

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 #1703 on Monday, June 15, 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 Gail Burger, Brian Crompton, Ethan Kolp, and Erica Schaefer, Deputy City Administrator Gary Beach, and Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold and (via Zoom) Councilor Brooke Bolin and City Attorney Dean Chisholm. Councilor Zimmerman was not in attendance.

Department Head Reports:

City Administrator: Deputy City Administrator Gary Beach reported, work has continued on several priority infrastructure, operations, compliance, and administrative items. Packets for the streets committee on downtown parking and for the fire department's storage structure request have been completed. Coordination continues for emergency water infrastructure needs and lower reservoir project. Two bids were opened last week, a temporary bridge for the Geotech drill rig and the asphalt overlay for Cabinet Heights Road, both on the agenda. The Cabinet Heights Road asphalt overlay is scheduled to begin Thursday. The city has been working to notify affected residents and the golf course, as the road runs through their property. A City Hall sewer issue is also being worked through.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery/Parks: Councilor Kolp reported the committee met to discuss the Fire Department's request to build a storage structure at Fireman's Park to house the 1932 and 1956 Mack fire trucks. The request passed committee and will be brought before council at the next meeting.

Lights, Streets & Sidewalks: Councilor Burger reported the committee met and discussed additional downtown parking. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for July 7 or 8 at noon to continue work on moving the parking idea to Main Avenue.

Ordinance: Councilor Burger reported the committee met, selected a chair, and received an overview of the committee's role from Kristin Smith. The committee will meet as needed as ordinance items arise and City Attorney Chisholm will prepare binders for reference.

Wildlife Management: Councilor Bolin reported no update at this time. A new meeting will be scheduled and an update will follow.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Taylor noted a meeting is coming up on June 22. Councilor Burger explained she will be out of town and unable to attend.

Shade Tree Board: Councilor Kolp reported a board member has resigned after accepting a job out of town. The board is looking for volunteers to serve; the only requirement is county residency, with tree experience preferred but not required. The board will go on hiatus until September as major pruning is not advisable while trees are in leaf. Citizens who would like a tree assessed are still welcome to contact Councilor Kolp, who will arrange a visit. City-owned tree work will resume in the fall.

Public Comment Non-Agenda:

Rocky Gifford raised a concern about a complaint he submitted to the Mayor several weeks prior and indicated he had not received a response. Councilor Burger raised a Point of Order. Mayor Taylor redirected Mr. Gifford, noting that personal remarks directed at council members are not permitted during public comment.

New Business:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Update:

Sam Martinez, Libby Area Wildlife Biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, provided an update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management in the Libby area. CWD was first detected near Libby in May 2019 and FWP has been managing it aggressively ever since through lethal removal of deer using clover traps set up in coordination with the city, Port Authority, and private landowners. Since 2019 over 400 deer have been donated to local food banks after testing negative. Current CWD prevalence in the Libby surveillance area is approximately 0.06%, very low compared to other affected areas in the state, which FWP attributes to early detection and consistent management. FWP has also begun placing GPS collars on adult female deer to study seasonal movement patterns and develop a population estimate, with eight collars placed this past winter. A council member asked whether CWD has crossed to other species such as cattle, dogs, or cats; Mr. Martinez confirmed it has not.

Approve Riverfront Blues Festival noise variance request for August 7th and 8th:

Alita Snow, representing the Riverfront Blues Festival board, requested a noise ordinance variance for August 7 and 8 until 1:00 am on both nights.

Councilor Burger MADE A MOTION to approve the noise variance for the Riverfront Blues Festival on August 7 and 8, Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Fireman's Park Use Request - GTS Riding Club Suicide Awareness Event, August 29, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm:

Denise Leach, 111 20 Main Avenue, presented a request on behalf of the GTS Riding Club for use of Fireman's Park on August 29 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for a family-friendly suicide awareness event with vendors. Ms. Leach noted the event may not take place this year as she is still working through insurance and permitting requirements but wanted to get council approval in case it does come together, with the intent to hold it next year if not this year.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve the use of Fireman's Park on August 29 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the GTS Riding Club Suicide Awareness Event, Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Resolution #2068 - Setting Salaries and Wages of Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, and City Employees:

Mayor Taylor presented Resolution #2068 for approval. Clerk/Treasurer Monigold noted the increases reflected in the resolution are consistent with the negotiated collective bargaining agreement, including a 1.5% annual increase and 1% step. The City Attorney's fee increased slightly per the consumer price index. All other amounts remain the same.

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve Resolution 2068, Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve State Fund Quote for Workers' Compensation Insurance:

Clerk/Treasurer Monigold explained MMIA is ending their workers' compensation program and the city solicited quotes from other providers. The only quote received was from Montana State Fund, which appears to be where most cities in the state have chosen. The premium is close to what the city was previously paying. A notable benefit of the new policy is a volunteer coverage rider that allows the city to cover any number of volunteers for a small additional fee without maintaining a roster of names.

