



Livingston City Commission Agenda

May 19, 2026

5:30 PM

City – County Complex, Community Room

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89923872740?pwd=beld0H6EKXFAeh25T5R8F36wzjbJnu.1>

Meeting ID: 899 2387 2740

Passcode: 213416

1. Call to Order

5:34 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
- Asst. Chief of Police Andrew Emanuel
- Policy Analyst Greg Anthony
- Public Works Director Shannon Holmes
- Solid Waste Superintendent Van Garrick
- Parks Superintendent Mike Skaggs
- Fire Chief Josh Chabalowski
- Battalion Chief Jonathan Gilbert

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:

- Linda Mahr expressed that the community is getting increasingly divided. She would like to see the community working together as one.
- Doug Ensign lives on West Summit Street. He brought up a traffic situation in the area at the gap in W. Summit and it's dangerous with bikes and dirt bikes that come off the hill at high rates of speed into traffic.
- Peggy O'Neill stated she heard that more bulb outs were going on every corner downtown and it will cost a lot for taxpayers.
- Leslie Feigel asked about portable speed signs around town. She asked that the next Town Hall be about the state of business in Livingston. She stated there were over 800 signatures turned in for the Parks Master Plan last year.

The City Manager stated that they are aware of the situation on Summit Street and they will increase patrols in that area and he explained why the road is the way it is in that location.

Commissioner Daniels stated that in her day job they are aware of what goes on up there and they are working with the Police Department on this issue.

The City Manager stated that he heard the same rumor about bulb-outs and stated there is a community member going around to business owners giving false information. He stated that is not something the City is currently working on, and not something going in the City Manager's recommended budget for this coming year. He asked that community members to please stop spreading misinformation, and that if community members have questions to please reach out to the City directly before spreading rumors and misinformation.

The City Manager stated the City does have a speed trailer and could put it out. He stated the City is aware of the 800 signatures for the Parks Master Plan and stated they did do address verification on a number of the signatures and there were quite a number of those that resided outside of City limits and outside of Park County, and quite a few duplicates.

5. Consent Items

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 5, 2026, REGULAR MEETING [PG.4](#)**
- B. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PAID 4/30/26 - 5/13/26 [PG.13](#)**
- C. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN CONTAINER SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE EVENT ON JUNE 6, 2026 [PG.27](#)**
- D. JUDGE'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2026 [PG.33](#)**
- E. AGREEMENT 20257 WITH THE LIVINGSTON RODEO ASSOCIATION [PG.35](#)**
- F. AGREEMENT 20258 WITH THE HELP CENTER INC. [PG.42](#)**
- G. AGREEMENT 20259 WITH ONE HEALTH [PG.53](#)**

Commissioner Daniels motioned to approved Consent Items A-G, seconded by Commissioner Wilcox. Unanimously approved.

6. Proclamations

A. A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 102ND LIVINGSTON ROUNDUP RODEO PARADE AND AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026 [PG.58](#)

Chair Nootz read the proclamation.

The City Manager stated he loves a good parade and loves seeing the people participate in the parade. The Manager thanked the organizers.

B. A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, DECLARING MAY 17-23, 2026 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK IN LIVINGSTON, MONTANA [PG.60](#)

Chair Nootz read the proclamation.

The City Manager stated that one of the few things he loves more than a parade is Public Works and its employees. He thanked them for their hard work every day in support of the City.

Chair Nootz thanked Public Works for all that they do.

7. Scheduled Public Comment

A. 2025 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FROM HRDC DISTRICT IX [PG.62](#)

The City Manager introduced Laurie Bishop.

Laurie Bishop from HRDC's Park County Advisory Board gave a brief presentation.

Vice Chair Willich asked about a specific stat that increased.

Chair Nootz pointed out it was in the slides and was a need for jobs.

Chair Nootz expressed appreciation for the comparisons. She wondered if HRDC has long-term data on the comparisons.

Laurie stated there is long-term data that is based on resident reflections. The data reflected in prior reports may not reflect what the needs are currently.

Chair Nootz asked about the data comparing rent to other counties nearby.

Laurie stated that HRDC could work with her to get that data.

Chair Nootz expressed that the data was interesting about jobs that pay living wages. She wondered if HRDC has been working with members of the business community for solutions.

Laurie stated that she couldn't answer that at this time, but working with local entities is important to them.

Commissioner Wilcox stated she noticed that maybe some non-profits are stepping in to help with community assistance. She hopes that projects that previous Commissions have approved will help with affordable housing. She expressed that it is alarming to see how high child poverty rates are in Park County.

Laurie talked about all the partnerships HRDC has and who they work with for the needs of the community.

8. Action Items

A. UPDATE FROM CITY PARKS DIVISION [PG.80](#)

The City Manager introduced Parks Superintendent Mike Skaggs.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs gave a brief presentation.

Chair Nootz asked how long he has been the Parks Superintendent.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs stated he has been in the position for 3 years.

Chair Nootz stated she appreciates the evolution of Public Works over the years. She asked about the partnership with Livingston Loves Trees.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs stated they take a lot off of the Parks Departments plate in planting trees and volunteer work every year.

Chair Nootz asked for his input on the Parks Master Plan.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs stated he sees it as a road map. It's compiled data of what the community wants, and it's ideas, so it doesn't mean that they have to go in that direction to get there. He stated it is a guided document they can use to achieve the overall goal.

Chair Nootz asked if anything stood out for any of the other parks.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs stated that the feedback was for play structures on the north side.

Commissioner O'Neill asked if any parts of the Parks Master Plan will be implemented this year.

Parks Superintendent Skaggs stated he was not sure at this point.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed thanks for the presentation and likes to see all the detailed things that this department does.

Commissioner Daniels thanked the Parks Department for all they do.

Vice Chair Willich expressed appreciation for the Parks Department and all their hard work.

B. UPDATE FROM CITY SOLID WASTE DIVISION [PG.82](#)

The City Manager introduced Solid Waste Superintendent Van Garrick.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick gave a brief presentation.

Chair Nootz gave the team kudos for the department setting aside good construction waste.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick stated they do set aside good lumber for people to grab and remove from the landfill to be used.

Chair Nootz stated she is excited they are doing composting. She wondered if there are cost savings or things they should know about self-hauling that they don't already know.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick stated the only thing that was possibly under-calculated for was potential breakdowns.

Chair Nootz was impressed by the spring cleanup this year.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick stated it is comparable to years past when they would be picking up the stuff.

Commissioner Wilcox asked how people go about getting the good lumber material.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick stated it is at the transfer station and folks can talk to someone there to get it.

Commissioner Wilcox asked if there is still compost people can come pick up.

Solid Waste Superintendent Garrick stated yes, it is free if they load it themselves. It is \$10 per bucket if the City has to bring equipment to load it for them.

Commissioner Wilcox thanked the Solid Waste team for all their work.

Commissioner O'Neill thanked the team for coming to talk trash with them tonight.

Vice Chair Willich stated he is very excited about cost savings for self-hauling. He likes the crusher.

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

C. UPDATE FROM CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT [PG.84](#)

The City Manager introduced Fire Chief Josh Chabalowski.

Fire Chief Chabalowski gave a brief presentation.

Battalion Chief Jonathan Gilbert also presented.

Commissioner Wilcox stated that she wants to understand the schedule is 2 on 6 off and wanted to better understand the workload.

Battalion Chief Gilbert stated he is talking about their workload while at work.

Battalion Chief Gilbert finished the presentation.

Chair Nootz motioned for a 5-minute break, seconded by Commissioner Daniels. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Daniels stated she has many questions and will set up a meeting with the City Manager to ask the questions to get a better understanding of the budget.

The City Manager addressed that the last slide indicated that at the next City Commission meeting there would be a levy conversation. He stated that is not accurate because it extends outside of the City district, so the levy question is more appropriately directed to the County Commission.

Commissioner Daniels expressed that the training in this department is impressive, but wondered how much per firefighter they are spending on this extensive training. She understands that it is expensive and with turnaround being so high in the department she wondered if there is a contract option stating if the City spends a certain amount of money on training that they are required to give a certain amount of time after the training.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated that is something they can look into doing. He stated they do currently do that for the reserve firefighters if they put them through firefighter training.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed that she would like to review the slides as they have a lot to do with budget. She likes to understand the comparisons, and internal quality metrics.

Commissioner O'Neill expressed understanding of the needs in the department, but stated he is not sure where they will come up with the money for it.

Vice Chair Willich expressed the thought that they with all the extensive training the department receives that maybe they are being trained to leave and go get a pay increase elsewhere. He also inquired about re-visiting the scope of the department. The Vice-Chair also expressed thoughts about the department being concerned about being underpaid while pointing out that 9 out of the top 10 highest paid employees in the City are in the Fire Department. The Vice-Chair also asked why the department has a different logo than the rest of the City.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated the Maltese Cross is a patch that is part of history, and they have a lot of pride behind their patch. He stated that they are happy to add the City logo to their logo, but the department is not comfortable getting rid of their logo that they currently have. He stated that the department works in the thousands of hours per year and the calls have to be answered and they don't have a choice and a majority of it is mandatory.

Vice Chair Willich asked if there was less scope of work would there be less callbacks.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated that they answer calls outside of City limits for EMS services and explained that there really is no other EMS service that can answer calls for the County.

Chair Nootz asked if inter-facility transfers are required and if those calls are required to be taken.

The City Manager stated no.

Chair Nootz stated that she met with someone from LHC who also stated it was voluntary. She stated that overtime has been part of the budget conversation every budget season since she has been on the Commission. She asked if overtime is mandatory and how it works for departments.

The City Manager stated that firefighters are assigned to a regular shift and overtime may or may not be required from time to time by employees. He stated that the Fire Department leadership does have authority to deny vacation requests or other leave requests. He stated that part of the overtime in the department is unique to the department by virtue of management decision making.

Chair Nootz stated she reviewed the consolidation study that was done, and asked for a reminder of how much that cost.

The City Manager stated that it cost approximately \$86,000.

Chair Nootz stated it was very informative and suggested the newer Commissioners should review it. She stated that about 80% of calls are for EMS, and EMS is not a required service of local fire and she wondered if EMS is run through the fire department in other cities.

The City Manager stated that we are unique here and that Bozeman Fire and Central Valley Fire do not run ambulance service. He clarified that ambulance service is not required for cities of our size or any cities in the state of Montana.

Chair Nootz stated that from the consolidation report the levy covers 50% of the money. She feels the inter facility transfer conversation is interesting since they are not mandatory. She shared concern about 9 out of 10 of the highest paid employees are in the Fire Department and stated there are other departments that work on call like Public Works that have to take the calls when a water line breaks, and she reminded everyone about the importance of those departments and shared that they are making less than those in the Fire Department. She stated she understands the pride of a logo. She stated they just spent all this time telling them how great Livingston is, and wondered why they won't use the City logo.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated they would be happy to add it.

Chair Nootz stated they would be happy to have all department under one umbrella. She stated they are asking for so much and they don't use the City logo. She asked the Fire Chief why he didn't talk about the Consolidation Study this evening and wondered what seems like a path forward.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated they would love to see the consolidation.

Chair Nootz asked what is one thing that would be a benefit from the consolidation study.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated that the consolidation and being all under one roof, consolidation of staffing, and sharing assets that are already in place.

Chair Nootz agreed that consolidation of assets is a big win.

Commissioner Daniels clarified that this study is for consolidation with Park County Rural Fire.

Chair Nootz stated yes, and highlighted a few things that were reviewed in the study.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated it would just be Fire that they are consolidating, but the department does support this and feels it would be good overall.

Chair Nootz asked if the consolidation would help with some of the challenges that the Fire Department brought up tonight.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated yes, it would help in some of the ways.

Battalion Chief Gilbert stated the only thing not brought up is the legalities of merging departments like that.

Chair Nootz stated they have noticed that levies have not passed for many other things in recent years. She wondered if the department has thought about if the levy funding changes and what's the plan.

Fire Chief Chabalowski stated inter facility transfers do bring in revenue, but if the levy does not pass, they are looking at reduction of service to areas of the County, potential loss of ambulance

service and personnel. He reminded everyone that even if they reduce EMS service, they are bound by mutual aid contract to respond if other services call for mutual aid.

Chair Nootz recalled the list of contracts and agreements: CBA, Interfacility Transfers, Montana Mutual Aid, Mutual Aid with other departments within Park County, and Auto Aid with Park County Rural Fire, and DNRC. She feels they will need to have more conversations as a Commission about the merge and levies.

Fire Chief Chabalowski thanked the Commission for their time and expressed how proud he is of the department.

9. City Manager Comment

The City Manager thanked the Commission for their time this evening.

10. City Commission Comments

Commissioner O'Neill reiterated the City Manager's thanks.

Commissioner Wilcox expressed thanks for the reminder of the consolidation study for the Fire Department and stated it will be important for the Commission to review.

Commissioner Daniels stated that her and her family used the crossing with the rapid flashing beacons and felt very safe crossing the street.

Vice Chair Willich thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Chair Nootz reminded the Commissioners to sign up for outreach times.

11. Adjournment

9:05 pm Vice Chair Willich motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner O'Neill. 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.