

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 #1700 on Monday, May 4th, 2026, in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Call To Order:

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

Present were Mayor Taylor, Councilors Brooke Bolin, Erica Schaefer, Brian Zimmerman, Administrator Sam Sikes, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Rey Ortiz, and (via Zoom) Councilor Gail Burger, Councilor Brian Crompton, and City Attorney Dean Chisolm.

Councilor Ethan Kolp was absent.

Announcements: Mayor Taylor announced that City Administrator Sam Sikes and Deputy City Administrator Gary Beach met with Senator Tim Sheehy on May 4 to review flood damage, including an inspection of the Bear Creek bridge on Farm to Market Road that was washed out.

Department Head Reports:

City Administrator Samuel Sikes: Reported the lower reservoir is holding up well, and city got an RFQ for GEO Tech engineer to go out at the end of April. Hopefully to get people to start applying today (May 4th, 2026) with a selection being made later this month if resumes get turned in. Once the Geotech engineer is selected the city will go out for an RFP for a temporary bridge to support the drilling rig collecting core samples from the northern wall. Preparing an RFQ for Dam certified engineer to design the repair/replacement of the northern wall of the lower reservoir. The city is still looking at a 2.6 to 2.8 million dollars to return the lower reservoir to the same functioning capacity.

President Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Declarations for the December 2025 flood (DR-4901) and for the December 2025 wind event (DR-4902). The city will be receiving reimbursement for the emergency protective measures and the repair/replacement of the northern wall at the lower reservoir, so long as FEMA approves the spending.

Libby, MT DES, FEMA, and ER Assist have had two meetings thus far concerning the reimbursements, and all is going well so far. Vanessa with ER Assist has been working with FEMA to make sure all requests and documentation are properly submitted for reimbursement. Vanessa with ER Assist will be handling meetings with FEMA due to reimbursement for the city. Turning in two forms that will authorize ER Assist to put grant portal information into FEMA for the city. All proper paperwork, besides a few last-minute invoices from the DNRC and final payrolls, has been submitted for the Cat B,

Emergency Protective Measures, to ER Assist who will request reimbursement with FEMA in a few weeks for a little over \$800,000 that has been spent already. FEMA is currently satisfied. The city has spent their 2 mills on emergencies, FEMA is doing reimbursement for the works, then State will be covering the remainder of what FEMA does not.

Water PER that started 5 years ago is finished. City received \$15,000 in reimbursement from RRGL and will be closing out the MCEP planning grant for an additional \$15,000 in the next couple of weeks. With the flood disaster projects and Congressional funding requests, the city will not be going out for additional MCEP or RRGL funding this year for the water system as the top 3 projects in the PER are already on the block. Requests are being made to engineers to get their deliverables that they prep up every grant request for the city and send it to the City Administrator to keep them on file for next year.

Sewer PER is 95% finished, City engineer still trying to locate rental flow meters for the sewer mains that do not require sewer personal to do confined space entry into the manholes to get more accurate sewer flow. This will help identify where future main replacements may have to go for future growth. City will not be going out for Grants this year for the sewer because they have dedicated their funding to cover the absence of \$434,000 from the CDBG grant for the 1st and Montana Lift Station. WWC Engineering will prep out all submissions and send them to City Administrator to save for next year.

Reminder industrial waste cannot be dumped into the sewer system. It has come to the city's attention that industrial waste is being dumped into the sewer system and in part is causing problems. City currently working on removing waste, been in contact with Department of Health and City Attorney. City will have to hire someone to remove industrial waste as City's equipment and tools were not strong enough. The city is working with city attorney to get problems ceased, so it does not happen in the future. Reminder to everyone that the sewer system is not to be used for industrial or commercial waste. If anyone has questions about what is, or isn't allowed to be flushed, please stop by City Hall.

Extension received from the NRDP will be going out for bids hopefully in the next 7 to 10 days. Work possibly starts in late July to turn the spoils piles into a parking lot.

Phase II of the Spruce Street reconstruction is completed with the exception of a lengthy list of discrepancies. The city is now working with the contractor on making corrections in the upcoming weeks.

Removing trees within the city right-of-way belongs to the city and cannot be cut down by homeowners. The city has a tree board that will investigate suspected danger trees as reported. Best thing to do is stop by City Hall and ask if tree(s) belongs to the city.

City has started reworking and updating the ARC GIS system, with the help of Deputy City Administrator Gary Beech, for the water and sewer system. As part of updating, a system will be used in the city cemetery for finding specific people or plots in the future.

The city has hired a new camp host, 2 new seasonals, and a new wastewater plant operator.

The budget is about 95% prepped for the mayor and will be getting with the budget committee to hold meetings and set schedules to make sure it is passed by council on time for the State.

Streets Supervisor: Supervisor Justin Williams reported for April. Jettied sewer mains, swept streets, patched potholes, cleaned screen at lower reservoir. Cemetery construction for blocks 19 and 20 started at the beginning of the month and lowered elevation by 3 feet built a berm with all the soil, shaped embankment and will get it hydroseeded, built the roads, hauled in topsoil, and will proceed to have sprinkler system put in. Estimated cost for irrigation system \$15,400 (44 heads for two new cemetery quadrants) and \$7,866.75 for hydroseeding (46,275 sq. ft at \$0.17/sp. Ft) for a total estimate at \$23,266.75. Cemetery had one cremains and four full burials. Inspected sewer line with camera to check the health of the system. Assisted Wastewater Treatment Plant and help get it to where it needs to be. Removed a tree at the upper dam spillway, pruned trees and cleaned up debris. Sidewalk replacements, one on Dakota and two on Louisiana. Held four safety meetings: ladder safety & inspection, pedestrians, heat stress, and confined space. Old Moore Oil Field Station on 1st and Montana disconnected from water and sewer, due to business shutting down and complete building removal and site remediation. One water dig done. Three holes were made for the tree planting; two trees placed in cemetery and one in Fireman's Park where the Arbor Day ceremony was held. Placed New Wastewater Treatment Plant sign with contact information and wet well cleanout at plant. Flowerpots dropped off at Granite Peaks for hanging baskets on Mineral. Mowers are ready for seasonals, one seasonal worker returning, one new seasonal starting June 1.

Streets Crew 2026 paving and painting projects; Painting program will include crosswalks, stop bars, curb markings, parking layout, and school loading areas. The paving program will include utility cut restoration, localized pavement repairs, drainage corrections, and overlays. Painting program focus is to improve visibility, traffic control, school safety, and parking layout. Paving program focuses on restoring utility cuts and previously disturbed pavement. Projects depend on weather conditions, project schedules may be impacted by unforeseen issues that arise throughout season, unplanned maintenance needs may require immediate response and affect priorities, ongoing projects and overlapping work may also influence timing, sequencing, and crew availability.

Police: Sergeant Luthey reported for April 2026, 4 officers handled 275 cases, an increase of 59 cases from April 2025 with 216 and an increase of 25 cases from March 2026 with 250 cases. During April the police department handled 3 assaults, 7 disturbances, 3 disorderly conducts, 2 domestic disturbances, 14 domestic violence, 13 thefts, 5 mentally ill and/or suicidal subjects, 17 public assists, conducted 5 well-fair checks, 1 BLS Red 911, 9 juvenile problems, 6 walk-throughs, 14 city ordinance violations pertaining to illegally parked vehicles or disabled vehicles in roadway(s), 25 suspicious person vehicle checks, 8 collisions, 1 agency assist, 56 traffic stops, issued 12 citations for hazardous moving violations, conducted 11 arrest, code encroachment on 7 different properties.

Replaced tires on unit 2903 as it had 88,000 miles on tires and replaced right rear caliper on unit 2904.

Committee Reports:

Fire: Councilor Zimmerman reported that the Fire Department responded to 14 calls in the month of April 2026. 4 calls in the city, 4 calls in the Rural Fire District, and 6 calls outside of City or RFD. Types of calls included: 1 vehicle, 3 grassland/wildland, 1 mutual aid Libby Ambulance, 4 false alarms, 4 powerlines, 1 fuel spill/HAZMAT. Putting them at 48 total calls in the year 2026.

Lights/Streets/Sidewalks: Councilor Burger announced a meeting will be held on Friday May 15th, 2026, at 6:05pm, to continue conversation on additional parking.

Shade Tree: Mayor Taylor reported for the Shade Tree board as they were absent due to training this week. Arbor Day was a good turn out, a tree was planted at Fireman's park, and up to 75 trees were given out.

City-County Board of Health: Kristen Smith, appointed liaison to City Council and Health, reported an emergency meetings held in March, the CARD Clinic received news that the Department of Health and Human Services is disclaiming all their federal interest in CARD's assets, related to the settlement of judgement won by BNSF. Board of Health sent a letter to the Director of ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry) urging them to maintain the federal trust status of CARD assets. No official letter to CARD currently.

Most recent meeting April 20th, 2026: new appointee being sought from the Town of Eureka as previous member voluntarily left board. Two liaisons appointed to the Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee, currently only have one as no other board members have volunteered at this time; LASCO is reviewing a 5-year plan. Discussion of sending a letter to delegates about importance of vaccines and misinformation being spread. The Board will revisit the letter after an update on the work happening with state professionals. Beth Archer and Diana Zinner from EPA attended to talk about OU3, vermiculite mine sight, and the anticipated proposed clean-up plan by WR Grace. Brandon Holzer, with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, issued a plea for more regulation of Kratom. Kratom's side effects are every bit as deleterious as fentanyl. Kratom is not controlled; it is considered an herbal supplement and can be purchased at convenience stores by minors. The LCSO and public health nurse have seen an increase in instances of "overdosing" and discovered that Narcan worked to reverse it. The Board agreed to work on putting together a task force and learn from Yellowstone County. Tammy Brown is the new animal shelter manager, and the county received funding from CDBG for a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for a planned new shelter. Lead sanitarian for the county was presented with the William G Walter Outstanding Sanitarian Award at the state conference. New Behavioral Coalition Coordinator is fully integrated into the department and is working with other specialists across the state to participate in a crisis data

dashboard and working with agency partners to facilitate the best path for individuals in crisis. The Board decided to increase frequency of meetings from quarterly to every other month, next meeting will be held on June 9th, 2026.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

Justin Williams expressed his gratitude to Steve Lauer, fire chief, and Libby Volunteer Fire Department for their hard work and quick response time. During the last windstorm a powerline was knocked down and caught some of Mr. Williams' property on fire and as he arrived home, the LVFD was already present and had the fire controlled.

New Business:

Approve Igniters Car Club request for annual Street Closure & Noise Variance Request, August 14 and 15, 2026.

Mayor Taylor had council refer to letter from Igniters Car Club.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Igniters Car Club request for annual Street Closure & Noise Variance Request, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

Councilors Bolin, Schaefer, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilors Burger and Crompton, attending via Zoom, were unable to verbally respond due to technical difficulties.

MOTION PASSED.

Fire Engine Storage/display at Fireman's Park – Introduction:

Steve Lauer – Fire Chief for City of Libby and Lincoln County Rural Fire District, looking for approval or assistance reviewing a location to put a modest display building for two historic fire engines (1954 MACK and 1932 Chevy, a funeral truck for past firefighters) which is currently being housed in the main hall. The Fire department has taken over the extrication truck from Libby Volunteer Ambulance, and space is needed in the main hall for emergency response. The current concept for the building would be 30'x40', have two display bays that give protection from weather, be visible to the public, have warm interior lighting, a simple exterior that fits available funds, and be done by volunteer maintenance. The current proposed location is Fireman's Park. In terms of funding for project concrete is committed, labor will be done by firefighters themselves, and estimates believed to be \$25,000 with \$10,000 currently available through the department for this effort.

Mayor Taylor informed Mr. Lauer that he will meet with the Building Committee and Parks Committee about proposed Display.

Approve all claims received to date:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date, Councilor Bolin **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

Councilors Bolin, Schaefer, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilors Burger and Crompton, attending via Zoom, were unable to verbally respond due to technical difficulties.

MOTION PASSED.

Approve all business licenses received to date:

HARMONN.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve business license application, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Administrator Sikes wanted to let council members not present know, The Hidden Chapel is located within the Residential Business District and must be signed off first by Board of Adjustments prior to coming before the council.

Public Comment: None.

Councilors Bolin, Schaefer, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilors Burger and Crompton, attending via Zoom, were unable to verbally respond due to technical difficulties.

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business: None.

General Comments from Council:

Councilor Schaefer, referring to the police reports, inquired why department assist was lower than previous month.

Segregant Luthey explained it has to do with manpower, at this time, Sheriff's office is averaging 2-3 deputies per shift, while the police department is averaging 1 officer.

Mayor Taylor announced Donald Wayne Engle, a World War II pilot veteran, turned 104 years old on Saturday. A large birthday party was held for him at the Care Center. Mayor Taylor proclaimed May 2, 2026, as Donald Wayne Engle Day, and the Governor proclaimed the month of May 2026 in his honor. Engle also received an award from Senator Daines and an award from Mr. Zinke.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn, Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Councilors Bolin, Schaefer, and Zimmerman voted **FOR**. Councilors Burger and Crompton, attending via Zoom, were unable to verbally respond due to technical difficulties.

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Rey Ortiz