

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 #1698 on Monday, April 6, 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, Deputy Administrator Gary Beach, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) Councilor Erica Schaefer and City Attorney Dean Chisholm. Councilor Brian Zimmerman was not in attendance.

Announcements: None

Approve minutes for Regular Council meeting #1697 dated March 16, 2026:

Councilor Bolin **MADE A MOTION** to approve council minutes 1697, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

Administrator: Deputy City Administrator Gary Beach reported the lower reservoir is holding up well under current runoff levels. An RFQ is expected to go out this week for geotechnical and dam-certified engineers to design the repair and replacement of the northern wall, estimated at \$2.6 to \$2.8 million to restore it to previous functional capacity.

Regarding disaster funding, three options are being pursued. Option one — if the President signs a disaster recovery declaration, the city would receive reimbursement for both emergency protective measures and the northern wall repair; however, over 25 declarations are currently pending and the outcome is unknown. Option two — the city is working with Montana DES to request emergency funding, seeking reimbursement for the \$918,000 spent to date on emergency protective measures and potentially an additional \$500,000; the state distributes only \$13 to \$14 million annually statewide and is careful to spread funds across as many communities as possible. Option three — a joint meeting with

USDA Rural Development and Montana DES is scheduled within the next few weeks to discuss funding for the northern wall repair, with the hope that USDA can cover up to \$500,000 in grant funds using Montana DES funding as a match.

A \$2.5 million grant application submitted to Representative Zinke's office for water filtration tank repairs at the water treatment plant has been selected and is moving forward to the House Appropriations Committee. The final amount may be reduced, but more information is expected in the coming months.

The sewer PER is progressing well and should be complete within 30 days. The city engineer is working to locate rental flow meters that do not require confined space entry into manholes to get more accurate sewer flow data and better prioritize future main replacements.

The city has received an NRDP extension and will be going out for bids to convert the spoils pile at the upper reservoir into a parking lot as previously approved. Bid documents will specify that if bids exceed the remaining NRDP grant amount, the project will not be awarded unless additional funds become available.

Phase two of the Spruce Street reconstruction is complete with the exception of a punch list of discrepancies. The city is working with the contractor on corrections.

Mr. Beach reviewed several recently passed state bills of note. House Bill 629 expands the city's role in requiring subdivisions within 500 to 1,000 feet of municipal water and sewer infrastructure to connect to city services, removing the previous county waiver option. House Bill 492 updates local parking zoning provisions, limiting the city to requiring only one parking space for single-family dwellings, effective before October 1, 2026. House Bill 38 increases fines for misuse of accessible parking from \$100 to \$150 for a first offense and \$250 for a second offense. House Bill 819 places new restrictions on flags and banners displayed on government property. Senate Bill 243 addresses building heights but does not apply to Libby as it targets cities with populations over 5,000.

Streets: Justin Williams reported for the month of March: workforce event banners hung on Mineral and California Avenues in coordination with Montana Sky and the Streets Department; two cemetery openings, both full remains; two service line repairs including removal of a lead gooseneck; water line installation at Fireman's Park campground completed with two valves placed; 18 signpost bases shortened in the downtown corridor to reduce breakaway height; sweeping, jetting, and pothole patching ongoing; two sidewalk replacements near Larch Street, one 150-foot section with ADA ramp and one 200-foot section with ADA ramp; windstorm cleanup involving six downed trees and 66 hours of crew time; one hazardous tree removal on Main Street; one stop sign repair at the Empire Foods parking lot with two small concrete blocks installed for protection.

On Friday the 13th at 8 pm the crew was called out due to a contractor augering through a water service line being discovered and repaired back to the main with a new curb stop,

wrapping up at 3 am Saturday morning. Fireman's Park campground inspection completed; teeter totter replaced with new boards and hardware and picnic tables under both pavilions rebuilt and painted. On the 20th, Mr. Beach and Mr. Williams responded to the lower reservoir where the new access road had sloughed, removing trees and clearing the area. High water concerns regarding the temporary cofferdam were addressed with Noble's assistance, with water receding 8 to 10 inches. Cabinet Heights Road ongoing repairs continue. A meeting was held with Golf Club board members regarding ongoing water issues at the Cabinet Heights and Country Club Road bank intersection, with a mitigation plan identified. One sewer manhole repair at Rosauers. Four safety meetings held covering unsafe working conditions, trailer towing, accident hazard reporting, and motorcycle awareness. Two DEQ outfall discoveries mitigated by constructing sediment sumps and installing silt fence. One employee returned to work with no restrictions following two weeks of surgical recovery.

Police: Sergeant Luthey reported for March: 250 calls for service and officer-initiated activity, including 62 traffic stops with 8 citations issued for hazardous moving violations, approximately 13 arrests, and 13 business walkthroughs. The department was awarded a \$50,000 Montana Emergency Tourism Assistance Program grant toward the purchase of a new patrol car; funding details are expected within the next couple of weeks. Tires on Unit 245 were replaced at a cost of \$1,342 after all four fell below the 3/32 tread mark. Code enforcement has been initiated at several locations on Minnesota, California, Crow, and Larch for miscellaneous debris and disabled vehicles.

Clerk/Treasurer: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported the annual audit has begun and results are expected within a couple of months and will be posted online when available. Budget preparation is ongoing with the first budget meeting anticipated for the end of April. Workers' compensation quotes are being solicited following MMIA's decision to end their program, with responses expected by mid-April to be presented to council.

Committee Reports:

Shade Tree Board: Councilor Kolp reported a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8 at 4:15 pm. Saturday, April 11 at 10 am, volunteers are needed for a pruning workshop to assess tree conditions around the city. Arbor Day is April 24 with a celebration and tree planting at Fireman's Park at 3 pm, including free tree saplings and educational activities.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

Kyle Henderson expressed concern about water and sewer billing rates, noting his bill was \$110.63 on only 500 gallons of usage during the boil order period and questioned how sewer charges are calculated without a meter. Mayor Taylor suggested he contact Administrator Sikes directly to have the charges explained.

New Business:

Chamber of Commerce Update - Montana Tourism Development Grant:

Bruce Vincent representing Libby Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the Montana Tourism Development Grant. Over the past year the Chamber convened public meetings and formed a stakeholder advisory group of 10 to 15 members, including Mineral Avenue businesses, event coordinators, the Heritage Museum, and the city and county. Approximately 15 to 20 project ideas were generated and scored by the advisory group. The highest-scoring projects aligned closely with the WGM Mineral Avenue improvement plan, including sidewalk and ADA improvements, lighting and irrigation upgrades, pedestrian safety enhancements, and visitor center improvements. The grant application was submitted in December and the grant has been awarded, the first phase of \$1.25 million. Year one will focus on planning in partnership with the city and WGM with minimal disruption to businesses; year two may include some implementation. A meeting is scheduled in Missoula on June 9 with the Chamber and the Department of Commerce to discuss the framework. Upon satisfactory completion of years one and two, an additional \$1.5 million will be available to complete the work. Mr. Vincent encouraged community members with other project ideas to continue developing them as other funding opportunities may be available.

Public Comment: None

VFW – Flag Program request to have flags up Memorial Day thru Labor Day:

Gordie Hull, representing the Libby VFW, requested council approval to fly flags on Mineral Avenue, California Avenue, and the Randolph Bridge from Memorial Day (May 25) through Veterans Day (November 12). Flags will be displayed 24 hours a day using holders on Flathead Electric light posts. An MDT encroachment application has been submitted for flags on Highways 2 and 37 through contact Jesse Gascon. The VFW will take full responsibility for upkeep, maintenance, and replacement of all flags and asked whether annual approval would be required or if a multi-year authorization was possible.

Council discussed how long of a term would be the best.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve the VFW flag program from Memorial Day to November 12 for the next four years. Councilor Bolin **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve submittal of Readiness Information Form to MDT for street sweeper - CMAQ/MACI grant program:

Deputy City Administrator Beach reported the city received an MDT grant invitation on March 27 to replace the city's 1994 Elgin street sweeper, with an application deadline of April 3. Due to the short timeline, Mr. Beach coordinated internally and completed the application, noting council approval of the local match was needed. The replacement is a 2018 Schwartz A7 Tornado regenerative air sweeper with approximately 10,000 miles and 1,500 hours, priced at \$104,737 all-inclusive with delivery and one day of training, compared to approximately \$400,000 for a new unit. The local match is 13.42%, approximately \$14,053.79, with the remainder covered by the CMAQ MAC I program. Match funding is available from the Gas Fund, CIP, or Water, Sewer, and Streets accounts. The city expects to know if selected by early the following week; purchase orders are due by June 30.

Councilor Burger inquired where the local match would come from. Mr. Beach confirmed several accounts are available and no single account would be significantly impacted.

Mayor Taylor inquired whether shipping was included. Mr. Beach confirmed the \$104,737 includes delivery to Libby and one day of complimentary training.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve the purchase of the street sweeper and the local match. Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Lights, Street, Sidewalks Committee Recommendations:

Councilor Burger reported the Lights, Streets & Sidewalks Committee met on March 18 and is submitting two recommendations for council approval.

Recommendation one: authorize the annual sidewalk program to be put out to bid on a yearly basis to ensure competitive pricing and maximize how far sidewalk program funds can stretch. The committee vote was unanimous.

Recommendation two: authorize pedestrian safety improvements on Spruce Street, including up to two pedestrian crossing signs at designated crossings, a 20 mph speed limit between Highway 2 and the Port gate, and no parking signs on the south side of Spruce Street from approximately the public restrooms to the end of Second Court. The committee vote was unanimous.

Mayor Taylor noted for those unfamiliar, Spruce Street is the street directly behind City Hall, with the road now paved, traffic coming out of the Nomad building is using it more frequently.

Public Comment:

Jonathan Jameson commented the crosswalk across Highway 2 is on the opposite side from where the sidewalk is located, creating an awkward pedestrian transition, and suggested the city look at that connection.

Councilor Bolin **MADE A MOTION** to approve the Lights, Streets & Sidewalks Committee recommendations. Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor Kolp noted a small typo on the payment to the County Treasurer, convictions is misspelled.

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

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business license applications received to date:

Stout Construction and Sumer's Services

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

Public Comment: None

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

MOTION PASSED.

General Comments from Council: None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold