



# Livingston City Commission Minutes

**March 04, 2025 — 5:30 PM**

City – County Complex, Community Room

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84098264676?pwd=PaNepcFHexnsMqnnVNsOpVa5EaoB5o.1>

**Meeting ID: 840 9826 4676**

**Passcode: 560860**

---

## 1. Call to Order

Chair Schwarz called the meeting to order at 5:35pm

## 2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

- Chair Schwarz
- Commissioner Kahle
- Commissioner Lyons
- Commissioner Willich

City Staff Present

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

## 3. 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)*

Chair Schwarz invited public comments on non-agenda or consent items and reminded speakers of the time limit and relevant rules.

Public Comment was offered by:



- Shelby expressed concerned about the interstate being closed and what happens with traffic congestion in town and wondered if there were better options or plans in place.

The City Manager reminded that public safety is not at risk during closures because Police and EMS/Fire services do use alternate routes during interstate closures. He state he is working with Montana Dept. of Transportation on this issue as well.

#### 4. Consent Items

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2025, REGULAR MEETING [PG.4](#)**
- B. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PAID 2/13/25 - 2/26/25 [PG.26](#)**
- C. JUDGES MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2025 [PG.37](#)**
- D. 2024 SUMMARY FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION [PG.39](#)**

Commissioner Lyons motioned to approve all consent items seconded by Commissioner Kahle. Unanimously approved.

#### 5. Proclamations

#### 6. Scheduled Public Comment

#### 7. Action Items

- A. APPROVAL OF LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REGARDING FEDERAL SPENDING [PG.41](#)**

The City Manager stated this item is a draft letter to the Livingston Federal Delegation regarding the ongoing review of federal spending. He reminded this letter was placed on the agenda at the request of the City Commission and also followed a meeting that the City Manager and Commission Kahle attend with local business owners where their concerns surrounding this matter were discussed in detail.

Commissioner Lyons expressed concerns about missing language in this letter regarding federal employees and feels that mentioning the impact of federal employment in our county might be meaningful to state. He feels a sentencing stating " In December 2024 there were nearly 15,000 federal employees in the state of Montana, and the federal government is one of the largest employers in Park County with these jobs have a significant multiplying effect on the local economy."

Commissioner Willich expressed liking the letter, but believes it will fall on deaf ears, and expressed concerns about it possibly putting a target on us that we've written a letter disagreeing with the way our representatives are handling the federal government.

Commissioner Kahle stated she has had an opportunity to meet with some federal employees who have lost their jobs and shared all the different groups that have also sent letters, or will be sending letters. She feels as a gateway community we will suffer and feels strongly that we need to do our part and speak up and ask for help.



Chair Schwarz agreed that to do nothing is a disservice to our City and County. He is not sure the letter will go anywhere, but he supports sending it.

Commissioner Lyons motioned to approve action item A. with his added sentence seconded by Commissioner Kahle. Unanimously approved.

**B. ORDINANCE 3057: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, OF THE LIVINGSTON MUNICIPAL CODE, BY CREATING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY. PG.46**

The City Manager stated this item is presented today at the request of the City Commission from a discussion held at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the development of this policy. It's brought today as something to apply to the City Commission and Advisory Boards, but not to City employees.

Commissioner Lyons asked about the timeframe for prior employment being 6 months and wondered how it compared to other locations.

The City Manager stated this was pretty standard across other cities.

Commissioner Willich expressed he thought this should clear up a lot and help maintain public trust.

Commissioner Lyons pointed out an editing issue on page 50 in section 2-30. He expressed that 6 months doesn't seem like a long enough time frame and would like to extend it to a year.

Commissioner Kahle agreed with extending the time frame out to a year.

Commissioner Lyons came back and stated he would really feel comfortable with 2 years.

The City Manager stated that since it doesn't stop someone from serving on that board or commission and it is only related to the topic revolving around the conflict of interest then the Commission does have ability to set this at 2 years.

Commissioners discussed conflict of interest being related to money and/or just employment. They reviewed a few different scenarios and examples between each other and with the City Manager for clarification on the policy.

Commissioner Lyons motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance 3057 with edits listed

- Page 50 section 2-30 section 2 eliminating directly or indirectly
- Page 51 section 2-31 change 6 months to 2 years
- Section 2-32 adding his or her outside employment or financial interest

Seconded by Commissioner Willich. Unanimously approved.



#### 8. City Manager Comment

The City Manager thanked the City Streets crew for their hard work in the month of February.

#### 9. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Willich – no comment

Commissioner Lyons shared that meteorological winter came in 1.4 degrees below average in Livingston.

Commissioner Kahle thanked the Streets Crew for their hard work. She thanked the City Manager for pulling the meeting together with downtown business owners.

Chair Schwarz thanked all City staff for their work.

#### 10. Adjournment

6:23 PM Commissioner Lyons motioned to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Kahle. Unanimously approved

#### Calendar of Events

#### Supplemental Material

#### Notice

1. 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 Chairman. 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).
2. Meeting Recording: An audio and/or video recording of the meeting, or any portion thereof, may be purchased by contacting the City Administration. The City does not warrant the audio and/or video recording as to content, quality, or clarity.
3. Special Accommodation: If you need special accommodations to attend or participate in our meeting, please contact the Fire Department at least 24 hours in advance of the specific meeting you are planning on attending.
4. elis.