



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 07, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Call to Order (Outgoing Council)

Mayor Jeremy Grimm called the regular meeting of the Sandpoint City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call (Outgoing Council)

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 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.

Mayor Grimm instructed members of the public who wished to comment during the public comment portion on the agenda to complete a comment sign-up form and hand to staff.

Mayor Grimm then relayed information from Idaho Code § 50-702, providing instructions for installing newly elected Councilors.

Consent Calendar (Outgoing Council) - action item

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.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

1. The minutes from Council's December 17, 2025, regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,159,045.15, reflecting \$382,524.52 for regular payables and \$776,520.63 for payroll.

Presentation to Outgoing Elected Officials

Mayor Grimm, at the request of Councilors, invited Janine Shepard to the podium to say a few words to the outgoing Council members. With the incumbents' business concluded, Councilors Dick and Howarth offered their farewell remarks from the dais. Mayor Grimm and members of the Council then shared

farewell remarks in recognition of Councilors Dick and Howarth, who were presented with gifts from the City in appreciation for their service.

Oaths of Office and Certificates of Election – 2025 General Election

Mayor Grimm administered the Oath of Office and presented Certificates of Election to Councilors Joel Aispuro, Joe Tate, and Joshua Torrez.

Mayor Grimm called for a brief recess at 5:48 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 5:57 p.m. and the newly sworn-in Councilors seated on the dais.

Call to Order (New Council)

Mayor Jeremy Grimm, again, called the regular meeting of the Sandpoint City Council to order at 5:57 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call (New Council)

PRESENT

Mayor Jeremy Grimm
Councilor Deb Ruehle
Councilor Joel Aispuro
Councilor Kyle Schreiber
Councilor Pam Duquette
Councilor Joe Tate
Councilor Joshua Torrez

Election of Council President

Mayor Grimm announced that the next item on the agenda was the election of a Council President, who will serve for the next two years. Councilor Duquette nominated Councilor Ruehle to continue in the role of Council President, seconded by Councilor Aispuro. Councilor Ruehle accepted the nomination, which was approved unanimously as follows:

Motion made by Councilor Duquette, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

Announcements, Reports and Special Business

3. Proclamation: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day / "Wear Blue Day"

Mayor Grimm read aloud his proclamation recognizing January 11, 2026, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day/"Wear Blue Day" in the City of Sandpoint.

Mayor Grimm provided housekeeping items for Councilors, and Department Directors provided brief updates on projects and activities 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 not relevant to the business of the City of Sandpoint.

Consent Calendar (New Council)

The Consent Calendar was approved by a unanimous vote of the Councilors.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

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

4. **Resolution 26-001** Purchase Order #26-1690 to Pierce Auto for Ram 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 - approved
5. **Resolution 26-002** Purchase Order #26-1710 to Pierce Auto for Ram 1500 Tradesman Quad Cab 4x4 - approved
6. **Resolution 26-003** Salary Administration Policy Amendments - approved
7. **Resolution 26-004** Approval to Submit a Letter of Interest for Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Planning Grant FY27 Updating the 2016 Stormwater Facilities Plan Project - approved

Old Business

8. Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 – Draft Public Involvement Plan Update
 Project Manager Erik Bush provided updates on the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 Public Involvement Plan and fielded questions from Councilors. Information only; no Council action.

New Business

9. Proposed Resolution: Bridge Street, LLC, Land Use Agreement
 Public Works Director Holly Ellis and Mr. Bush provided a presentation on the First Avenue & Bridge Street Sidewalk Project and the proposed resolution. Questions from Councilors were fielded by Ms. Ellis, Mr. Bush and City legal counsel. Councilor Ruehle made a motion to approve the Land Use Agreement with Bridge Street, LLC, seconded by Councilor Aispuro. During discussion on the motion, Mayor Grimm took a brief recess at 7:49 p.m. for legal clarification, with the meeting reconvening at 7:54 p.m. and a vote on the motion as follows:
 Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.
 Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro
 Voting Nay: Councilor Tate, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Torrez
 Motion failed.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 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