Councilor Burger inquired whether volunteer coverage would extend to volunteers working on city projects such as the public garden or tree planting events. Clerk/Treasurer Monigold confirmed it covers any volunteer working on behalf of the city.

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve the State Fund quote for workers' compensation. Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Tetra Tech Contract for Disaster Recovery Soils Analysis:

Mayor Taylor presented the Tetra Tech contract. The contract covers core drilling at the lower reservoir to conduct geotechnical soils analysis of the northern retaining wall embankment. The drill rig is scheduled to be on site Wednesday.

Councilor Burger **MADE A MOTION** to approve the Tetra Tech contract for disaster recovery soils analysis. Councilor Crompton **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Bid for 1-Inch Asphalt Overlay on Cabinet Heights Road for Disaster Recovery:

Deputy City Administrator Beach explained two bids were received for the Cabinet Heights Road asphalt overlay. Thompson Contracting was awarded the asphalt contract and Mobile Excavating was awarded the temporary bridge contract. Work is scheduled to begin Thursday morning at 8:00 am and is expected to be completed Thursday, possibly stretching into Friday. Coordination with the golf course has been completed as the road runs through their property and they have an event on Friday.

Councilor Schaefer MADE A MOTION to approve the bid for one inch asphalt overlay on Cabinet Heights Road for disaster recovery. Councilor Burger **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve Temporary Bridge Bid for Disaster Recovery Geotech Analysis:

Mayor Taylor explained the temporary bridge is needed to allow the drill rig to cross Flower Creek and access the top of the lower reservoir embankment wall for core sampling. The bridge will be removed when drilling is complete.

A member of the public asked which crossing was being discussed. Mayor Taylor clarified it is the crossing from the Flower Creek access road up to the top of the lower reservoir.

Councilor Crompton **MADE A MOTION** to approve the temporary bridge bid for disaster recovery Geotech analysis. Councilor Kolp **SECONDED**.

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Discuss City Hall Security Cameras:

Mayor Taylor noted the city has had deficiencies in both exterior and interior security coverage at City Hall for some time and that obtaining bids for a new system is the desired direction.

Councilor Schaefer asked whether the discussion also includes the park. Deputy City Administrator Beach confirmed Fireman's Park already has a security system installed at the restrooms and exterior areas covering the playground and parking lot. The system records video only, no audio, allowing recordings to be retained on a rotating hard drive basis with no monthly fees. The system is self-contained and has been performing well. The plan is to evaluate that system and, if it continues to perform well, incorporate a similar system at City Hall.

Mayor Taylor stated he would like to move forward getting bids for City Hall cameras and would coordinate with Administrator Sikes and Deputy City Administrator Beach.

Review Application for Community Development Position:

Mayor Taylor explained one viable applicant was received for the part-time community development position. A second applicant through Eastern Washington University did not move forward. The position is focused on grant writing, community engagement, and leveraging the city's Community Development Fund

of approximately \$1.5 million, which can only be used for specified purposes, through grant matching to multiply its impact.

Jaden Ulin, Libby, presented to council as the sole applicant. He noted experience with grant writing for the Libby Area Business Association, Historic Hotel Libby, and various media production grants, as well as community outreach through his local media business Mountain Edge Media. He acknowledged his experience is primarily in grant applications rather than grant reporting and administration and offered to provide examples of past grant applications.

Councilor Bolin asked about his experience with grant reporting and working with distribution of grant funds and requested clarification on the scale and type of grants he has written.

Councilor Kolp noted the position was settled on as part-time and contract.

Mayor Taylor explained this is a review only - no decision will be made tonight. The item will be brought back at the first July meeting with Councilor Zimmerman and Councilor Bolin present. Mr. Ulin was asked to provide specific examples of his grant writing experience prior to that meeting.

Approve All Claims Received to Date:

Councilor Kolp **MADE A MOTION** to approve all claims received to date. Councilor Schaefer **SECONDED**.
Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Approve All Business License Applications Received to Date:

Getting' Bizzy and Lola's Asian Cuisine

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

Public Comment: None.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Unfinished Business: None.

General Comments from Council:

Councilor Burger noted the sidewalk in front of the Brewery on Mineral Avenue is not ADA compliant and asked that the item be referred back to the Lights, Streets & Sidewalks Committee. She also noted congestion on Louisiana Avenue in front of McDonald's and asked that item be referred to the streets committee as well.

Councilor Crompton raised the idea of a community rolling marquee sign to highlight local events, noting multiple residents are unaware of events happening in town due to inconsistent social media reach. He suggested it may be appropriate for committee discussion. Councilor Kolp said the school, Chamber of Commerce, AFW, and county courthouse all have marquee signs. Mayor Taylor explained the county sign is typically used for county-related notices.

Councilor Kolp noted he attended the Screaming Brain Music Festival in Troy the prior weekend, now in its third year, and encouraged community members to check it out.

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 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Hugh Taylor

Attest: _____
Clerk/Treasurer Leann Monigold