



Livingston City Commission Minutes

September 17, 2024

5:30 PM

City – County Complex, Community Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86194966427?pwd=cC9uS3gycjZWYTFLS25Dc1JYMERoUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 9496 6427

Passcode: 274859

1. Call to Order

Chair Kahle called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

2. Roll Call

City Commission in attendance at start of meeting: Chair Kahle, Vice-Chair Nootz, Commissioner Schwarz, Commissioner Lyons, and Commissioner Willich

Staff in attendance: City Manager Grant Gager, Asst. Chief Andrew Emanuel, Public Works Director Shannon Holmes

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)

- Lindie Gibson addressed the commission regarding outdated and inaccurate signage near the city swimming pool. She requested that the City update the signs to reflect correct historical information, specifically referencing the "Miles Park Lagoon." She explained that she has been raising this issue for three years, approaching various city staff and departments without a resolution.

4. Consent Items

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 03, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

B. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PAID 8/29/24 - 9/11/24

C. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT EXCEPTION TO ALCOHOL POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION RESTRICTIONS FOR THE OKTOBERFEST

Chair Kahle pulled Consent item A.

Motion to approve I consent agenda items B&C was made by Commissioner Lyons and seconded by Commissioner Willich. The motion passed unanimously by the five members present.

Chair Kahle noted a minor correction to the minutes on page 7, where part of a sentence was missing. The City Manager stated sentence should read: "The city manager offered that amending the growth policy occurs by a different process."

Motion to approve consent item A was made by Chair Kahle and seconded by Commissioner Schwarz. The motion passed unanimously by the five members present.

5. Proclamations

A. NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY 9/17/24

Chair Kahle read the proclamation.

The City Manager thanked the IT staff lead my Director Erica Hoffman.

Commissioner Schwarz agreed with the City Manager

Commissioner Willich commended IT professionals for their dedication, especially in combating cyber threats such as elder fraud. He provided statistics on elder fraud and encouraged public awareness of the issue.

https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2023_IC3ElderFraudReport.pdf

B. NATIONAL THANK A POLICE OFFICER DAY 9/21/24

Chair Kahle read the proclamation. She then thanked Asst. Chief Emanuel.

The City Manager also thanked Asst. Chief Emanuel.

Asst. Chief Emanuel stated he will pass the thanks on to his team.

6. Scheduled Public Comment

A. PARKS MASTER PLAN TEAM AND PROCESS INTRODUCTION

Chair Kahle introduced this item.

The City Manager introduced Dave Locke from Stockwell Engineers.

Dave Locke introduced the team working on the Parks Master Plan update.

Key Points from the Presentation:

- The project team spent the day visiting parks across the city with the Parks Superintendent.
- A series of focus group meetings will be held with key stakeholders, including sports organizations and event organizers.

- Public feedback is critical, and there will be opportunities for input at the Farmers Market and through an upcoming community-wide survey.
- The survey will guide recommendations for park improvements and system updates.
- A public meeting will be held after initial survey analysis to present findings and draft recommendations, with the final report expected in early 2025.

Vice-Chair Nootz inquired about trail surface materials and safety, specifically related to pea gravel trails, and asked if trail accessibility would be addressed in the master plan. She also asked if Miles Park and signs would be included.

The City Manager stated yes to both Miles Park and signage now that we have a logo solidified.

Vice-Chair Nootz asked if there were other ways for people to engage beside social media and Farmers Market.

Dave Locke reminded of the surveys that will be coming out as well.

Vice-Chair Nootz asked who will be reviewing the drafts before it comes to the City Commission.

The City Manager stated some of it will happen at a staff level and focus groups.

Vice-Chair Nootz asked how Reservoir Park is going to fit into this.

The City Manager stated there are several parks not included this Parks Master Plan, specifically Katie Bonnell Park and Reservoir Park because Katie Bonnell Park is part of the Wellness Center project and Reservoir Park they are trying a different process because its largely a non-developed piece of land.

7. Action Items

A. DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

Chair Kahle introduced the item

The City Manager introduced Public Works Director Shannon Holmes and City Engineer Matt McGee and the provided and update on the Regional Water System.

- **Key Points from the Presentation:**
 - The project will extend water services to the newly annexed areas of Green Acres, Montague, and Sleeping Giant subdivisions.
 - The project is still in the early stages, with public input meetings scheduled to gather resident feedback on potential water system designs.
 - Challenges of aging infrastructure in Green Acres, including undersized water mains, dead-end pipes, and water quality issues.
 - There will be multiple public meetings, and construction is planned for 2025, depending on funding availability.

Commissioner Schwarz asked for clarification on where Sleeping Giant Subdivision is.

Public Works Director Shannon Holmes stated it's the trailer park between Miles and Garnier,

Vice-Chair Nootz gained clarification on lines and sizing. She touched on public outreach and is glad there is a plan for that. She wanted to recognize how much disruption is happening in that part of town with water and sewer and soon the Wellness Center and feels it would be great to find a way to minimize disruption for that neighborhood.

Public Works Director Shannon Holmes stated there is not a timeline for this project just yet because they are in the very beginnings of this project and they are following State law requirements.

Commissioner Lyons stated that this water project, combined with the recent sewer project, would serve as a model for future annexations. He urged city staff to maintain high levels of public engagement to build trust with the community.

Commission Willich asked about size of the lines in Green Acres and when it was put in.

Public Works Director Shannon Holmes stated it was the early 60's

Vice-Chair Nootz expressed that we still have work to do to gain community trust.

Public Comment was offered by:

- Patty Smith expressed understanding that folks in her neighborhood feel the emotional distress from the annexation and hopes for better communication in the future to build up better trust. She also wondered about the potential requirement to abandon private wells if connected to the city's water system. She asked for clarification on whether residents could still use their wells for irrigation purposes.
- Patty Altman voiced frustrations about the lack of communication during the previous sewer project and urged the city to improve its outreach efforts for the water project. She noted that many elderly residents do not use online platforms and would benefit from direct mailings or neighborhood signage about upcoming meetings. She also emphasized the financial burden residents faced from the sewer project and asked for transparency about costs related to the water project.

Vice-Chair Nootz asked Patty Altman how much notice she was given to come up with payment for annexation. Patty stated they were given about a month to decide to pay in full or set up a type of payment arrangement that would be included in property taxes.

The City Manager spoke to Patty Smith's question about wells and stated we do have allowances for irrigation wells within City Code and they are not forbidden, but he doesn't have the information on hand about specific properties.

The City Manager answered the question about why the water and sewer projects were done at different times and stated it was mostly due to cost.

Chair Kahle asked if the water project will be as disruptive as the sewer project.

The City Manager stated it will be similar to the sewer project where they are digging up roads and adding lines to homes.

Commissioner Lyons added that he is sympathetic to the burdens of connecting to City water and sewer as he has had to do it too.

B. ORDINANCE 3055: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE LIVINGSTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ENTITLED GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, TO CONFORM NOTICING PROVISIONS TO STATE LAW, REFLECT THE EXISTENCE OF THE CITY CLERK POSITION, MODIFY CITY COMMISSION VOTING RULES, ACKNOWLEDGE A NEW FEDERAL HOLIDAY AND MAKE TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES.

Chair Kahle called on the City Manager to introduce the item.

The City Manager stated this ordinance includes some recent operational changes as well as statutory changes that were made in the recently ended legislative session.

Commissioner Lyons and City Manager clarified the language about quorums to reflect the correct and new changes.

Commissioners asked for specific examples to be reviewed at the second reading of this ordinance.

Commissioner Schwarz moved to approve the ordinance with edits to 2-15 and Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion

6:57PM Commissioner Schwarz motioned for a 10 minute break seconded by Vice Chair Nootz. Unanimously approved.

The item was approved unanimously by the five commissioners present.

8. City Manager Comment

The City Manager reminded of dates he will out of the office for conferences.

9. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Willich expressed excitement about his ride along in the garbage truck. He expressed thanks to Burlington Northern for moving all the cars.

Commissioner Lyons – no comment

Commissioner Schwarz will be getting involved with the Parks Master Plan

Vice-Chair Nootz is excited to hear about the crossing

Chair Kahle thanked everyone for a great meeting tonight and encouraged the community to get involved in all the things going on.

10. Adjournment

7:14pm Commissioner Lyons motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Schwarz. 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 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).
- **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.
- **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.