



City of Libby
Libby Montana
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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING #1698
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer by Marcus Girod
- Roll Call
- Welcome/Announcements
- Approve minutes for Council Meeting # 1697 dated March 16, 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. Chamber of Commerce update – Montana Tourism Development Grant.
2. VFW – Flag Program request to have flags up Memorial Day thru Labor Day. (Gordie Hull)
3. Approve submittal of Readiness Information Form to MDT for street sweeper - CMAQ/MACI grant program.
4. Approve Lights, Street, Sidewalks Committee Recommendations.

5. Approve all claims received to date.
6. Approve all business license applications received to date.
 - a. Stout Construction, 887 Swede Mtn. Rd., Individual, Framing and finishing, residential fences and decks, construct/repair/install frameworks and structures to code .
 - b. Sumer's Services, 6553 Farm to Market Rd, Individual, Household chores, yard work, errands.

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: 4/2/26

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 #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



City of Libby – FY26 CMAQ/MACI Equipment Request

Project Summary for Council Packet

Equipment Request: 2018 Schwarze A7 Tornado Regenerative Air Sweeper

Department: Streets Department

Prepared By: Gary Beach, Deputy City Administrator

Date: March 27, 2026

1. Purpose of Request

The City of Libby is seeking approval to submit a Readiness Information Form to MDT for the FY26 CMAQ/MACI equipment offering. The request is for a **2018 Schwarze A7 Tornado Regenerative Air Sweeper** to replace the City's existing **1994 Elgin sweeper**, which is beyond its useful life and no longer capable of reliably removing fine particulates.

The Schwarze A7 Tornado is engineered for high-efficiency PM10 and PM2.5 capture, directly supporting Libby's air quality goals and the CMAQ/MACI program mission.

2. Background

Libby is a DEQ-identified **PM2.5 nonattainment area**, with winter inversion conditions that trap fine particulates close to the ground. Roadway dust is a documented contributor to particulate exceedances.

The City's current sweeper:

- Is more than 30 years old
- Lacks modern particulate control technology
- Experiences frequent mechanical failures
- Cannot reliably remove fine particulates from paved corridors

The requested regenerative air sweeper provides:

- Superior PM10 and PM2.5 removal efficiency
- Immediate reduction in roadway dust emissions

- Improved reliability and operational capacity
- Technology aligned with state and federal air quality objectives

3. Project Justification

A. Air Quality & Public Health

- Libby's nonattainment status makes particulate reduction a high priority.
- The community has elevated respiratory vulnerability due to historic asbestos contamination.
- Reducing roadway dust has a disproportionately large public health benefit in Libby.
- A regenerative air sweeper is one of the most effective tools available for PM reduction on paved surfaces.

B. Operational Need

- The current 1994 sweeper is at end-of-life and cannot meet operational demands.
- The new sweeper improves particulate capture, reliability, and efficiency.
- Enhanced sweeping capability supports winter cleanup, shoulder maintenance, and dust control.

C. Alignment with CMAQ/MACI Program

The Schwarze A7 Tornado directly supports MACI goals by:

- Reducing PM10 and PM2.5 emissions
- Improving air quality in a high-priority region
- Replacing obsolete equipment with proven particulate-control technology

4. Project Readiness

The City is fully prepared to proceed upon selection:

- Equipment identified and available
- Specifications reviewed and ready for MDT confirmation
- Capable of meeting MDT's **June 30, 2026** purchase order deadline

5. Financial Considerations

- Grant application requests a **13.42% local match**.
- Local Match \$14,053.79
- Grant Match \$ 90,683.21
- Total \$104,737.00
- Comparable new unit \$400,000
- CMAQ/MACI funding would cover the remaining cost.

6. MDT Scoring Alignment

Criterion	Assessment	Rationale
DEQ Priority Area	High	Libby is a PM2.5 nonattainment area.
Air Quality Benefit	High	Regenerative air sweepers provide major PM reduction and replace a 30-year-old unit.
Public Health Sensitivity	High	Community has elevated respiratory vulnerability; dust control is critical.
Project Readiness	High	Equipment identified; no barriers to procurement.
Local Match	High	Match secured and budgeted.
Feasibility	High	Vendor and staff ready; no schedule risk.

7. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council **approve submission of the FY26 CMAQ/MACI Readiness Information Form** for the purchase of the **2018 Schwarze A7 Tornado Regenerative Air Sweeper**.

This project represents a cost-effective, high-impact investment in particulate reduction, public health protection, and long-term operational reliability.

2018 SCHWARZE A7 TORNADO



[Hide Thumbnails](#)

Description

GOOD LIFE LEFT ON TIRES AND BROOMS EXCAVATION HOSE TWIN ENGINE

Specifications

Year	2018	Manufacturer	SCHWARZE
Hours	1,575	Model	A7 TORNADO
Serial Number	18A7000806	Condition	Used
Stock Number	480770	ROPS	Enclosed

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DATE: April 2, 2026

To: City Council

From: Gail Burger, Chair, Lights, Streets & Sidewalks Committee

Members Present: Gail Burger, Brian Zimmerman, Erica Schaefer

Subject: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lights, Streets & Sidewalks Committee met on March 18, 2026, and submits the following recommendations to the City Council:

1. Sidewalk Program – Annual Contractor Bidding

The committee discussed concerns about contractor pricing and accountability in the city's sidewalk program. To ensure competitive bids and protect property owners, the committee recommends the program be put out to bid annually.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the annual sidewalk program to be put out to bid on a yearly basis for contractor selection.

Vote: Unanimous

2. Speed Limit and Pedestrian Crossing Signage – Spruce Street

The committee reviewed pedestrian safety and traffic control needs along Spruce Street

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize installation of the following:

- a. Pedestrian crossing signs at the two designated pedestrian crossings;
- b. 20 mph speed limit signs between Highway 2 to the port gate; and
- c. No parking signs on the south side of Spruce Street, from approximately the public restrooms east to the end of the second court.

Vote: Unanimous