



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 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 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho, noting there were some known technical difficulties with the A/V system in chambers, which may be observed throughout the meeting.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Grimm led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Reports

Mayor Grimm reported that he and staff were continuing work on the FY2026 budget and that the new splash pad at Travers Park is now operational. He followed up on his press release earlier in the day, with the announcement of the groundbreaking on Timberline Helicopters' expansion and reported that another successful Lost in the 50s event is in the books. He announced that he had been selected to participate as part of the Idaho Legislature's Interim Land Use and Housing Study Committee, with Sandpoint set to host their August meeting. He reported on the outcome of an Idaho Supreme Court case regarding provisions of the City Code in Lava Hot Springs pertaining to short-term vacation rental homes and a proposed amendment to the Idaho Constitution that would ask Idaho voters to decide whether to give cities and counties the option to authorize new local sales and use taxes within their jurisdiction. Finally, he remarked on the successful completion of the downtown parking lot repaving project.

Council members provided reports from recent meetings of the citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison. Mayor Grimm responded to an inquiry from Councilor Duquette regarding the status of staff work on amendments to downtown building codes.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Department Directors provided reports on projects and activities in their respective departments.

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

Mayor Grimm noted for the record the amount of bills presented for payment approval. Councilor Schreiber requested removal of item #12, Proposed Resolution for Change Order #8 and Amendment to Travers Park Renovations, Phase 1, Contract with Ginno Construction, Inc. (City Agreement #A23-5300-5), which was moved to New Business. The Consent Calendar, amended with the removal of this item, was approved by a unanimous vote of Council.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Ruehle.

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

1. The Minutes from Council's May 7, 2025, regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. Bills in the amount of \$391,659.41 for regular payables were approved for payment.
3. The Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for April 2025 was accepted.
4. Mayor's Memo re: Confirmation of Citizen Advisory Board Appointments (*action items below*)
5. The Mayor's appointment of Heidi Bohall to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
6. The Mayor's appointment of Lori Siemers to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
7. The Mayor's appointment of Dan Tadic to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
8. The Mayor's reappointment of Cate Huisman to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee for a new term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
9. The Mayor's reappointment of Erin Billings to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee for a new term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
10. The Mayor's reappointment of Julie Perchynski to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee for a new term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.
11. The Mayor's appointment of Tom Tuttle to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee for a term of three years, June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, was confirmed.

Old/Unfinished Business

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

Mayor Grimm reported that, with discussion continuing on a resolution of this issue, City staff and the applicant have requested a further postponement of this matter to Council's next regular meeting, which is scheduled for June 4, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

14. Update on Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance

Public Works Director Holly Ellis provided a presentation with an update on wastewater treatment compliance at the City's plant and, along with Mayor Grimm, fielded questions from the Council members. Information only; no Council action.

New Business *(created with the removal of an item from the Consent Calendar)*

12. **Resolution 25-021** Amendment for Change Order #8 to Travers Park Renovations, Phase 1, Contract with Ginno Construction, Inc. (City Agreement #A23-5300-5)

Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker fielded questions from Councilor Schreiber, with Mayor Grimm also providing information, followed by approval of the Resolution by a majority vote of Council, with Councilor Schreiber dissenting.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Schreiber

Executive Session

15. Council voted to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f) for the purpose of communicating with legal counsel 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 Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

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

16. An executive session was held pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f), as described above.

Reconvene and Adjourn

Following conclusion of the executive session, the meeting was reconvened and then immediately adjourned at 8:11 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