



City of Libby
Libby Montana
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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING #1696
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer by Mark Smith
- Roll Call
- Welcome/Announcements
- Approve minutes for Council Meeting # 1695 dated February 17, 2026.

REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- City Administrator
- Streets
- Police
- Clerk/Treasurer

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

- Building
- Cemetery/Parks
- Fire
- Lights/Streets/Sidewalks
- Ordinance
- Water/Sewer

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: This is an opportunity for the public to offer comments related to issues that are not currently on the agenda that the council has jurisdiction over. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: The mayor will introduce each new agenda item with a description of the item and an explanation for the recommended action to be taken. Following council discussion on each item, there will be an opportunity for public comment. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes concerning the agenda item being discussed only.

1. Review and approve Brad Nelson to Police Commission vacancy.
2. Approve all claims received to date.
3. Approve all business license applications received to date.
 - a. 5 Star Hair Salon, 1004 Idaho Ave., Individual, Hair salon.
 - b. Fresh Spaces LLC, 547 Cedar Meadow Rd., LLC, Home/office organization, indoor/outdoor organization, digital organization.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Each item will be introduced by the mayor (or assigned liaison) with a description of the item. Following council discussion on each item, there will be an opportunity for public comment. No action will be taken. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes concerning each item.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Public comment will not be taken during this portion of the meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

The manner of Addressing Council:

- Each person, not a Council member, shall address the Council at the time designated in the agenda or as directed by the Council, by stepping to the podium or microphone, giving that person's name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record, unless further time is granted by the Council, shall limit the address to the Council to three minutes.
- All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member of the Council or Staff with no personal remarks allowed.
- No person, other than the Council and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter any discussion either directly or through a member of the Council, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.
- Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous or disruptive during the council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the council by the presiding officer unless permission to continue is granted by a majority vote of the council.

ATTENTION:

To access this meeting electronically with **ZOOM**,

Dial: 253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 4042719951

Password: 151041

Posted: 2/26/26

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.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Libby City Council held regular meeting #1695 on Tuesday, February 17, 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: None.

Approve minutes for Regular Council meeting #1693 dated January 20, 2026:

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve regular council meeting minutes 1693, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Mayor Taylor noted on the last page, General Comments from Council, Mr. Sikes' name was misspelled. Councilors Zimmerman and Crompton abstained from voting, they were not present.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve minutes for Regular Council meeting #1694 dated February 2, 2026:

Mayor Taylor noted Councilor Zimmerman was not present and will abstain.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve regular meeting minutes 1694, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve minutes for Special Council meeting dated February 5, 2026:

Mayor Taylor noted Councilor Zimmerman was not present and will abstain.

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve special minutes for Special Council meeting on February 5, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes reported MMIA (Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority) is dissolving their workman's comp portion, explain the reason. Clerk/Treasurer Monigold and Administrator Sikes are gathering quotes from different insurance agencies to present options to council. A decision is needed by end of March for a July 1 kickoff. Applications typically cannot be submitted until 90 days before.

Update on the USDA funding discussed from the Special Meeting. The City went from borrowing \$500,000 with no repayment, to needing to spend \$1.5 million first with a \$125,000 loan, to now potentially receiving a \$1 million grant from the Emergency Water Fund. There is \$14 million per year in that account expiring end of May. The City will likely use Montana DES for matching funds at \$1-1.5 million and will be meeting with them next week prior to the public meeting, on February 26 at 6:00 pm, there will be a large open meeting at the Ponderosa Room with Department of Health, Montana DES, Sheriff's Office, and Administrator Sikes to brief the public and answer questions about the storm response.

On the agenda, Noble Emergency Category B contract created during the emergency. Under FEMA, Category A is debris removal and Category B is emergency protective measures. Under Categories A and B the city is authorized to get work going without contracts in place. Noble had a crew ready as they were already heading to the lower reservoir. The contract will formalize Category B emergency protective measures. The city is also going out for RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for core samples. Once Categories A and B are complete, they move to Categories C through I. Category C is roads and bridges (not applicable), but Category D is water control facilities which has a special FEMA category. The RFQ for core samples will not be covered under emergency contracts, new contracts will come to council for hiring an engineer to plan and design repairs to the northern wing wall that was overtopped and damaged, and for bidding construction contracts.

Mr. Sikes raised issues with Spruce Street requesting the Streets Committee look at speed limits, pedestrian crossings, and signage. Police Chief will actively patrol during key times

to slow traffic. Pedestrian crossings with paint are already scheduled for spring after repairs. No parking on one side next to tennis courts is recommended so kids don't dart out between vehicles. Speed limit reduction from 25 to 20 mph is under consideration. Council Burger accepted the request to be reviewed by the Streets Committee. Levi Thompson and Steve Bandamere are installing sewer mains and water mains on Second Street extension near their annexed four-plexes. Second Street and Hammond Avenue will be shut down for 10-14 days. Mayor Taylor confirmed zero asbestos was found in six test spots at the lower reservoir. DEQ gave the all clear

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman presented the January 2026 fire report from Libby Volunteer Fire Department. They had 10 total calls: 2 calls within the city, 5 calls in the Rural Fire District, 3 calls outside the city/rural fire district. Call types: 1 structure, 2 chimney, 5 mutual aid with Libby ambulance, 1 false alarm, and 1 power line.

Lights/Streets/Sidewalks: Councilor Burger reported a core member has been out so the committee is regrouping. The rescheduled meeting is March 18 at 6:05 pm with the same agenda as the canceled meeting plus additions including the time-sensitive Spruce Street matter.

Cemetery/Parks: Councilor Kolp reported the committee met and elected him as chair. Met with Tabitha Viergutz about the status of the wings installation. Spoke with the contractor who made the bid and everything is back on track, installation will occur as soon as the ground hardens enough for concrete.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

DC Orr commented he appreciates the format changes and how councilors are coming up to speed well. Regarding the study commission, there have been concerns raised by the County Attorney about statutory compliance, and the Commission is working to address those concerns to ensure it remains in compliance with the law.

Councilor Burger asked if Council had seen the County Attorney's letter. Mayor Taylor stated he will make sure it gets forwarded to Council.

Public Hearing:

Public Hearing for Annexation of Timberland Business Park Major Subdivision:

Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing at 7:19 pm.

Mayor Taylor explained the Libby City Council is holding a public hearing to solicit public comments concerning the annexation of Timberland Business Park Major Subdivision, a subdivision Council voted on approximately a month ago with the second reading of the Ordinance.

Public Comment: None in person or online.

Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing at 7:20 pm.

New Business:

Recreation Update:

Tony Petrusha gave a background of his position and what the Libby Park District (LPD) does. LPD welcomed Councilor Kolp to their meetings to help coordinate recreation opportunities within the city. Mr. Petrusha explained development and construction projects are easily funded through grants, but ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) funding is extremely difficult. Existing project updates: Swim Pond construction is on hold pending resolution of newly applied DPHHS requirements including lifeguards on duty. December floods destroyed the Libby Creek service canal to the Port Authority cutting water supply to the Port, fish pond, and swim pond and have an uncertain restoration timeline. LPD is working with USFS and Stimson Lumber on the Snowshoe Trail from Leigh Creek 4.6 miles north past Deep Creek - Smearl and Deep Creek bridges survived the December floods. Norgard Trail from Hogan Lane to State boundary is funded and moving forward with both sections expected in service this summer providing access from Granite Creek Road to the Nordic Ski course. Pioneer Park bike track is in service and well-used. Libby Outdoor Recreation Association (LORA) is working on Ski Dale Park development including restored picnic facilities, trailhead to Parmenter Trail, bicycle pump track, and a walking challenge trail. Future project considerations include Haul Bridge curb and fence restoration and a wave feature in the Kootenai River.

Logger Town Baseball Club Update:

Kelly Morford with Logger Town Baseball Club gave an update on last year's funding request. Last year council provided funding along with local businesses and volunteers to spruce up the REM fields for their first youth baseball tournament with approximately 24 teams. The funds went to new batting cages, fertilizer, sprinklers (with help from Justin and his crew), grounds cleanup, and new dirt from local contractors. Teams felt welcomed by the people and businesses of Libby. This year the club added 9U and 10U teams for a total of five teams (9U, 10U, 11U, 13U, and 14U). Currently 36 teams are coming June 19-21 from Montana, Canada, Washington, and Idaho. They will use REM fields, the new high school softball field, the Legion field, and the field at Jay Neal's. The event coincides with Logger Days and they are working with Tabitha and the Rotary to ensure both events are successful. Libby can be a real hub for these events and an economic driver. Local hotels are working to accommodate teams.

Mayor Taylor noted the funds came from the Community Development Fund and that small contribution brought in 20 teams last year spending the weekend here. Almost 40 teams are expected this year, which is what the Community Development Fund is for and part of

what encourages community growth. Mayor Taylor expressed appreciation for all the effort Kelly and his team put in.

Approve street closure request on Mineral Ave. for Red, White and Brews – April 11th:

Sherry Roberts and Jon Roberts requested a street closure for the third 406 Day celebration on Mineral Avenue from the Kootenai Float up to Twisted Turtle. They have porta potties, trash cans, and barriers arranged. This is a newer Libby event involving multiple businesses on Mineral Avenue celebrating Montana being a state. It brings people out after a harsh winter. They have the required insurance.

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve the street closure request on Mineral Avenue between Second and Sixth, Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Councilor Crompton inquired if they will be responsible for cleanup. Mr. Roberts confirmed they have a cleanup crew.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve street closure request on Lincoln Blvd., Mineral Ave. and Second St. for Lincoln County Logger Days Parade - June 20th:

Tabitha Viergutz, on behalf of the Rotary Club, announced they are reviving Lincoln County Logger Days (formerly Libby Logger Days). They are requesting street closure on Saturday morning, June 20, from 8:30-11:30 am for the community parade. Specifically requesting Mineral Avenue from Lincoln Boulevard to Second Street, and Lincoln Boulevard from Mineral Avenue to Louisiana for staging. Second Street will be angled so emergency vehicles can still get through on First Street, allowing the parade to go near the Care Center and come around on Louisiana to end. The event will celebrate the community's proud logging heritage. Logger Days will June 19-21.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve street closure request for Lincoln Boulevard to Mineral, Second Street to Lincoln for Lincoln County Logger Day Parade, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Mayor Taylor confirmed they have appropriate insurance.

Public Comment:

Gary Huntsberger explained the committee had 25 people at their meeting last weekend showing enthusiasm and excitement about bringing the heritage back.

Tony Petrusha asked what the dates are for Logger Days. Mrs. Viergutz confirmed June 19-21.

Jon Roberts asked how the Rotary finds volunteers for the event. Mrs. Viergutz explained information is available on Libby Rotary Facebook page and libbyrotary.org including vendor applications and volunteer opportunities. This is a scholarship program open to Libby and the surrounding area this year.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Kootenai Heritage Council request for Community Development Funds-decision:

Gary Huntsberger, President of Kootenai Heritage Council, and Jim May, board member, presented a request for \$9,892.48 for cost overruns related to the Memorial Center boiler project. The Heritage Council has operated for 25 years on a \$1/year 40-year lease with the school district and is 100% responsible for facility maintenance. Last year the City approved \$19,672 for the boiler project, representing the balance of the \$100,000 total cost after outside grant funds were applied. The boiler was rebuilt by McKinstry but additional work was needed after installation including connecting controls to the burner and replacing the fuel pump. All technicians must come from Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispell, or Missoula. The project is now complete and working. Previous fuel bills were \$5,000/month but are now \$1,500. The facility hosted over 50 events last year with 9-10 volunteers. The Heritage Council, all volunteers, have received funding through LOR Foundation, Tracy Foundation, Community Foundation, and rental fees. Recent grants include \$60,000 for a new roof, funding for floor work, and an upcoming interior painting project. A community room was added with Wi-Fi and separate heating. The Heritage Council belongs to a statewide consortium bringing in five entertainers per year who have to do an outreach, those ticket sales are what help support the maintenance.

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve releasing Community Development funds in the amount of \$9,892.48 to the Kootenai Heritage Council, Councilor Bolin **SECONDED**.

Councilor Burger expressed concern because less than a year ago the City granted almost \$20,000 for this exact project. Mr. Huntsberger explained the systems are very sophisticated and technical – the next day after initial work a motor went out. They waited until the project was fully complete before requesting additional funds.

Councilor Zimmerman stated with aging systems there are always unforeseen problems and issues, and he supports helping the Memorial Center keep things going for the community.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Noble Excavating disaster contract for Lower Flower Creek Reservoir:

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve Noble Excavating disaster contract for Lower Flower Creek Reservoir, Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: Jim May appreciated the communication on upgrades and road use.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor Zimmerman stated he would abstain from voting as he was not present to review claims or business applications.

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

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

Clean Vibes, First Response Community Health, Grateful Accounting, Pink Me Up, Plumb-Tech Plumbing and Heating, Providence Specialty Group, and Water Works Enterprise.

Councilor Burger stated she will abstain as her daughter has a license application.

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

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from Council:

Administrator Sikes reported chainsaws have been heard by Cedar Street. Been working with Jennifer Nelson, the County Forester, who received grants for Firewise thinning project on the hillside on city property. The only cost to the City was having Byron stake corners. The project should be done within the next two weeks.

Councilor Burger stated she recently deactivated her Council member Facebook page on her own (no court order, nothing). She took it down due to abuse happening on the platform.

Councilor Kolp reported the City Tree Board had their first meeting. Jennifer Nelson applied for the Arbor Day grant, and they are working on the Arbor Day celebration per grant requirements. Activities will be on Arbor Day, April 24.

Councilor Zimmerman thanked everyone for being patient while he's been out longer than anticipated. Hopefully within the next couple weeks everything will be good and he can drive and get back into things full bore. He looks forward to helping, especially the newer councilors..

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold