



## *City of Libby*

952 E. SPRUCE | POST OFFICE BOX 1428

LIBBY, MT. 59923 | Phone 406-293-2731 | Fax 406-293-4090 | Website: [www.cityoflibby.com](http://www.cityoflibby.com)

---

### City Planning Board

#### **Minutes**

Monday October 24th, 6:00pm

City Hall, Council Chambers

#### **Growth Policy Update Public Hearing**

The City of Libby Planning Board held a public hearing on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to hear public comments on Draft 2 of the City of Libby 2022 Growth Policy.

Planning board members in attendance were Kristin Smith, Jennifer Nelson, Roberta McCanse, Mark Andreasen, and Christine Anderson via zoom. Also in attendance was consultant Joel Nelson of Land Solutions.

Joel Nelson introduced the plan via presentation, explained its process and purpose.

Kristin Smith, board chair opened the floor for public comments. (Most commenters were under the misimpression that the plan was a prelude to annexation of their areas as far flung as Parmenter Hill and Northwood.)

DC Orr, mentioned no meeting minutes, no reaching out to the community for input and any resolution coming from the group as being illegal.

Lere Busch, Warren Road requested word changes to page 51, Public Facilities, mentioned the \$1.00 budget amount for water and sewer CIP and potential annexation as troublesome. She provided written comment.

Zach McNew quoted the “fail to plan, plan to fail”, then thanked the planning board for a job well done.

Ken Everett, Conifer Road owns 6 rentals and spoke to the hardship annexation would bring to him personally and his renters in increased utilities and taxes resulting in approximately \$200.00 per month in increased rent.

Ted Montgomery, Cabinet Heights complained of no streetlights being installed in the area when it was annexed in the early 2000s.

Danielle lives on Airth, read a prepared statement about the ills that would befall the area if growth and annexation were allowed.

Patty Hargrove, stated disappointed with plan, doesn't want to be in the city, purchased a home outside the city for a reason and is resistant to being annexed.

Anna Delask, neighbor of Hargrove voiced the same resistance to being annexed citing need for increased safety of the city's water quality and her animals as reasons.

Robert Veriquez, 332 Spencer Hill Way, talked about the need for change and the need to manage that change. Robert likes the plan and complimented the planning board on a job well done.

DC Orr spoke again about his perception of the secrecy and lack of transparency of the growth plan process.

Tabitha Veriquez, 322 Spencer Hill Way, said she appreciated being able to participate in the June focus group discussion and likes the plan.

At this time there were no other public comments so discussion shifted to the Planning Board.

Kristin Smith suggested that they add the language changes stated by Ms. Busch. Board agreed. Jennifer Nelson identified a list of additions to the Action Plan:

- Transportation: goals-safety action and transportation plan.
- Natural Resources: the adoption of the Source Water Delineation Plan.
- Wildlife management Plan. Under land use, encourage vertical growth.
- Public Facilities: needs firmer language for actively recruiting a veterinarian to the area.
- Downtown: Multifamily development: identify areas suitable for multifamily development.

Ms. Nelson recommended that the downtown section be moved from the middle of the document to the end. After some discussion, it was agreed that such a move would be too disruptive to the formatting of the document so was dropped.

Identified items were approved for including as amendments to the Growth Plan draft.

Ms. McCause made the motion to recommend City Council adopt the plan update with amendments as approved.

Mr. Andreasen seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned