

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 #1697 on Monday, March 16, 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, Ethan Kolp, Erica Schaefer, Administrator Sam Sikes, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) Councilors Brian Crompton and Brian Zimmerman, and City Attorney Dean Chisholm.

Announcements: Mayor Taylor extended thanks to Flathead Electric and the local cable company for their work to restore power and services to the community

Approve minutes for Regular Council meeting #1696 dated March 2, 2026:

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve council minutes 1696, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator: Administrator Sikes presented the building permit report for the month of February, 3 permits were sold covering four roofs. Fiscal year to date, 18 permits totaling \$7,171, compared to 21 permits for \$33,000 at this point last year and 23 permits for over \$12,000 the year before. Year-to-date permit types include 9 new roofs, 3 buildings, 2 major remodels, 1 new carport, 1 addition, and 3 decks.

Mr. Sikes reported while attending the Livingston Executive Forum, he received a call from Steve Hope, Representative Zinke's direct aide, requesting the city submit for a federal infrastructure grant. Working with Mayor Taylor on short notice, the city submitted a \$5 million grant application through Representative Zinke's office for water treatment plant improvements, including replacement of aging tanks and valves. Deputy City Administrator Beach handled the submission and is finalizing letters of support. If approved, the city is likely to receive approximately half the requested amount.

Regarding the lower reservoir emergency repairs, the city spent \$829,643.38 on Category B emergency work. Montana DES is looking at providing \$1 million to \$1.5 million in the first tranche to help offset those costs. USDA negotiations are ongoing; current projections indicate the city may receive \$440,000 to \$490,000 if Montana DES contributes at least \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Both funding sources distribute between \$13 and \$14 million statewide annually, allocations are subject to change. A kickoff meeting with Montana DES is scheduled.

Mr. Sikes noted that camp host applications for Fireman's Park are being accepted. The position offers a free parking spot with water, sewer, and power hookups plus a \$200 monthly stipend in exchange for daily bathroom cleaning, splash pad operation, and campground oversight. The city is also preparing to hire two seasonal workers for mowing at the cemetery, parks, boulevard, and police department, starting at \$13 per hour with the opportunity to advance to \$15 per hour within two to four weeks.

Committee Reports:

Lights, Streets & Sidewalks: Councilor Burger announced the meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 6:05 pm.

Public Comment Non-Agenda: None

New Business:

Promotion of Officer Donald Luthey to rank of Sergeant:

Mayor Taylor presented a Sergeants badge and Certificate of Promotion to Donald Luthy in recognition of 28 years of distinguished service as a police officer, including two years of dedicated service to the City of Libby.

Eagle Scout - Certificate of Acknowledgment:

Mayor Taylor presented two Eagle Scout certificates on behalf of the City of Libby to Dominic Tom and Warren Paulsen of Boy Scout Troop 1971. Neither Eagle Scouts were able to attend, their certificates will be mailed out. Dominic Tom attained the rank of Eagle Scout on January 5, 2025, earning 21 merit badges and contributing over 120 volunteer hours through a service project restoring headstones at the local cemetery. Warren Paulsen attained the rank of Eagle Scout on December 9, 2024, earning 21 merit badges and contributing over 100 volunteer hours through a service project improving the walking trail at a local park.

Approve Workforce Expo 2026 request for Lincoln Blvd. closure (both sides) on April 21st until 2:30pm April 22nd:

Heather Newman, Director of the Flathead Valley Community College Lincoln County Campus, presented the street closure request on behalf of the Rural Northwest Montana Workforce Expo planning committee. The event will be held at the Memorial Center on

April 22, 2026, with 40 to 60 vendors, some of which will be set up along Lincoln Avenue. Requesting to close Lincoln Boulevard on both sides starting the evening of April 21 through 2:00 pm on April 22.

Council discussion raised concerns about impact to Timberline Auto Center, whose only access is off Lincoln Boulevard. Councilor Zimmerman noted the city has previously kept the block from Montana Avenue to Mineral Avenue on the west side open to allow Timberline access. Councilor Crompton raised concern about emergency vehicle access if both sides were blocked.

Councilor Bolin **Abstained** from voting due to her involvement with the event.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve the Lincoln Boulevard closure for the Workforce Expo on April 21–22, 2026, restricted to one side only, keeping the block from Montana Avenue to Mineral Avenue on the Timberline side open, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve submission for congressional directed spending funds to replace patrol cars, radios, and upgrade camera system:

Mayor Taylor explained Chief Ercanbrack was unable to attend but that the grant application deadline is March 20. Congressman Zinke awarded approximately \$700,000 to the County for patrol vehicles. Chief Ercanbrack is looking to get five patrol cars for Libby, four for Troy, and four for Eureka — along with upgraded radios and camera systems. Council’s authorization is needed to submit the application.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve submission of the Congressional Directed Spending Grant application for patrol cars, radios, and upgraded camera systems, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

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

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from Council:

Councilor Kolp announced the Shade Tree Committee will be meeting on Wednesday the 17th at 4:15 pm and noted the city will be looking for volunteers in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold