



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Call to Order

Mayor Grimm called the regular meeting of the Sandpoint City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 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 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

The Mayor reported that the agenda had been amended twice. The first amendment to the agenda was an addition of item No. 12 under Old Business, City Beach RV Park Improvements which were amended and posted more than 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting; therefore, no motion is required to approve this amendment.

The Mayor reported the second agenda amendment was sent out yesterday to add item No. 9 on Consent Calendar to include Confirmation of Mayor's Appointment to Sandpoint Parking Committee: Bob Clark. Because an amendment was made and posted less than 48 hours prior to the meeting for this item, 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 Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Duquette

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.

At the request and invitation of the Mayor, Department directors provided updates and reports on activities in their respective departments.

Police Chief Coon introduced Officer Matthew Noble, who joined the Sandpoint Police Department after nine years with the Russellville Police Department in Arkansas. Noble is originally from Sandpoint and is certified as a Field Training Officer and instructor. Chief Kuhn welcomed him to the department and presented him with a certificate.

Chief Coon also presented a Life-Saving Award to Officer Heidi Barmore for her actions on January 24, 2026. Barmore responded to a welfare check involving an unconscious woman, began life-saving measures, and assisted in stabilizing the individual until EMS arrived. The individual was transported for further medical treatment.

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 topics included on the agenda or other general matters relevant to the business of the City of Sandpoint. Information only; no Council action.

Consent Calendar - action item

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 Tate, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

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

1. The minutes from Council's August 26, 2026, special meeting were approved as presented.
2. The minutes from Council's September 2, 2026, regular meeting were approved as presented.
3. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$689,898.93.
4. Mayor's Memo for Board Appointments were all confirmed as presented.
5. The Mayor's Appointment of Brynn Williams-Woodruff for a term of one year, September 2026 through August 31, 2027, to the Sandpoint Parking Committee was confirmed.
6. The Mayor's Appointment of Scott Wilburn for a term of one year, September 2026 through August 31, 2027, to the Sandpoint Parking Committee was confirmed.
7. The Mayor's Appointment of Erin Riseborough for a term of two years, September 2026 through August 31, 2028, to the Sandpoint Parking Committee was confirmed.
8. The Mayor's Appointment of Luke Omodt for a term of two years, September 2026 through August 31, 2028, to the Sandpoint Parking Committee was confirmed.
9. The Mayor's Appointment of Bob Clark for a term of three years, September 2026 through August 31, 2029, to the Sandpoint Parking Committee was confirmed.
10. **Resolution 26-056** Engaging Magnuson-McHugh-Dougherty, CPA's for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026, Audit

Public Hearing

11. Public Hearing: Amending Title 9, Chapters 1 and 3 – Data Centers

Prior to opening the hearing for public testimony, the Mayor asked whether Council members had any questions for staff. No questions were asked at this time.

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding proposed amendments to Title 9, Chapters 1 and 3, to establish a definition for data centers and create regulations applicable to data centers.

A few individuals provided comments regarding data centers, both for and against. Following the comments, the clerk confirmed that all individuals who had signed up to speak had been

given an opportunity to testify and that there were no additional online comments to be presented.

Mayor Grimm then closed the public hearing.

Council entered deliberations. City Planner Bill Dean fielded questions from council members.

A **motion** was initially made by Councilor Aispuro to deny the proposed amendments to Sandpoint City Code Title 9, Chapters 1 and 3, concerning data center regulations. The **motion** received no second and therefore **failed**.

Councilor Duquette then moved to approve the proposed amendment as written and presented. Councilor Schreiber seconded the **motion**.

Motion made by Councilor Duquette, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Aispuro

Following conclusion of this item, Mayor Grimm recessed the meeting for a brief break at 7:40 p.m., reconvening at 7:45 p.m.

Old/Unfinished Business

12. Update and Direction on City Beach RV Park Improvements

Planning and Community Development Director Jason Welker and Project Manager Erik Bush presented an update on the City Beach RV Park Design Project and requested Council direction.

Staff reported that the original engineer's estimate for the full project was approximately \$1.8 million, about \$1 million over the available construction budget. Staff presented value-engineered options to reduce costs.

A **motion** was made by Councilor Ruehle to proceed with Option 1: Construct the Essential RV Park this winter and pursue additional grant funding for the restroom/shower facility and remaining improvements. Councilor Duquette seconded the motion.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Aispuro

Adjourn

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 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