



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 05, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

Call to Order

Mayor Jeremy Grimm called the regular meeting of the Sandpoint City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call

Mayor Jeremy Grimm
Councilor Deb Ruehle, Council President
Councilor Joel Aispuro
Councilor Kyle Schreiber
Councilor Pam Duquette
Councilor Joe Tate
Councilor Joshua Torrez

As required by the City's adopted Code of Ethics and Civility, as the presiding officer, Mayor Grimm identified law enforcement personnel serving as sergeant-at-arms for the meeting: Police Chief Corey Coon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Grimm led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Reports

Mayor Grimm made some initial brief remarks and provided instructions for members of the public who wished to speak during opportunities for public comment/testimony during the meeting.

Councilors provided reports from the City's citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison and Department Directors provided brief updates on projects and activities in their respective departments and fielded questions from Council members.

1. Report: FY 2026 3rd Quarter Financial and Capital Report (for information only)
2. Report: Cash and Investment Transactions Financial Report – June 2026 (for information only)

Public Comment

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure for public comment during the meeting and offered an opportunity for members of the public to speak on items included on the Consent Calendar and Old and New Business topics on the agenda or other general matters not relevant to the business of the City of Sandpoint.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Grimm noted for the record the amount of bills for payment approval, and the Consent Calendar was approved by a unanimous vote of Council.

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

Voting Yea: Councilor Tate, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Torrez, Councilor Aispuro

3. The minutes from Council's July 15, 2026, regular meeting were approved as presented.
4. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$2,452,549.56 (\$1,283,718.88 for regular payables and \$1,168,830.68 for payroll).
5. Final written approval for Ridley Village Court PPUD25-0001 and PS25-0003 - approved

Old/Unfinished Business

6. Downtown Street Parking Management Options and Parking Program Implementation Update

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker provided a presentation with information about the Downtown Parking Management Plan and provided three options the Council could consider. He then fielded questions from the Councilors.

Councilor Aispuro moved to direct staff to implement Option 3 for a six-month trial period, providing two hours of free downtown on-street parking without check-in, with optional paid extensions through the kiosk, mobile application, or text-to-pay system. Staff would return to Council with an evaluation of utilization, turnover, occupancy, paid extensions, citations, enforcement labor, customer feedback, and operational performance, with continued communication with the Downtown Business Association and other downtown businesses. The motion was seconded by Council President Ruehle.

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

Voting Yea: Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Ruehle

Voting Nay: Councilor Duquette, Councilor Tate, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Torrez

Motion failed.

Legal Counsel requested a brief three-minute meeting break. Mayor Grimm recessed the meeting at 7:56 p.m., reconvening at 7:59 p.m.

Councilor Schreiber moved to direct staff to remove the downtown on-street parking kiosks, maintain the two-hour parking limit with additional time available by text or mobile app, continue paid parking at the City lot, City Beach, and Bridge Street lot, establish a free 2027 annual parking pass for City residents and a hardship pass for Bonner County residents, and reinstate the Parking Committee pursuant to Sandpoint City Code Title 2, Chapter 8. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ruehle. Following some final discussion, the motion passed by a majority vote of Council, as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

Voting Yea: Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Tate, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Torrez

Voting Nay: Councilor Ruehle

Following conclusion of this item, Mayor Grimm recessed the meeting for a brief break at 8:02 p.m., reconvening at 8:11 p.m.

7. **Ordinance 1441** Amending Title 6 Parking Regulations to Implement the City's Parking Management Program

Council members deliberated and discussed the proposed ordinance. Staff and Legal confirmed the amendments align the City Code with the Parking Management Plan and the Council's parking direction.

Mayor Grimm then asked the City Clerk to read the title of the ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANDPOINT, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, AMENDING SANDPOINT CITY CODE SECTIONS 6-1-4-1 PROHIBITED PARKING, 6-1-4-2 COMPLIANCE WITH PARKING REGULATIONS AND 6-2 PUBLIC PARKING REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Aispuro made a motion that the Ordinance pass its first reading by title only and that the Summary is approved, seconded by Councilor Duquette

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

Voting Yea: Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Torrez, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Tate

Motion that the rules requiring three separate readings, once in the Ordinance's entirety, be suspended and that the Ordinance pass its second and third readings under suspension of the rules.

Motion made by Councilor Duquette, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Torrez, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Tate, Councilor Schreiber

Mayor Grimm announced that the motion had passed, and the Ordinance was considered read, passed and adopted under suspension of the rules, effective upon publication of the Summary in the newspaper.

8. Council Discussion: Local Option Tax (LOT) Survey Analysis and Discussion

Council discussed the survey results and proposed ballot language for a 1% local option tax. Discussion focused on the tax term, revenue allocation, and eligible transportation projects.

Public Works Director Holly Ellis gave a brief overview of the City's road maintenance needs and backlog. Councilors generally supported a 10-year term and discussed allocating 60%–70% of revenues to streets and 30%–40% to sidewalks, pathways, trails, and other transportation improvements.

Staff will return with revised ballot language for Council consideration on August 19, 2026. Discussion only; no Council action taken.

9. Budget: Council Review/Requests

Mayor Grimm introduced this item, and each council member conveyed their priorities for the budget and potential requests for adjustments to specific line items as provided in the approved preliminary budget, followed by much discussion. The Mayor and city staff fielded questions from Council members during this discussion.

Council reviewed several budget priorities, including removal of the \$25,000 Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) economic development allocation. Council directed staff to clarify that watershed capital funds may be used for watershed protection and fire mitigation, but not recreation.

Council supported further review of funding options to prioritize a multimodal path along Main Street. Staff will evaluate available funding and related capital plans.

Council discussed urban forestry funding and requested additional information on current funding, planned work, and future staffing or contracting needs.

Councilor Ruehle requested an updated organizational chart and that the draft strategic plan return to Council for review and comment.

No motions were made as Councilors reached consensus.

Adjourn

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that the foregoing minutes, prepared by the City Clerk, were approved by City Council during their meeting held _____, 2026.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Meri Jane Bohn, City Clerk