



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 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, January 21, 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.

Councilors provided reports from the City's citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison, and Councilor Ruehle inquired regarding the Council's planned upcoming strategic planning workshop. Department Directors provided brief updates on projects and activities in their respective departments.

Public Comments

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.

1. The minutes from Council's January 7, 2026, regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$331,558.46 for regular payables.

3. The Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for September 2025 was approved as presented.
4. The Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for October 2025 was approved as presented.
5. The Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for November 2025 was approved as presented.
6. Mayor's Memo re: Board Appointments (*confirmation action items below*)
7. The Mayor's reappointment of Ned Brandenberger to the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency Board of Commissioners for a term of three years, January 21, 2026, through December 31, 2029, was confirmed.
8. The Mayor's appointment of Kate McAlister to the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency Board of Commissioners for a term of three years, January 21, 2026, through December 31, 2029, was confirmed.
9. **Resolution 26-005** Personnel Policy Amendments – approved

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

Public Hearings

10. Proposed Amendments to Sandpoint City Code Title 9, Chapters 1 and 4, Standards for Residential Lot Coverage and Multifamily Minimum Lot Size and Density

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 9, Chapters 1 and 4, pertaining to the standards for residential lot coverage and multifamily minimum lot size and density.

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker and Deputy Planning and Development Director/City Planner Bill Dean provided a presentation on the proposed amendments and fielded questions from the Mayor and Councilors.

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure and then opened the hearing.

City residents who testified: Tari Pardini, Christine Moon, Julie Perchynski, Weslie Kary, Branden Sing, Victor Lankaimer, and Ann Giantvalley. Testimony from non-residents: Todd Bradshaw, Pend Oreille Economic Partnership Executive Director Brent Baker, Patrick Green, Derek Mulgrew, and Rebecca Holland. Following testimony, Mayor Grimm closed the public hearing.

Mayor Grimm called for a brief recess at 7:54 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 8:03 p.m.

Following closure of the public hearing, Council deliberated, with City staff fielding Council members' questions during deliberation.

Councilor Aispuro made a motion to approve the proposed lot size, lot coverage, and density amendments as presented, seconded by Councilor Ruehle. Following some final discussion, the motion passed by a majority vote of Council, as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Aispuro, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette

Mayor Grimm called for a brief recess at 8:35 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 8:39 p.m.

11. Proposed Amendments to Sandpoint City Code Title 3, Chapter 12, Short Term Rental of Dwelling Units

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 3, Chapter 12, regulating short-term rental (STR) operations within city limits.

Mr. Welker and Mr. Dean provided a presentation on the proposed amendments and fielded questions from the Mayor and Councilors.

Following the staff presentation, Mayor Grimm provided a reminder regarding rules and procedure and then opened the public hearing.

Ms. Pardini and Ms. Moon testified, along with Mr. Baker. Following testimony, Mayor Grimm closed the public hearing.

Following closure of the public hearing, Council deliberated, with City Staff and legal counsel fielding Council members' questions during deliberation.

Councilor Schreiber made a motion to table the agenda item indefinitely, seconded by Councilor Duquette. Motion failed, with the Mayor breaking a tie vote of Council, as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

Voting Yea: Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Torrez

Voting Nay: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Tate, Mayor Grimm

Motion by Councilor Ruehle to approve the proposed amendments to City Code Title 3, Chapter 12 regulating short-term rental (STR) operations within city limits. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tate and passed by a majority vote of Councilors, as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Tate.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette

Old/Unfinished Business - none

New Business - none

Executive Session

12. Motion to convene in executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.

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

13. With an affirmative vote, an executive session was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a), as noted above.

Reconvene and Adjourn

Following the conclusion of the executive session, the meeting was reconvened and immediately adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk