Business:

Review and approve Brad Nelson to Police Commission vacancy:

Mayor Taylor explained the vacancy on the Police Commission, one of the Commissioners moved outside city limits and resigned, Mr. Nelson volunteered to fill that position.

Councilor Schaefer inquired what was the reason Mr. Nelson had left the Police Commission previously. Mr. Nelson explained he had served as Vice Chair, having filled a shortened term from a prior member. When that term ended, he submitted a letter expressing his desire to continue and was not reappointed.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to accept the application for appointment from Brad Nelson to the Police Commission, Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Public Comment:

DC Orr expressed support for Mr. Nelson's appointment, stating he would be a real asset to the commission. Reminding Council the Police Commission is required under Montana law and encouraged Council to keep the commission in operation.

Mayor Taylor explained the appointment fills the remainder of the existing term expiring May 1, 2026, and encouraged Mr. Nelson to reapply.

Councilors Bolin, Burger, Crompton, Kolp, Schaefer, Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor Crompton **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

Councilors Bolin, Burger, Crompton, Kolp, Schaefer, Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

5 Star Hair Salon and Fresh Spaces, LLC.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve business license applications, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

Councilors Bolin, Burger, Crompton, Kolp, Schaefer, Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from Council:

Mayor Taylor noted a thank you letter was received from Mr. Huntsberger for the Economic Development Fund for the Heritage Council.

Mayor Taylor reported receiving a request for a letter of support from the Lincoln County Animal Shelter. They are applying for a grant through Congressman Ryan Zinke's office to fund construction of a new animal shelter for Lincoln County. The request did not make it on the agenda in time and the grant deadline is March 6. Mayor Taylor asked council

members to reach out to him before that date if they support him signing the letter on the city's behalf.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Councilors Bolin, Burger, Crompton, Kolp, Schaefer, Zimmerman voted **FOR**.

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold