



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 09, 2025 at 5:30 PM

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

Call to Order

Mayor Grimm called the meeting of the Sandpoint City Council to order at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 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 Justin Dick

Councilor Kyle Schreiber

Councilor Pam Duquette

Councilor Rick Howarth

As required by City Code, Mayor Grimm identified law enforcement personnel serving as sergeant-at-arms for the meeting: Police Sergeant Michael Aerni.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Grimm led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Reports

Mayor Grimm noted that public testimony on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget would be reserved for the public hearing and made some brief remarks regarding the busy summer events season. Council members provided reports from the recent meetings of the citizen advisory boards on which they serve as liaison, and City staff provided brief updates on the projects and activities in their respective departments. Information only; no Council action.

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 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 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 June 25, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.
2. Bills in the amount of \$1,375,739.38, reflecting \$608,072.31 for regular payables and \$767,667.07 for payroll, were approved for payment.
3. The Mayor's appointment of Katharine Stepleton to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee for a term of three years, July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028, was confirmed.
4. The Waiver of Conflict re: engagement of Lake City Law Group, PLLC, for Legal Services, pertaining to City legal counsel's representation of Selkirks-Pend Oreille Transit (SPOT Bus), which is a client of their firm, was approved.

Old/Unfinished Business - none

New Business

5. Review and Approve Preliminary FY2026 Budget and Schedule Public Hearing

Finance Director Sarah Lynds provided a presentation and, along with Mayor Grimm, City Clerk Melissa Ward, and City Attorney Fonda Jovick, fielded questions from the Council members, followed by discussion.

Councilor Schreiber moved to postpone a decision on Council's tentative approval of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 revenues and expenditures, including intent to use forgone levying authority, and the scheduling of the annual budget public hearing until Council's next regular meeting on August 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dick. Prior to a vote on this motion, following further discussion, Councilor Schreiber amended his motion to, instead of August 6, postpone until Council's special meeting scheduled for July 30, 2025, with Councilor Dick and all members of Council amenable to this amendment. The motion passed by a majority vote of Council, with Councilors Aispuro and Howarth dissenting.

Motion made by Councilor Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Howarth

There was also consensus to move the budget workshop that had been planned for August 6 to take place, instead, during Council's special meeting scheduled for July 16. The workshop will consist of Departmental budget review for the Police Department, Public Works Department Administration, Engineering, and Utilities, and Community Planning and Development Department Administration and Parks and Recreation Division, as well as a presentation and discussion on citywide revenue sources.

6. Budget Workshop: Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Public Works Director Holly Ellis, along with Project Manager Erik Bush, and Community Planning and Development Director Jason Welker provided presentations on the CIP projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year and, along with Mayor Grimm, fielded questions from the Council members. Information only; no Council action.

7. Budget Workshop: Department Budgets - Fire Department, Central Services Department (City Clerk's Office, Human Resources Division, Information Technology Division, Contracts/Grants Division and Central Services/General Government Projects), Finance Department, Streets Division of the Public Works Department, and the Planning and Building Divisions of the Community Planning and Development Department

Fire Chief Gavin Gilcrease, Central Services Director Cheryl Hughes, Ms. Lynds, Ms. Ellis, and Mr. Welker all provided information on the FY2026 budgets proposed for their respective departments or portions thereof and, along with Mayor Grimm, fielded questions from the Council members, with Ms. Jovick also providing guidance, suggesting an executive session should Council wish to discuss employee compensation, where the conversation may involve specific employees. Information only; no Council action.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 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