



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 07, 2025 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, May 7, 2025, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Jeremy Grimm
Councilor Deb Ruehle, Council President
Councilor Joel Aispuro*
Councilor Justin Dick
Councilor Kyle Schreiber
Councilor Pam Duquette
Councilor Rick Howarth

*Councilor Aispuro was absent at roll call, arriving at 6:03 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Grimm led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Reports

Mayor Grimm reported that the agenda was amended to add item #13 under Old Business - Appeal of Denial of McGhee Development Water Service Application - which, during the March 19 regular meeting, Council voted, with the Appellant's concurrence, to postpone this matter to May 7. He explained that this item was inadvertently missed when the agenda was posted and that, because an amendment was made and posted less than 48 hours prior to the meeting, per Idaho Code, the amended agenda could not become effective until Council voted to accept it.

Motion to accept the amendment and proceed with the amended agenda.

Motion made by Councilor Howarth, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

Absent: Councilor Aispuro

Mayor Grimm clarified that this matter is not a public hearing but an appeal hearing, which Council first heard in December 2024. He further explained that, following additional information for consideration, the hearing was reopened in January but has been postponed since that time as the City continues to communicate and work with the Appellant on this matter, and the Appellant and City staff have discussed and agree that it would be desirable to further postpone to Council's next regular meeting. With no objection from Council, this item was moved from the end of the agenda and taken up immediately.

Old/Unfinished Business

13. Appeal of Denial of McGhee Development Water Service Application / Re-opening of Hearing and Possible Decision

Motion to postpone the re-opening of the hearing on the appeal of denial of the McGhee Development water service application to City Council's next regular meeting, scheduled for May 21, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

Absent: Councilor Aispuro

Following completion of item #13, Mayor Grimm offered a tribute and remembrance of Helen Newton, former Sandpoint City Clerk and Council member, who passed away on April 25, 2025.

1. Mayor Grimm proclaimed May 11-17, 2025, as National Police Week and May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and additionally read a proclamation celebrating May 3-4, 2025, as National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, including International Firefighters Day, presenting the proclamations to Police Chief Coon and Fire Chief Gavin Gilcrease, flanked by a number of their officers and firefighters.
2. FY2025 2nd Quarter Financial Report Review (for information only)
No Council questions or comments regarding this item.

Mayor Grimm reported on an email phishing scam that is targeting City of Sandpoint development applicants, encouraging vigilance to closely review and follow up on email messages received to ensure they are legitimate. He provided updates on the downtown parking lot repaving project and the status of federal funding for reconstruction of the wastewater treatment plant. He further remarked on legislation that may impact City tax revenue and announced a special Council meeting/workshop to be held on May 28 regarding James E. Russell Sports Center financials and operations.

Council members provided reports from recent meetings of the citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison, with appreciation extended for the spring road striping on Pine St. and Fifth Ave. and the downtown flower baskets, which had been recently installed for the season.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Department Directors provided reports on projects and activities in their respective departments. (Councilor Aispuro arrived at 6:03 p.m. during staff reports.)

Public Comments

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure for public comment, followed by an opportunity for general comments from the public regarding items on the agenda not related to a hearing, as well as other topics relevant to the business of the City of Sandpoint. Information only; no Council action.

Consent Calendar

Items removed from Consent: Councilor Duquette removed Item 9, Proposed Resolution Approving The Festival at Sandpoint Lease (City Agreement #A25-1970-6), and Councilor Schreiber removed Item 10, Approval of City Comments to Bonner County re: Deerfield Subdivision Application.

Mayor Grimm noted for the record the amount of bills presented for payment approval, and the Consent Calendar, amended with the removal of items 9 and 10, was approved by a majority vote of Council, with Councilor Ruehle dissenting.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

Voting Yea: Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

Voting Nay: Councilor Ruehle

3. The Minutes from Council's April 16, 2025, regular meeting were approved as presented.

4. Bills in the total amount of \$1,616,939.50, reflecting \$864,882.23 for regular payables and \$752,057.27 for payroll, were approved for payment.
5. The Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for February 2025 was reviewed and accepted.
6. The Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for March 2025 was reviewed and accepted.
7. **Resolution 25-018** Approving Real Property Lease with Welsh Restaurants, Inc. (City Agreement #A25-1970-7)
8. **Resolution 25-019** Approving Sandpoint Lions Club Lease (City Agreement #A25-1600-7)

New Business (created by removal of Items 9 and 10 from the Consent Calendar)

9. **Resolution 25-020** Approving The Festival at Sandpoint Lease of War Memorial Field (City Agreement #A25-1970-6)

Following remarks from Councilor Duquette, with questions fielded by Veronica Knowlton, Director of Operations for The Festival at Sandpoint, and City of Sandpoint Central Services Director Cheryl Hughes, this resolution was approved by a majority of Council members, with Councilor Duquette dissenting.

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Howarth

Voting Nay: Councilor Duquette

Public Hearing

11. Area of Impact Boundary Adjustment

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker gave a presentation on the proposed Area of Impact Boundary Adjustment, with Mayor Grimm also providing information. Director Welker, Mayor Grimm, legal counsel Zachary Jones, Chief Gilcrease, and Chief Coon all fielded questions from the Councilors. Director Welker acknowledged a correction that will be made to the proposed boundary to exclude two properties recently annexed into the City of Dover.

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure for the public hearing and then opened the hearing. No one testified, and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve the adjustments to the Sandpoint Area of Impact as proposed and presented by City staff.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette

Voting Nay: Councilor Howarth

Mayor Grimm called for a brief recess at 7:24 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 7:29 p.m.

Old/Unfinished Business - continued

12. Presentation/Discussion: Draft Parking Management Plan

Director Welker gave a comprehensive report and update on the proposed parking management plan and fielded questions from the Council members, with additional information provided by Mayor Grimm.

Members of the public requested the opportunity to comment on this matter, granted by the Mayor.

Information only; no Council action at this time.

New Business - continued

10. City Comments to Bonner County re: Deerfield Subdivision Application

Citing a conflict as the applicant to Bonner County for this development, Councilor Howarth recused himself from this matter and left the dais.

City Planner Bill Dean reviewed his staff report and packet materials with the Council and, along with Mayor Grimm and Mr. Jones, fielded questions. Council approved the comments from the City to Bonner County regarding the Deerfield Subdivision Application, as composed by City staff, with the following amendments:

- a. Include a suggestion for a right-of-way dedication on the corners of Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1 for future connectivity to the south and/or west.
- b. Include a suggestion that any access point included in this development onto the property owned by the City of Sandpoint to the east of this development be constructed from public right-of-way stubbed to the City property.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

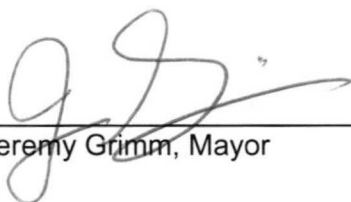
Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette

Abstaining: Councilor Howarth

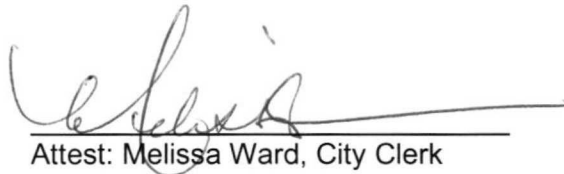
Adjourn

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

I presided over this meeting and confirm that the foregoing minutes, prepared by the City Clerk, were approved by City Council during their meeting held May 21, 2025.



Jeremy Grimm, Mayor



Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk