



Livingston City Commission Minutes

May 05, 2026

5:30 PM

City – County Complex, Community Room

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404643589?pwd=5Xnm61WxlGbgTXrGtrU2aeFdSM0ep4.1>

Meeting ID: 814 0464 3589

Passcode: 047570

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
- Planning Director Jennifer Severson
- Building Director Brad Haefs

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:

- Leslie Feigel asked about the flags at City Hall as well as the proclamation for the parade coming up in July.
- Jay Keifer asked how many SIDs there are, and expressed concern about the Wellness Center. He read some data about autism and vaccines.
- Linda Tang wondered about the bulb outs and what is happening with them, and stated that we don't need them.
- Edleeta Shands shared with the room how close they have to get to the microphones for them to work.
- Melody Mount shared concern about City Hall not having a flag up.
- David Fuentes asked how many people have been appointed to a board under the current City Manager, and how many have been recommended but not approved. He asked for clarity on why the motion for Colin Davis failed at the last meeting.
- Peggy O'Neill expressed concerns about bulb outs and that we don't need them.

The City Manager shared that MCA includes specific provisions about flying the US, POW/MIA and State flag at City Halls. He reminded the City Commission that 2 of the flag poles are currently broken and cannot fly flags. There is one that can fly the flags, but had a piece broken in a high wind event but he will get it repaired and get the flags flying on the pole that still works, in accordance with State allowances.

Chair Nootz asked about the number of SIDs.

The City Manager stated there have been 182 in the City of Livingston. He also stated that the parade proclamation will be on the next agenda.

Chair Nootz asked about the Commission's role in the Wellness Center.

The City Manager gave a brief history of the Wellness Center that involved the City Commission and voting.

Chair Nootz asked about downtown pedestrian improvements and traffic calming measures.

The City Manager stated that a 4-way stop is used to stop traffic and bring everyone to a halt. The bulb out is designed to calm traffic, but also provide pedestrian safety. He stated that if the pedestrian improvements are put out it would be between the 2 parade events we have, the July 2nd Parade and Homecoming Parade.

Chair Nootz asked about the number of board appointees.

The City Manager stated that he has recommended about 20 board members, and the last board appointment that failed was his first one that had been recommended but not appointed by the Commission.

5. Consent Items

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2026, REGULAR MEETING [PG.4](#)

B. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PAID 4/16/26 - 4/29/26 [PG.24](#)

C. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN CONTAINER SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE EVENT ON JUNE 19, 2026 [PG.35](#)

- D. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN CONTAINER SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE EVENT ON JUNE 27, 2026 [PG.41](#)**
- E. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN CONTAINER SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR THE 2026 HOOTENANNY ON JULY 16, 2026 [PG.47](#)**
- F. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN CONTAINER SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR MONTANA FRESHWATER PARTNERS RIVER CLEAN UP ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 [PG.53](#)**
- G. AGREEMENT 20255 WITH SKYHAWKS SPORTS FOR FACILITY USE [PG.59](#)**

Commissioner Wilcox pulled Consent Item A.

Vice Chair Willich motioned to approve Consent Items B – G, seconded by Commissioner Daniels. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Wilcox stated that her name was missed in the roll call.

Vice Chair Willich motioned to approve Consent Item A with the amendment, seconded by Commissioner O'Neill. Unanimously approved.

6. Proclamations

- A. A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, DECLARING MAY 2026 AS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA [PG.65](#)**

Chair Nootz read the proclamation.

The City Manager thanked the Building Director and Building Inspector and reminisced about the previous Building Director, Jim Woodhull.

Commissioner Wilcox thanked the Building Director and Building Inspector.

Vice Chair Willich expressed an understanding of the need for building code and gave thanks to the Building Director and Building Inspector.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed appreciation to the Building Director and Building Inspector.

Commissioner Daniels agreed with everyone so far.

Chair Nootz thanked the new Building Director for taking on the role.

- B. A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, DECLARING MAY 2026 AS HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA [PG.67](#)**

Chair Nootz read the proclamation.

The City Manager stated that this year the City of Livingston will celebrate 137 years as an incorporated City in the state of Montana. He thanked the City's Historic Preservation Officer for her hard work in the City and on the board.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed that Livingston's downtown buildings are one of his favorite things and doesn't think they get enough love.

Commissioner Wilcox thanked Planning Director Severson for taking care of the Livingston's Historic Downtown.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that the downtown is one of her favorite parts of town, and thanked Director Severson for serving the board.

Vice Chair Willich expressed that our downtown is the prettiest downtown in the county. He thanked the Historic Preservation Commission and Director Severson.

Chair Nootz gave a shout out to Planning Director Severson and recognized all the hats she wears.

7. Scheduled Public Comment

8. Action Items

Chair Nootz had a request from Commissioner O'Neill to pull Action Item C to be discussed first. She reminded the Commission that they usually do staff presentations first so the Directors and staff can leave afterwards, if needed. She clarified with the City Manager that the presentations will go fairly quickly.

The City Manager stated yes, they are brief.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed that his concern about these staff presentations was that they would go too long like the other City staff updates they've received. He expressed approval not to take the Action Items out of order.

A. UPDATE FROM CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT [PG.69](#)

Planning Director Jennifer Severson gave a brief presentation.

B. UPDATE FROM CITY BUILDING DEPARTMENT [PG.71](#)

Building Director Brad Haefs gave a brief update.

Commissioner Wilcox thanked Director Haefs for the update, and asked when they are breaking ground on Sheep Mountain.

Director Haefs stated there are a few issues that need to be worked out before that happens.

The City Manager stated the City Attorney is working with the developer's attorney to ensure the easement documents meet the City's expectations. They are hoping the documents will be ready for the next Commission meeting, as the developer is wanting to break ground later this month.

Chair Nootz asked Director Haefs if he is seeing an increase in the diversity of housing.

Director Haefs stated yes, and he likes a lot of the zoning changes because they give the property owners or developers more options on what they can do with their property.

C. DISCUSSION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIALS IN SACAJAWEA PARK [PG.73](#)

The City Manager stated this item is on the agenda because it was listed as one of the Commission's priorities. He stated the Parks Master Plan did include an idea for a Veteran's Memorial. He felt it was appropriate to start with a discussion with the City Commission so staff could understand the goals for this project before reaching out to the community.

Commissioner O'Neill asked if the City will approach the Legion and VFW for their input. He stated he would be interested in attending the public meetings.

Commissioner Wilcox asked about getting a recap on discussions that have happened previously with members of the Veteran's community.

The City Manager gave a brief history of the Veteran's Memorial.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that with the issues with the flag, she feels that everyone got off on the wrong foot and feelings were hurt. She would like this process to start fresh, and is glad they will have these public meetings. She stated she would like to be part of the outreach and work with whoever is willing to participate.

Vice Chair Willich stated he was on the Commission when the flag pole issue came up, and he understands the frustration that the Veteran's community experienced about the memorial. He wants to make sure the Veteran's in the community are heard about what they want and his goal is to make sure the Veteran's are proud of the memorial, and wants the community to feel good about it.

Chair Nootz stated she likes Commissioner Daniels idea of making it inclusive because last year she learned that the needs are different for the different groups of Veteran's. She feels it's important for the memorial to be inclusive to Veteran's and their family members.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed appreciation for Commissioner O'Neill and Commissioner Daniels wanting to take this on, and does feel it may be a good idea for a Town Hall.

Commissioner Daniels agrees that this might be a good idea for a Town Hall.

Vice Chair Willich agrees that a Town Hall would be good for this topic.

Chair Nootz stated she is committed to this and wants to participate in this topic. She wondered about working groups prior to a Town Hall.

Commissioner O'Neill stated he would like to have a meeting before the Town Hall.

The City Manager stated he stated that his idea would be to schedule 1 or 2 open houses later this month, then another follow up community meeting, and that will set them up with a productive Town Hall for July.

The Commission agreed to this plan.

D. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS [PG.77](#)

The City Manager stated this item relates to listening sessions at the Farmers Market and he will present a schedule. He also would like to get feedback on listening sessions outside of Farmers Markets.

Vice Chair Willich volunteered himself for the Aug. 12th Farmers Market.

Commissioner Daniels volunteered for July 8th.

Chair Nootz suggested they put the list in their Commissioner Office for Commissioners to sign up.

Commissioners discussed attending different events as they come up.

Commissioner Daniels asked if the City does a float in the parade.

The City Manager stated that in years past they have showcased some of the City vehicles and this year he will encourage parade participation, and Commissioners are welcome to join.

Chair Nootz asked if they would have to notice a quorum for Commissioners to work on the float together. She stated she has been going on Wellness Center tours which are a great time to engage with community members. She suggested another sign-up sheet for Wellness Center tours.

E. DISCUSSION ON TOWN HALL MEETINGS [PG.80](#)

The City Manager stated this item is intended to discuss the next Town Hall. He gathered from the previous item that they have the topic nailed down, but welcomes feedback on the venue that was used in the last event and upcoming venues.

Chair Nootz asked to also discuss things that went well or what they would like to change.

Commissioner Wilcox threw out the idea of having the next Town Hall at the Legion.

The City Manager stated he will look into that.

Commissioner Wilcox liked having the folks from MSU help moderate. She likes the idea of being able to move around the room and look at concepts. She suggested the Library is a good place to have a Town Hall or Civic Center or Shane Center.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed that the next Town Hall will play into the open houses they have to still plan and wondered if the timeline will fit and they will make it in time with the open houses for the next Town Hall in July.

Commissioner Daniels expressed agreement with the ideas thrown out already and wants to make sure the community has time to participate.

Vice Chair Willich expressed that MSU did really well organizing and with the structure of the event. He stated that at the last Town Hall DEQ did a good job making it understandable for everyone. He stated it kind of got missed that the City Commission got to have questions asked to them.

Chair Nootz expressed liking being at the Senior Center. She liked that they were able to have a kid area in there. She liked being placed around the room by MSU and it made it easy that it was already decided. She likes the idea of it being more casual at the next Town Hall. She stated that prior to the current City Manager they have had meetings at the Civic Center and the sound in there is not great, and it is really hard to hear. She feels they will have a lot of opportunity for open houses location wise. She asked about charrettes.

The City Manager stated that design charrettes are typically an opportunity where members come together to ideate on a solution to a problem and there are round tables and are tasked with questions and exercises. He stated it is a good community process.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that they may want to consider keeping the location for Town Halls the same and keep using the Senior Center.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed that he would like to be sitting in the front looking out at folks rather than having to look behind him at the next Town Hall.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she likes the ideas from tonight and supports doing things differently or keeping them the same.

Vice Chair Willich told Commissioner O'Neill that he sat in the back at the last Town Hall, so he may want to try that for next time.

Chair Nootz would like to get feedback from parents about whether the Senior Center space worked for them to make sure these meetings are inclusive.

Vice Chair Willich emphasized that feedback is important.

Public comment was offered by:

- Linda Mahr would like to see one Town Hall that doesn't have a specific topic.
- Leslie Feigel would like to see an open forum for a Town Hall. She suggested using St. Mary's or the High School.
- Edleeta Shans likes the approach for the Veteran's Memorial.
- Linda Tang expressed that July is a tough time to have a Town Hall.
- Kathy Pesa suggested a position for PR to help the community connect and communicate with the City Commission. She would like to see better communication on how the community can better engage.
- Melody Mount stated they would be happy at the Legion to host a Town Hall or Open House.
- Tammy Lewis expressed that there was no way to ask a question through Zoom at the Town Hall. She would like to see that people that attend via Zoom are able to participate.

Commissioner O'Neill thanked everyone for their comments.

Commissioner Wilcox also thanked everyone for their comments.

Vice Chair Willich thanked everyone for their input.

Chair Nootz expressed that this is good feedback.

9. City Manager Comment

The City Manager thanked the City Commission for their time. He reminded everyone that there will be a full street closure of Park St. at Main St. He stated this is for the installation of the rapid flashing beacons and is funded by HB355.

10. City Commission Comments

Commissioner O'Neill wondered about the 2 flag poles that are broken and what it would take to get them fixed. He stated he has had folks ask him a lot of questions about why the alleys downtown are being worked on, and who is paying for it.

The City Manager stated that the contractor that is doing the rapid flashing beacon work is the same contractor that did the downtown CIP work last summer. They tore up the alley because it didn't drain

right when they completed the initial paving in 2 of the blocks, and that work is warranty work at no cost to the City. He stated they have done a lot of work on the flag poles and got the 1 operational, then it had a separate issue after repair. He stated it is high on the priority list to get them fixed.

Commissioner Wilcox thanked the City for picking up her green can and reminded everyone that they are being picked up around town. She thanked everyone for a nice meeting.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that they received good feedback tonight.

Vice Chair Willich gave a shout out to LPD and EMS that took care of an individual last week that needed help. He had to call dispatch and the teams showed up to help, and it was above and beyond work by LPD and EMS.

Chair Nootz stated the Wellness Center tours have been great. She stated she is so excited for the rapid flashing beacons. She recognized Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day, which is May 5th. She read some history to further recognize this day. She asked the City Manager how much money the City has invested in the flag poles outside of City Hall.

The City Manager stated there was \$35,000 appropriated before his time, and in his time here they have spent about \$26,000 repair the 3 flag poles in his time as City Manager, and that does not include flags, but the City has spent between \$3,000 and \$4,000 on flags.

Vice Chair Willich stated for the bulb outs there is a section being created on Main St. to be able to take pictures down Main St, so people don't have to stand in traffic.

11. Adjournment

7:56 PM Vice Chair Willich motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Daniels. Unanimously approved.

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.