



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 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, October 15, 2025, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Jeremy Grimm
Councilor Deb Ruehle
Councilor Justin Dick
Councilor Kyle Schreiber
Councilor Pam Duquette
Councilor Rick Howarth

ABSENT

Councilor Joel Aispuro

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, Reports and Special Business

1. Confirmation of Appointment of Fonda Jovick as City Attorney

Council confirmed the appointment of Fonda Jovick as Sandpoint City Attorney.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

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

2. City Attorney Oath of Office and Certificate of Appointment

Mayor Grimm relayed that he would coordinate with Ms. Jovick to administer the oath of office and with the City Clerk on a Certificate of Appointment.

Mayor Grimm provided instructions for members of the public who wished to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting, Councilors provided reports from the meetings of the citizen advisory boards on which they serve, and department directors provided updates on the activities and projects in their respective departments.

Public Comments

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure for public comments 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 relevant to the business of the City of Sandpoint. Both Sandpoint residents and non-residents spoke during the general public comments portion of the meeting, with comment sign-up sheets reflecting the following topics: graffiti, food insecurity, in the Sandpoint area, N. Boyer Ave. corridor design and traffic study, and proposed amendment to Open Container Law.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Grimm recited for the record the amount of bills for payment approval. Councilor Howarth removed Item 9, Proposed Resolution for First Amendment to Legal Services Agreement with Bonner County Prosecutor (City Agreement #A24-1530-1), which was moved to the end of New Business. The Consent Calendar was then approved, as amended, by a majority vote of Council present, with Councilor Ruehle dissenting.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Howarth.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Ruehle

3. The minutes from Council's September 17, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.
4. The minutes from Council's October 1, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.
5. The minutes from Council's October 8, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.
6. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$993,956.02 (\$235,137.80 for regular payables and \$758,818.22 for payroll).
7. The August 2025 Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions was accepted.
8. **Resolution 25-038** Disposition of Semipermanent and Temporary Records - approved
9. *(removed from Consent – see New Business)*
10. **Resolution 25-040** Personnel Policy Amendments - approved
11. **Resolution 25-041** Salary Administration Policy Amendments - approved

Old/Unfinished Business

12. Approval of Amendments to Sandpoint City Code 3-2-9 Open Container Law

Mayor Grimm announced that, under Old Business, following prior Council discussion, amendments to the City's Open Container Law were being proposed. Following any amendments approved during this meeting, an ordinance would be presented at a future meeting for adoption and codification.

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker provided a presentation on the suggested amendments that, in summary, would expand the allowance for the sales/service of alcohol during events, under specific conditions in certain city parks, including the Lions Club and Bonner County Historical Museum buildings at Lakeview Park, the James E. Russell Sports Center at Travers Park, and City Beach Park. Director Welker and Chief Coon fielded questions from the Councilors during discussion of the proposal.

Councilor Duquette made a motion to include in the ordinance that public events with alcohol permitted at City Beach would be required to end no later than 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Dick.

Motion made by Councilor Duquette, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Duquette

Voting Nay: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Howarth

Mayor Grimm remarked that, although this motion failed, he had noted the suggestion and would take this into consideration when approving permit terms for these types of events.

Councilor Schreiber made a motion to approve the amendments as presented, seconded by Councilor Ruele.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Dick made a motion to include in the ordinance a provision to permit one event per month between Labor Day in September through June 30, hosted by non-profit organizations based in Bonner County, that would allow beer and wine at City Beach, with the possibility of a lottery type system, if needed, to determine which group each month would have that opportunity. It was also clarified that, at City Beach, alcohol would be limited to beer and wine only. Councilor Dick's motion was seconded by Councilor Howarth.

There was additional discussion regarding the location and amount of greenspace that would be specified in City Code as allowed for the serving and consumption of alcohol during events at City Beach Park, with consensus that less than an acre would be preferred, ensuring that the designated area is not in close proximity to the sand volleyball courts. Chief Coon further clarified that, for events that will include alcohol, it will be allowed only in a specified delineated space, which will not be in close proximity to the water and sandy beach area. Additionally, Ms. Jovick confirmed that legal counsel would review the proposed ordinance for legal compliance.

The vote on Councilor Dick's motion passed as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Howarth.

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

Following that vote, the Councilors present voted unanimously in favor of the main motion to approve these City Code amendments.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Ruele.

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

An ordinance to codify these amendments will be presented to Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Grimm called for a brief recess at 6:51 p.m., reconvening at 6:56 p.m.

New Business

13. Approval of 2026 Employee Benefits Agreements and Insurance Policies

Central Services Director Cheryl Hughes introduced this item, followed by a presentation provided by Autumn Porter with Taylor Insurance, both of whom, along with Mayor Grimm, fielded questions from Council members.

Motion to approve the 2026 employee benefits agreements and insurance policies.

Motion made by Councilor Howarth, Seconded by Councilor Ruele.

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

15. North Boyer Avenue Corridor Design and Traffic Study

At Mayor Grimm's request and no objection from Council, Item #15 was taken up next, ahead of Item #14.

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker and Public Works Director Holly Ellis provided a presentation, followed by discussion, including remarks from Cliff Mort, who is involved in residential development along this corridor.

Motion to direct staff to pursue traffic and engineering studies to evaluate potential restriping, on-street parking, and a reduced speed limit on North Boyer Avenue.

Motion made by Councilor Ruele, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruele, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette
Voting Nay: Councilor Howarth

14. **Resolution 25-042** Agreement with Interstate Concrete and Asphalt Company for a Construction Contract for the 2025 Paving Maintenance Project on Pine Street (Agreement #A25-3100-2)

Project Manager Erik Bush provided a presentation and, along with Director Ellis, fielded questions from the Council members.

Motion to approve the Resolution for the agreement with Interstate Concrete and Asphalt Company for a construction contract for the 2025 Paving Maintenance Project on Pine Street (City Agreement #A25-3100-2).

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

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

9. **Resolution 25-039** First Amendment to Legal Services Agreement with Bonner County Prosecutor (City Agreement #A24-1530-1) – *removed from Consent*

Councilor Howarth requested a correction to the amendment agreement to reflect the name of the current Chair of the Bonner County Board of County Commissioners, followed by a unanimous vote of Councilors present to approve the resolution with this amendment.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Howarth.

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

Adjourn

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 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 _____, 2025.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk