



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 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, June 17, 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

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.

Council members reported on the recent meetings and activities of the City's citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison.

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

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

Mayor Grimm recited for the record the amount of bills for payment approval. Councilor Aispuro removed Item 9, Proposed Resolution to Award City Beach Basketball Court Public Art Project, which was moved to the end of Old/Unfinished Business. The Consent Calendar was then approved, as amended, by a unanimous vote of Council.

Motion made by Councilor Duquette, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

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

1. The minutes from June 3, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.
2. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$556,459.08
3. The Mayor reappointed Christine Moon for a term of three years, June 2026 through June 2029, to the Sustainability Committee which was confirmed.
4. **Resolution 26-042** Award Construction Contract to Vortex Services for the 2025 CIPP Project (Agreement A26-3400-5) - approved
5. **Resolution 26-044** Authorizing the Fourth Amendment to Renew the Watershed Trails License Agreement No. A23-5100-1 with Pend Oreille Pedalers ("POP") - approved
6. **Resolution 26-045** Final Change Order to Contract No. A25-3257-1– Ruth Avenue to Boyer Avenue Alley Sewer Main - approved
7. **Resolution 26-046** Amendment to Purchase Order 26-1658 with OXARC, Inc. for 2026 Chemical Purchases - approved
8. **Resolution 26-047** Award Summer Street Banner Art program - approved
9. *(removed from Consent – see Old Business)*

Councilor Tate departed the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Public Hearing

10. Public Hearing: Amendments to City Code 7-15-13 Protection of Public and Private Heritage Trees.

Mayor Grimm announced that the purpose of the public hearing was to take public testimony for Council consideration on proposed amendments to Sandpoint City Code Title 7, Chapter 15, Section 13, Protection of Public and Private Heritage Trees.

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

11. **Ordinance 1439** Approval of Amendments to City Code 7-15-13 Protection of Public and Private Heritage Trees

Mayor Grimm asked Councilman Schreiber to introduce the item, as he was the sponsor of the proposed ordinance amendment. Councilman Schreiber provided an overview of the ordinance amendment. He explained that the current code refers to a definition of a heritage tree in the Arboricultural Manual, but no definition was ever included. The proposed amendment establishes clear criteria for identifying heritage trees and provides guidance for applying the ordinance.

Council deliberated and discussed the proposed changes of the ordinance.

At the Mayor's request, the clerk read aloud 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 TITLE 7, CHAPTER 15, SECTION 13, PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HISTORIC AND HERITAGE TREES; ESTABLISHING HERITAGE TREE DESIGNATION CRITERIA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Schreiber made a motion that the Ordinance pass its first reading by title only, and that the Summary is approved with amending the word "historic" from the ordinance title to accurately reflect the proposed code language, seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

Following the amendment of the title, the Clerk re-read the ordinance title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANDPOINT, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, AMENDING SANDPOINT CITY CODE TITLE 7, CHAPTER 15, SECTION 13, PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HISTORIC AND HERITAGE TREES; ESTABLISHING HERITAGE TREE DESIGNATION CRITERIA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

Councilor Schreiber made a 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, seconded by Councilor Ruehle, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

Mayor Grimm announced that the motion had passed, and the Ordinance was considered read, passed and adopted under suspension of the rules.

Old/Unfinished Business

12. Council Direction: Downtown Revitalization Phase 3

Public Works Director Holly Ellis and City Project Manager Erik Bush provided an update on the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 project and requested Council direction regarding project funding and potential project expansion.

Staff reported that the City received formal notification of a \$1.796 million Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grant award for improvements at the First Avenue, Bridge Street, and Church Street intersection. Acceptance of the grant would reduce project costs and could allow the project to be extended to Superior Street.

Council discussed project funding, the use of Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) funds, project timing, pedestrian connectivity, utility improvements, and design considerations. Staff noted that construction would likely be delayed until 2027, allowing additional time to review and refine project design elements.

Councilor Aispuro moved to direct staff to continue advancing Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 based on anticipated federal funding requirements, including a revised construction start date of Fall 2027 and extending project limits for design and construction south along First Avenue to Superior Street. Councilor Ruehle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

13. **Ordinance 1438** Amendments to Title 3, Chapter 12, Business and License Regulations, Short Term Rental of Dwelling Units (Third reading)

Mayor Grimm went over the adoption process for Ordinance 1438 regarding short-term rentals. Council previously declined to suspend the reading requirements.

The City Clerk completed the required full reading of Ordinance No. 1438 (third reading), updating the City's short-term rental regulations to comply with House Bill 583 and Idaho Code. The ordinance will become effective July 1, 2026.

No Council action was required, as the ordinance had already been adopted. Council members commented on the impacts of House Bill 583 and its limitations on local regulation of short-term rentals.

9. **Resolution 26-048** Award City Beach Basketball Court Public Art Project.

Following discussion, Councilor Aispuro moved to approve the proposed City Beach basketball court artwork with the modification that the moose depicted in the design be changed from rainbow colors to a natural brown color. The remainder of the artwork shall remain as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Torrez

Executive Session

14. Motion to convene in executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

15. The executive session was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f), as noted above.

Reconvene and Adjourn

Following conclusion of the executive session, the regular meeting was reconvened and then immediately adjourned at 7:49 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