



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 04, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sandpoint City Council was called to order by Mayor Jeremy Grimm at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Grimm led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Reports

Mayor Grimm recalled that, at Council's November 20, 2024, meeting, he had proposed a free membership to the James E. Russell Sports Center as a new benefit for City employees, noting that action on that resolution was postponed to this meeting, to be taken up under Old Business. He further recalled that he had also presented plans for a six-month pilot program for a 4/10 work schedule for employees who do not currently have that option, where City Hall will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and closed on Fridays, noting that he appreciated all of the feedback received; he will report back on this topic at a future meeting.

The Mayor provides some additional reports and updates as follows: The Lady Liberty statue had been repaired and was reinstalled at the end of the pier at City Beach; the City hosted a successful annual Turkey Trot event on Thanksgiving Day from Travers Park, with the James E. Russell Sports Center open to the public for a preview; City crews are making repairs on Bridge Street and upgrades to the sewer lift station at City Beach; signage for motorists regarding the new truck route have been installed; and he issued a reminder of the on-street winter parking rules, with no parking on the odd side of the street, Citywide, from December 1 through March 1 to allow for snow removal.

Councilors provided reports from the City's citizen advisory boards on which they serve as Council liaison, with Councilor Dick additionally reporting that he had attended his first meeting as the City's representative on the Selkirks-Pend Oreille Transit (SPOT Bus) Board.

Department Directors provided reports on projects and activities in their respective departments.

Information only; no Council action.

Public Comments

Mayor Grimm recited the rules and procedure for public comment, followed by an opportunity for comments from the public regarding items included on the agenda and 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 the bills presented for payment approval, followed by a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, as shown below.

1. The minutes from Council's November 20, 2024, special meeting were approved as presented.
2. The minutes from Council's November 20, 2024, regular meeting were approved as presented.
3. The bills presented were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,426,718.01, reflecting \$657,780.68 for regular payables and \$768,937.33 for payroll.
4. The following Mayor's appointments to the City's Citizen Advisory Boards were confirmed by Council: Eric Paull, reappointed to Urban Renewal Board, 1/1/2025-12/31/2027; Elle Susnis, reappointed to Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation Commission, 1/1/2025-12/31/2027; and Wayne Benner reappointed and Reid Weber appointed to Planning and Zoning Commission, 1/1/2025-12/31/2027.
5. **Resolution 24-082** Lead-Lok, Inc., Building Lease (City Agreement A25-1600-4)

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

Old/Unfinished Business

6. Proposed Resolution Waiving Membership Fee to James E. Russell Sports Center for City Employees

Under Old Business, Mayor Grimm announced that he was seeking a decision from Council, postponed from the last meeting, on his proposal to waive the membership fee to the James E. Russell Sports Center as a new benefit for City employees. He presented and reviewed the results of a survey of City employees to gauge their interest in and possible usage of this benefit. Following Council discussion, Council President Ruehle moved to approve the Resolution Waiving Membership Fee to James E. Russell Sports Center for City Employees, seconded by Councilor Aispuro. She then amended her motion to include a provision that this benefit would come with a trial period of one year to collect and consider usage data during the Center's first year of operation, also seconded by Councilor Aispuro. Following final remarks from the Council members and the Mayor and questions fielded by City Attorneys Fonda Jovick and Zachary Jones, this amendment was withdrawn by Councilor Ruehle, with agreement for withdrawal by Councilor Aispuro, and there was a vote on the original motion to approve the Resolution as it had been presented, Waiving Membership Fee to James E. Russell Sports Center for City Employees. The motion failed, as shown below, and this proposal was not approved.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle

Voting Nay: Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

New Business - none

Executive Session

7. 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 Dick, Seconded by Councilor Schreiber.
Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Schreiber,
Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

The Mayor announced that the meeting recording and online participation would end, and those not participating in the executive session were asked to please exit the room.

8. An executive session was held, as noted above.

Reconvene Meeting and Adjourn

Following conclusion of the executive session, the regular meeting was reconvened and then immediately adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that these minutes, prepared by the City Clerk, were approved by City Council during their regular meeting held on _____, 2024.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk