

Colstrip Local Government Review Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

1. **Call the meeting to order.**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm by Chairman Todd Olmstead
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. Present-Study Commissioners Todd Olmstead and Dan Batie
 - b. Present-Ex-officio Member Michelle Richards
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
 - a. Todd moved and Dan seconded to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Correspondence or Study Commission Update - None**
6. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Review Schedule of Timeline – Public Hearing will be held in March or April with the report to be completed in April.
7. **New Business**
 - a. Review Results of Interviews with City Employees – Study Commission discussed results of interviews with city employees and officials conducted last week. It seemed the preference was fairly evenly divided between Council-Mayor and Council-Manager. Dan did comment that some changed their mind after the commission explained the Council-Manager form of government. A lot of good information came from the interviews other than the form of government.
 - b. Review Results of the Public Survey – 55 surveys were completed. It appears a lot of the public is happy with the current situation and don't want to change but the public is also split between Council-Mayor and Council-Manager, with a little more choosing Council-Manager versus Council-Mayor. Even though a lot of people are happy with the current Mayor and Council, the commission is concerned about what could happen in the future.
 - c. Discuss and Vote on Commission Recommendation for the Form of Government that will be Proposed – Dan is leaning towards the Manager-Council form of government but feels it won't work without a committed City Council. Todd recommends proposing the Council-Manager form of government and let the voters decide. Todd reported Garrick Goodheart's choice is Council-Manager. Todd moved to recommend changing the form of government to the Council-

Manager form of government with a Mayor. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- d. Schedule Work Session for Drafting of Ballot Proposal – A tentative work session is scheduled for February 23, 2026.
- e. Discuss Receiving Assistance from MSU Local Government Center – Michelle will contact LGC to assist the commission with preparing the report and ballot language.

8. Other scheduled matters

9. Public Comment

Greg Koczur, 7446 Castle Rock Lake Drive and former City Council member, leans toward Council-Manager form of government only if the manager is a certified engineer. This would save the city money. He feels a manager wouldn't do anything more than what the Mayor is doing.

10. Announcements

- a. The next regular meeting of the commission will be March 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

11. Adjournment

- a. Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Chairman Olmstead adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.