

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 #1702 on Monday, June 1, 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, Gail Burger, Brian Crompton, Ethan Kolp, Erica Schaefer, Brian Zimmerman, Deputy Administrator Gary Beach, Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold, and (via Zoom) City Attorney Dean Chisolm.

Approve Minutes for Regular Council Meeting #1701 dated May 18, 2026:

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve City Council meeting minutes #1702, Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Department Head Reports:

City Administrator: Deputy City Administrator Gary Beach reported on the lower reservoir. Two applications were received for the geotechnical portion of the northern retaining wall project; only one was submitted in time to meet the deadline. Tetra Tech was selected to complete the geotechnical survey. The drilling subcontractor will mobilize from North Dakota on June 16 and is expected to begin drilling on June 18. On June 10, the city will open bids for a temporary bridge needed to allow drill equipment across the creek to reach the embankment wall. Both the bridge contract and the geotechnical contract will be presented to council for approval at the June 15 meeting. Mr. Beach and Justin Williams will be on site the following day with interested bridge contractors to review the scope. City is also awaiting responses to the RFQ for dam-certified engineers to design the repair and replacement of the northern wall.

The city is continuing to work with Montana DES, FEMA, and ER Assist on reimbursement documentation for Category B emergency protective measures. ER Assist has been handling most reimbursement meetings and Vanessa with ER Assist has done an excellent job ensuring documentation is submitted properly. The city is still waiting on a few last-minute invoices from DNRC and final payroll documentation before requesting initial reimbursement.

The wastewater preliminary engineering report is complete and the city is waiting only on pre-formatted grant request documents to close up the grants and projects.

The city recently experienced an occurrence of possible industrial waste being introduced into the wastewater system. An unusual gritty, consistent-size manufactured material was discovered on the bar screen at the plant. Staff narrowed the source to one side of the sewer system and to a specific block through manhole inspections and jetting. The contaminants entered one of the influent vaults, requiring two shutdowns and pumping of the vault. JMF Services was hired to assist with cleanup. City crews also inspected and cleaned several accessible locations throughout the plant. The county health department has been contacted for assistance in addressing the issue. A repair was also completed on a seeping main in the clarifier vault, allowing the west clarifier to be brought back online. The east clarifier will be shut down, drained, cleaned, and have two non-functioning isolation valves replaced once the west clarifier is fully operational.

The city received an NRDP extension and will be going out to bid to convert the spoils pile at the upper reservoir into a parking lot as previously approved. Bid documents will state that if bids exceed remaining NRDP grant funds the project will not be awarded unless additional funding is secured. Phase two of the Spruce Street reconstruction is complete with the exception of a punch list of discrepancies being addressed with the contractor. Cedar Street punch list items are also being addressed.

Councilor Crompton inquired for clarification on the timeline, confirming that the bridge bids would be opened June 10 and presented to council June 15, with the drill rig arriving June 18. Mr. Beach confirmed and noted the timeline is very tight but manageable given the contractor coordination already underway.

Councilor Kolp inquired in more detail on the industrial waste incident. Mr. Beach explained the material appeared metal-based rather than silica-based, making it a concern for pumps, valves, and seals. It does not appear to be affecting the biological processes at the plant at this time. The city has narrowed the source to a specific block and is working with the county to identify the responsible party and prevent future occurrences. Mr. Beach noted that with the landfill beginning to charge for commercial waste disposal, the city anticipates more incidents of improper discharge in the future and is working to get ahead of that.

Councilor Burger inquired whether the material is toxic or poses a risk to the water supply. Mr. Beach confirmed it appears to be inert, and the main concern is maintenance impact on plant equipment rather than environmental or health risk.

Streets Supervisor: Justin Williams reported for the month of May: jetting, sweeping, pothole patching, alley work, and grading ongoing; five cemetery digs, all full remains; wastewater treatment plant vault work and pipe replacement in coordination with Gary Beach; one sidewalk replacement; five water line replacements; two sewer line replacements; four safety meetings covering fire prevention, open holes, and motorcycle awareness; two no-shooting signs posted on city property at the upper reservoir spoils pile due to proximity to the biathlon and cross-country ski course; erosion control completed on the upper Flower Creek Reservoir access road; two dump truck loads of trees removed from behind the upper Flower Creek Reservoir dam.

Flower baskets are up on Mineral Avenue. All existing city property irrigation systems are on with repairs completed to main lines, sprinkler heads, control valves, solenoids, and nodes. Bathrooms opened at Riverfront Park, Fireman's Park Campground, and Fireman's Park. Riverfront Park splash pad is up and running.

A base and post for a new speed sign were placed on Balsam Street heading westbound between Dakota and Utah at the request of Chief Ercanbrack, making three speed signs now in operation city-wide. Cemetery irrigation work is underway; a tap will be done tomorrow on the main running through the cemetery, the irrigation contract begins next week, followed by hydro seeding, and then the new cemetery blocks will be opened for plot sales.

Water meter updates are ongoing. Meters have a defined life expectancy, and the department is working through the asset replacement list continuously. The street department has transitioned to a bulk oil system which is expected to save approximately \$5 to \$8 per gallon depending on viscosity. A final walk-through and acceptance were completed on the Libby Creek Community Development project, a trailer court on Highway 2 south of town that was connected to city water and sewer after years of cross-contamination issues on well and septic.

Police: Chief Ercanbrack reported for the month of May: 270 calls for service compared to 180 the prior year. Cases included 4 assaults, 19 disturbances, 8 threatening calls, 4 thefts, 6 mental health calls, 35 public assists, 8 juvenile problems, 10 walkthroughs, 17 city ordinance contacts, 26 suspicious vehicle/person contacts, 6 crashes, 6 DUIs, and 71 traffic stops. Chief Ercanbrack noted May is typically a lighter month before summer activity picks up.

Chief Ercanbrack reported that Libby has been ranked the number one safest city in Montana, the department has advertised for the last remaining open officer position and has received a very large number of interested applicants.

Chief Ercanbrack explained the speed sign on Education Way records approximately 5,000 vehicles per week southbound, totaling approximately 180,000 vehicles over a standard 36-week school year. The sign on Louisiana records approximately 14,000 to 15,000 vehicles per week northbound, totaling approximately 780,000 vehicles annually. Both signs have produced a noticeable and measurable reduction in speed in their respective areas.

Clerk/Treasurer: Clerk/Treasurer Monigold reported on workers' compensation. The city's current coverage ends at the end of next month. Quotes have been requested from two providers; one quote has been received from Montana State Fund, which covers most cities in the state. Final numbers are pending an adjustment submitted last week and more information will be available at the next meeting. The estimated annual premium is approximately \$48,000, which is close to the current rate.

Clerk/Treasurer Monigold provided a budget committee update. The committee met on May 18 and Administrator Sikes walked members through the full revenue and expenditure budget, with particular attention to newer committee members. Key items discussed included: gas tax revenue pending final numbers; property tax revenue not available until beginning of August; salary matrix reflecting a negotiated 1.5% raise and 1% step increase effective July 1; a salary resolution will be

brought to council at the next meeting; council and mayor wages redistributed one third each to the general fund, water, and sewer, freeing up money in the general fund; cemetery perpetual care fund to be created this budget cycle per city ordinance, with 15% of all plot sales deposited going forward; and the camp host stipend increased from \$200 to \$500 per month. Budget timeline: committee meeting anticipated July 19, preliminary budget to council August 3, public hearing August 17, budget must be passed by September 8.

Councilor Burger noted the committee also selected a chair. Mayor Taylor confirmed Councilor Bolin volunteered and will be formally voted on at the next committee meeting.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery/Parks: Councilor Kolp reported a meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8 at 12:30 pm to discuss the fire department's proposal to place a building at Fireman's Park to house the 1932 and 1956 Mack fire trucks. Chief Lauer has been contacted and confirmed.

Shade Tree: Councilor Kolp reported one citizen reached out with a concern about a tree on city property and the committee is working to get it addressed. Councilor Zimmerman noted two trees planted on Main Street behind the Moody Laundromat were raked up by a buck last year; one is growing well and one is struggling. Asking if there is any protective wrap available. Councilor Kolp confirmed the Shade Tree Board has animal barriers and uses two different types on each tree; he will look into getting protection on those two trees.

Wildlife Management: Councilor Bolin reported the Wildlife Committee is working with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks on moving forward with turkey population management in town. A committee meeting is expected next week pending confirmation from FWP biologist Brian Sharp, who is meeting with his team the following day.

Public Comment Non-Agenda: None

New Business:

Approve appointment on Police Commission.:

Mayor Taylor explained a vacancy on the Police Commission with an upcoming term expiration. The only letter of intent received was from Brad Nelson, who is currently serving on the commission. Mayor Taylor distributed Mr. Nelson's letter of intent to council.

Councilor Zimmerman MADE A MOTION to accept Brad Nelson's letter of intent for the Police Commission. Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2069 - MCEP Commitment of Funds:

Mayor Taylor read Resolution #2069 into the record. The resolution states that the City of Libby applied for and received an MCEP grant of \$500,000 and an RRGL grant of \$125,000 for improvements to the wastewater system. The city has legal jurisdiction and authority to construct, finance, operate, and maintain the wastewater system and agrees to comply with all applicable state laws, regulations, and requirements. The city firmly commits to providing

local funds of at least \$375,000 from the wastewater fund for the system improvements. Mayor Hugh Taylor is authorized to commit funds and act on behalf of the city as required. The resolution is effective June 1, 2026.

Councilor Zimmerman **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution #2069, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve All Claims Received to Date:

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

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business: None.

General Comments from Council:

Councilor Burger requested that security cameras for City Hall be placed on the next council agenda. Mayor Taylor confirmed and noted the existing exterior cameras are also not functioning. Councilor Burger noted the item needs to come back to council for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold