



Livingston City Commission Minutes

March 17, 2026

5:30 PM

City – County Complex, Community Room

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309850243?pwd=gBrjV5QpggvPdokuj1Koe724MBbmm4.1>

Meeting ID: 863 0985 0243

Passcode: 711432

1. Call to Order

- 5:32 pm Chair Nootz called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

- Chair Nootz
- Vice Chair Willich
- Commissioner Daniels
- Commissioner Wilcox
- Commissioner O'Neill

City Staff Present

- City Manager Grant Gager
- Chief of Police Wayne Hard
- Policy Analyst Greg Anthony

3. Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Chair Nootz asked the room to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

4. Public Comment

Individuals are reminded that public comments should be limited to item over which the City Commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power (MCA 2-3-202)

Public comment was offered by:

- Steve Koontz presented a letter regarding a Design-Build option for a new railroad crossing.

5. Consent Items

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2026, REGULAR MEETING [PG.4](#)**
- B. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PAID 2/26/26 - 3/11/26 [PG.118](#)**
- C. JUDGES MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026 [PG.129](#)**
- D. AGREEMENT 20248 WITH BNSF RAILWAY [PG.131](#)**

Chair Nootz pulled A.

Vice Chair Willich motioned to approve Consent Items B-D, seconded by Commissioner O'Neill. Unanimously approved.

Chair Nootz gave 3 updates to the minutes.

Chair Nootz motioned to approve the minutes with the 3 amendments, seconded by Commissioner Daniels. Unanimously approved.

6. Proclamations

- A. A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, DECLARING MARCH 2026 AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA [PG.138](#)**

Chair Nootz read the proclamation.

The City Manager thanked the Chair for taking the time to read the proclamation and recognize the women that work for the City and recognized all the women in the room.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed thanks to the Chair for reading the proclamation and recognized the women in the room.

Commissioner Daniels expressed agreement with Commissioner Wilcox and recognized all the women who come to the meetings to voice their concerns for the community.

Vice Chair Willich expressed appreciation for the women who work for the City and also to his mom, wife, and daughter.

Chair Nootz stated she thought about why we need a Women's History Month, and stated it is because of a lot of history that was excluded, and she is glad the proclamation is still going at a national level as well. She recognized that the City has 4 department directors that are women and acknowledged Finance Director Fetterhoff, Human Resources Director Rubin, Recreation Director Tarr, and Planning Director Severson. She also let everyone know that one of the Girl Scouts followed up with her and wants to do her gold award project with the City.

7. Scheduled Public Comment

8. Action Items

A. UPDATE FROM LIVINGSTON-PARK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY [PG.140](#)

Chair Nootz excused herself for this item as her husband works for the Livingston – Park County Public Library.

Mary Duvernay, a member of the board of the Livingston – Park County Public Library, gave a brief update.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed appreciation to Mary for all that she does.

Commissioner Wilcox reminded everyone that she is the City Commission representative on the Library Board, and thanked Mary for the update, and stated she has learned a lot about the library already. She shared that they have a non-profit group, Friends of the Library, that raises fund for the library.

Commissioner Daniels expressed appreciation for the update, and gave a shout out to Mary for being an amazing teacher at Park High.

Vice Chair Willich stated he was on the Library Board previously and the information that comes from the Montana State Library Association is fascinating, and their scope and knowledge base are incredible.

Chair Nootz re-entered the meeting.

B. UPDATE FROM PARK COUNTY BRIDGE TEAM (MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM) [PG.142](#)

The City Manager introduced Kelly Miller from MCRT.

Kelly gave a brief presentation.

The City Manager reminded everyone that the Bridge Team is funded by the City, County, and state and LHC. He stated that we are in the 2nd year of a 3-year grant with the state. He highlighted Kelly's work in the community and expressed thanks to Kelly, Chris, and the rest of the team for all their hard work.

Commissioner Daniels asked if the team is responding to juveniles as well in the community.

Kelly stated yes, and that they have specific training for taking care of juveniles.

Vice Chair Willich expressed thanks, and noted that it has been a wild ride since 2024 when this was talked about across departments and agencies. He recalled that they knew they had an issue in the community, but were not sure what the path looked like and through the efforts of the City Manager, law enforcement, health care partners, and EMS, the MCRT program was brought to life and he expressed that it is what he wanted to see for the community.

Chair Nootz recognized how great Kelly is and how thankful she is to have her work here. She asked if there is something they do or a program to help with gun safety.

Kelly stated the thing they do right now, if a person has a firearm and suicidal ideation, is make a safety plan around people they can call, and she shared that gun locks don't prevent everything,

but they slow people down. They carry those all the time and share those with folks who might need them. She stated it's not a matter of removing the firearms, it's educating about gun safety, and locking them up.

Chair Nootz asked for an explanation of the difference between 211 and 988.

Kelly stated the numbers were created separately and with 2 different intentions, and 988 serves as the suicide hotline, but also used as a crisis line and that comes from a national level. 211 is the local number for Montana and specific to the call center in Bozeman that services 8 counties.

Chair Nootz asked about connect referral.

Kelly stated it is a program that came out about 4 years ago, with the idea that someone goes in seeking service, and the provider could send referrals to the different organizations on behalf of their patient. She stated with that process HIPAA was a huge thing, so the function changed a bit to a simple process with less information but still generates a call back to the person needing it.

Chair Nootz asked about CIT training.

Kelly stated it is Crisis Intervention Training, and that is a national certification that was originally created for law enforcement, but was recognized that crisis teams needed this training as well. She stated that through her grant, she was able to access the training. She shared that crisis training has been pretty inaccessible to Park County for a long time, but now that she has the training, she is coordinating to have a CIT training here in Park County. She stated it is a 5-day intensive training where you learn a lot about de-escalation and crisis intervention.

Chair Nootz recalled when folks would call dispatch, they could get a CIT officer to respond and wondered if that was before the Bridge Team existed, and she asked if all law enforcement would have this training.

The City Manager stated yes, that was before the Bridge Team. He stated that the CIT training is about a 40-hour training and is a little tough achieve at 100% for the whole department, but stated they do have some officers certified.

Kelly stated that having the training here will be great for all agencies.

Chair Nootz expressed that she likes the cohesiveness of this program.

Commissioner O'Neill thanked the team for their work.

Commissioner Wilcox recalled funding opportunities from the state for this program and really highlighted how, if our community really wants something and needs something like this program, they will really stick it out and get it. She expressed excitement that connect referral is coming back, and that CIT training is coming to Livingston. She asked about follow up care.

Kelly stated that the help center will check in with folks every couple of days after a crisis. She stated that the help center will stabilize a person for the night, then send a message to Jeanette, from the Bridge Team, who will follow up with that person the next day.

Commissioner Wilcox stated the Rural Health Transformation program has specific funding for crisis response.

Kelly stated that is exactly what she is going to a conference for next month. She is aware there is more funding coming down for things like this.

Chair Nootz let everyone know they can email her or the City Manager if they have questions about the Bridge Team or MCRT. CityManager@LivingstonMT.gov or MNootz@LivingstonMT.gov.

Chair Nootz motioned for a 10-minute break, seconded by Commissioner Daniels. Unanimously approved.

C. (CONTINUED) DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS PG.144

The City Manager stated this item is a continued discussion regarding City External Communications. He stated that at the last meeting, the Commission held a conversation both on how the City communicates externally and the concept of Town Halls. He stated there appeared to be general agreement on preference of holding Town Halls throughout the City, on Tuesdays, and including an informational presentation and including a section for community feedback. He stated that since the last meeting, DEQ reached out and has interest in presenting in Livingston in April about the BNSF property by the Wellness Center. He inquired with them about presenting on April 14th, and let the Commission know it is a potential topic for a Town Hall meeting.

Vice Chair Willich expressed concern about this specific Town Hall meeting and stated they would be learning about something at the same time as the community, and he wasn't sure if it was a good fit. He expressed that he is willing to have the Town Hall, but not sure they want those Town Halls to be about them learning things at the same time as the community.

Chair Nootz stated she likes the idea of the Superfund topic for the Town Hall. She stated it is not really something everyone knows about even though there was a lot of data collected around the Wellness Center location. She feels this DEQ Town Hall would be helpful.

Commissioner O'Neill stated it would be a good topic for a Town Hall and he would like to know where they are at with the cleanup. He wondered if they would want the first Town Hall to be something a little easier, though.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed that the DEQ Town Hall would be good, but wondered if they have really decided how the Town Halls will work. She would rather discuss how the Town Halls will function first, then decide on a topic. She wondered about a moderator, and thinks they need a clear agenda. She wants to make sure they are advertised publicly and are very inclusive. She really wants these to be focused on what is on the agenda for the Town Hall.

Commissioner Daniels stated that when she thinks of Town Hall meetings, she thinks of them as intimate, casual, connected, and being on the same level with each other. She feels the DEQ topic is heavy for a first meeting.

Vice Chair Willich feels they should really stay within the agenda for the Town Hall meetings. He thinks they can just jump in with the DEQ topic at the first meeting. He wondered if it would be better to give the community a presentation on this topic prior to the Town Hall, and that it gives the community time to process before entering at Town Hall.

Chair Nootz stated the Commission has a budget for Town Halls, and she has heard good things about MaryAnne and Trent from MSU Extension for moderators. She likes the idea of a packet going out in advance. She likes the idea thinking about inclusivity and accessibility, and feels it's

really important to have ground rules. She liked the way the flow of the business owners' breakfast was, with prompts to move around the room and different containers for topics.

Commissioner O'Neill stated he thinks that figuring out what goes into a Town Hall meeting is important before figuring out a topic.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she liked the business breakfast and how that worked, and does like the idea of using MaryAnne and Trent. She also like the idea of an agenda and packet for the Town Halls. She would like to see a start and stop time, so it doesn't go on well into the evening. She also threw out the idea of live polling during the Town Halls.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that it would be important that the Commission doesn't sit behind a table, and she likes the idea of using MaryAnne and Trent, and also having an agenda ahead of time.

Chair Nootz liked the idea of live polling and having snacks so it's a little more inclusive for folks with kids, as snacks would help a lot.

The City Manager stated it's no problem to do an agenda ahead of time, expressed overall agreement with the input, and thanked them for the guidance.

Chair Nootz stated they have had requests from the press, one being a meeting summary sent the next morning after a Commission meeting by 9am. The press also requested Commissioner interviews, podcast style. She stated that the City Manager already does press releases when there are big topics, and the City Newsletter exists where a meeting summary can be shared. She stated that podcasts can be tricky and may involve discussing things that haven't been voted on.

Commissioner O'Neill agreed with Chair Nootz on not doing the next morning news update.

Commissioner Wilcox agreed that podcasts are tough, and she stated they would really need to know what the questions are ahead of time, and there would have to be rules, and would like some media training if they go that route. She wondered about the idea of printing the City Manager's newsletter and taking it various locations. She also asked about the tv at Town and County and wondered if City news could be on there, too. She brought up the portable message boards around town to share meeting dates, and maybe getting a couple more of those.

Commissioner Daniels stated podcasts would definitely have to be scripted and planned ahead of time, but seems like it might be worth a try. She likes the idea of having printed newsletters. She suggested that they have to try new things and see what sticks and what doesn't.

Vice Chair Willich stated he listens to podcasts, but they are potentially full of miscommunication if they are not tightly managed. He is still wondering how to get communication in from the public and would like to focus on how to get more communication from the public. He recalled previously having tried listening sessions with the community with little to no turnout.

Chair Nootz stated she read an old news article about local government back from when Livingston had a mayor form of government. She thinks both things are true, that they need a venue for people to hear what is going on, and they need to make it easy for people to see what they are doing. She wants to find the most accurate way to get information out to people. She likes the idea of more portable signs, and using the TV's at Town and County.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed wanting to give Town Halls a try and see what comes of it, and not try everything all at once.

Commissioner Wilcox would like to see QR codes on the printed copies of the newsletters so folks can sign up.

Commissioner Daniels understands that folks can take what is talked about in podcasts out of context and they really want to avoid having that happen.

Vice Chair Willich agreed with Commissioner O'Neill about not trying everything at once.

Chair Nootz stated that before covid they did have better turn out on listening sessions and things like that from the community.

The City Manager stated that the Commission has historically attended Farmer's Market, and the City would try to have themed weeks with what was going on during that time. He stated the first Farmers Market is in June, so in May he will come to the Commission with a schedule.

D. ORDINANCE NO. 3067: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, AMENDING THE LIVINGSTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE VII, CHAPTER 18 AND CHAPTER 31, THAT WERE MOVED TO CHAPTER 30 AS PART OF THE ZONING CODE UPDATE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 3064, BY REPEALING THE CONTENT IN THESE CHAPTERS AND REDESIGNATING THOSE SECTIONS AS 'RESERVED'. [PG.148](#)

The City Manager stated this item is a technical change, and the content has been moved from the various sections into the recently adopted Zoning Code in Chapter 30. He stated it is appropriate to clean this up so they don't have inconsistent references in the LMC.

Vice Chair Willich asked why the Night Sky Protection Act changed to Dark Sky.

The City Manager stated that it is a change that has occurred in the industry.

Public comment was offered by:

- Linda Mahr asked to be able to comment after the Commission on items like that last one.

Commissioners expressed that this seems straightforward in moving items within LMC.

Commissioner Daniels motioned to approve this item, seconded by Commissioner Wilcox. Unanimously approved.

E. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONER ZONING REQUEST [PG.156](#)

The City Manager stated this item is regarding a request made during a City Commission meeting on January 20th by Commissioner O'Neill in his Commission comments following the variance consideration that was seeking to add a 3rd residential unit onto a property that would otherwise only be allowed 2 residential units. He understood it from the Commissioner that he wanted to have a framework discussion to analyze future requests to additional density. He reviewed some details from the previous variance discussion. He stated the goal tonight is to help staff understand the Commission's desired outcome.

Vice Chair Willich asked how many lots would be considered non-conforming with potential for a 3rd unit.

The City Manager stated Livingston was laid out with a lot of foresight, and they really do have uniform lots, and the non-conforming locations are really impacted by the geography, such as rivers our hills, etc.

Commissioner Wilcox asked for a quick reminder on why they have variances.

The City Manager stated the variance process allows legislative prerogative for deviations in the zoning code.

Commissioner Wilcox asked how many variances the Commission has to look at and vote on per year.

The City Manager stated in his time here as City Manager there have been 5 variance considerations.

Public comment was offered by:

- Linda Mahr stated she would like detail put into this.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she is hesitant to change the text, but she would change either Table 30.4B, the list of uses in different zones, or Table for 31.41 the lot sizes. She understands there are a lot of ways to accommodate this request, but doesn't know why they would change the text because this is the reason they have a variance. Her preference is to leave the text as is and allow folks to bring in variance requests as needed.

Vice Chair Willich stated that variances don't happen very often, and they deal with them individually. He recognized how much work went into updating the zoning code and that it may not be appropriate to update it now for something that does not happen all that often and that they have a process to address these individually as needed.

Chair Nootz agreed with Vice Chair Willich and recalled how much work it took and how long it took to change the zoning code. She expressed appreciation to Commissioner O'Neill for bringing this up as a discussion item, and really feels that variances are one of the hardest things that she wrestles with.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed that his problem is what the City pays for a Planner, then they go against the Planner, and stated if they are going to allow 6,000 sq ft, then they should be consistent with that.

Chair Nootz summed up that there seems to be 3 Commissioner not inclined to open this up, 1 Commissioner still processing, and 1 Commissioner who would like to open this up. She reminded them that the Commission did make a priority list and the only land use things on it were annexation text amendment, Growth Policy, and URA updates.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that it would be better to wait on opening this up.

Vice Chair Willich stated he doesn't think they need to open it up. He understands Commissioner O'Neill's concern for the City Planner.

Chair Nootz expressed that it is a no to open it up. She appreciates Commissioner O'Neill's consideration of the City Planner. She also explained the process of how the City Planner brings information and items to the City Commission.

Commissioner O'Neill understands where everyone is coming from and thinks now is not the time to open it up.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she is excited for the Growth Policy update.

F. DISCUSSION OF SPRING CLEAN-UP PG.159

The City Manager stated this item is a discussion regarding the annual spring clean-up that takes place in May each year. In recent years, the City team has dedicated 12 employees for 7 business days to go alley by alley to pick up whatever items folks have left in their alley for clean-up. He stated it is a process that has existed for many years, but they are starting to see decreased returns on it, meaning they are picking up less and less trash. Given the time, resources, and fuel used for this they have discussed this at a staff level, and wanted to get input from the Commission on a path forward. One option is to allow residents to bring debris to the transfer station free of charge for a day or two. He discussed this option with the Public Works Director and they thought this was something they could do twice a year in the spring and fall.

Public comment was offered by:

- Linda Mahr stated it sounds like a good idea, but two days is not enough, maybe making it 4 days and make sure it's an evening or weekend so folks can get their items there.
- Edleeta Shans expressed liking that idea and would like to see one be a weekend day.
- Leslie Feigel suggested letting residents know that they can purchase tags to dump at the county dump stations.

Vice Chair Willich stated he loves the spring clean-up. He understands the cost for fuel and labor, but also wants to be considerate of folks that don't have the means to take these things to the dump themselves. He wondered if they could add, for the folks the ability to call in and request a pick-up of items if they don't have a way to transfer it themselves. He likes the idea of having 2 days in the spring and fall on a Friday and Saturday.

Chair Nootz stated with the spring clean-up, the City is offering a service to assist residents in ways that they might be able to do themselves. She stated it is no extra fee for residents and it's taking care of a community need, and she feels that how it's administered if it reaches those goals for the community is not her business as a Commissioner because they are not in charge of staff. She stated that she does not want to overstep with the County and give out information about their green boxes, but supports internal conversations if that needs to happen with staff.

Commissioner O'Neill stated he really likes the spring clean-up, but has never used it. He has his own means to transfer items to the transfer station. He expressed understanding from the community that it would be helpful if the City put out where City residents can dump, because he has noticed that some folks use the County dump stations, which is not allowed.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she uses this service every year. She would like to see extended hours for those who have the ability to drop off at the transfer station. She also wondered if folks could schedule a pick-up if they don't have the ability to drop off.

Commissioner Daniels agreed with tonight's comments.

Chair Nootz expressed support if the City Manager and staff feel this process needs to change.

The City Manager thanked the Commission for this input tonight. He liked the input for evening and weekend drop off and having a call in service for pick-ups. He stated they are working on getting 7 days a week transfer service ability, which would be great. He gave a brief highlight on Solid Waste Superintendent Van Garrick.

9. City Manager Comment

The City Manager thanked the Commission for joining in the Business Owners Breakfast. He also thanked MaryAnne and Trent, Chamber of Commerce and Explore Livingston for helping put together and sponsor the event.

10. City Commission Comments

Commissioner O'Neill stated it was a great meeting. He would like to see Steve Koontz design idea looked into.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she would like to know more about Steve Koontz design ideas. She asked about green can pick up dates. She really feels they get a lot done in the meetings, and they are learning a lot.

Commissioner Daniels expressed being curious about Steve Koontz's design idea. She stated she enjoyed tonight's meeting.

Vice Chair Willich stated there is some credibility in design build methodology, he has a lot of experience in this area, but understands it's the City Manager's purview to review the idea.

Chair Nootz asked for an update about the railroad crossing at an upcoming meeting. She would also like to hear an update on the Wellness Center. Her favorite part of the meeting was how effective they are in deliberation.

11. Adjournment

9:15 PM Vice Chair Willich motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner O'Neill. Unanimously approved.

Calendar of Events

Supplemental Material

Notice

- Public Comment: The public can speak about an item on the agenda during discussion of that item by coming up to the table or podium, signing-in, and then waiting to be recognized by the Chair. Individuals are reminded that public comments should be limited to items over which the City Commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power (MCA 2-3-202).

The Chair shall have the discretion to solicit comments from the public in the following order: (1) residents of the City, (2) business owners or operators in the City, (3) other organizations conducting operations in the City, and (4) residents, businesses or organizations from outside the City. The Chair may limit each person's comment period to not less than three (3) minutes.

- Meeting Recording: An audio and/or video recording of the meeting, or any portion thereof, may be purchased by contacting the City Clerk. The City does not warrant the audio and/or video recording as to content, quality, or clarity.
- Special Accommodation: If you need special accommodations to attend or participate in City meetings, please contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the specific meeting you are planning on attending.