



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 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, September 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 announced the new process for public comment, where he will call for comment on all agenda items, along with City-relevant topics not included on the agenda, toward the beginning of the meeting, directly following announcements and reports, offering members of the public the opportunity to speak earlier during the meeting on all agenda items, some of which may be toward the end of the agenda and later in the evening. He noted that public testimony on public hearings will not be included during the general Public Comment time; those comments will still be taken during the time of the public hearing under the specific procedures and rules for public hearings.

The Mayor reported that he met with Governor Little and members of the Governor's cabinet during the "Capital for a Day" event in Priest River and provided an update on the status of operations at Albeni Falls Dam.

Mayor Grimm announced a multitude of road construction and maintenance projects occurring around town on Fir Street, North Boyer Avenue, Chestnut Street, and at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Pine Street and requested the public patience as these improvements are completed.

The Mayor further reported that the City expects notification this month regarding the decision on a grant award that would provide significant funds for the Great Northern Road project.

At the Mayor's request and invitation, City department heads provided some brief updates on news and activities in their respective departments.

1. Police Awards Ceremony

Police Captain Rick Bailey and Cpl. Riley Flanigan presented a life-saving award to Officer Zachary Fisher.

Public Comment (*General Public Forum and Comment on Individual Agenda Items*)

Mayor Grimm provided instructions on the new Public Comment portion of the meeting, and members of the public were offered the opportunity to comment on any item listed on the agenda or any City-relevant topic not included on the agenda.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Grimm noted, for the record, that the total amount of bills presented for payment approval was \$1,482,347.18, reflecting \$463,227.31 for regular payables and \$1,019,119.87 for payroll, followed by a motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

2. The minutes from Council's August 21, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.
3. The bills presented were approved for payment.
4. Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for June 2024 acknowledged and accepted.
5. Monthly Financial Report on Cash and Investment Transactions for July 2024 acknowledged and accepted.
6. The FY2024 3rd Quarter Financial Report was presented as an informational item.
7. **Resolution 24-063** Disposition of Semi-Permanent and Temporary Records - approved
8. **Resolution 24-064** 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local 2319 - approved
9. **Resolution 24-065** First Amendment to Snow Removal Services Agreement with Woods Crushing and Hauling, Inc. (City Agreement #A23-3100-11) - approved
10. **Resolution 24-066** "Northwest Landscape" Mural on Division Mini-Storage Building - approved

Public Hearing

11. Turnstone Subdivision Preliminary Plat (City App PS24-0002) - approved

Mayor Grimm recited the order and procedure for the public hearing on the Turnstone Subdivision Preliminary Plat, City Application No. PS24-0002, seeking to subdivide a 3.48-acre parcel (Bonner County Parcel RPS00000273150A), zoned Residential Single Family (RS), located on the south side of Ontario St. approximately 215' east of Division Ave., into eight (8) single family residential lots ranging in size from 14,333 sq ft to 20,667 sq ft. Council members Ruehle, Aispuro, Dick, Schreiber, and Howarth and Mayor Grimm confirmed no conflict of interest or ex parte contact as pertained to this matter. The Mayor disclosed a prior business connection but confirmed no contact or conflict regarding the current iteration of this project or the applicant. Councilor Duquette recused herself, citing ex parte contact, and left the dais at 6:15 p.m.

Daren Fluke with Jacobs Engineering, representing the City, provided a staff presentation and explanation regarding this application and, along with Civil Engineer Brandon Staglund and City Attorney Fonda Jovick, fielded questions from the Mayor and Council members.

The applicant, Norris Boyd, and consultant Nicole Costello, P.E., with Clearwater Engineering provided a presentation and fielded questions from the Mayor and Council members.

Mayor Grimm provided some brief instructions for testimony and opened the public hearing.

City residents Douglas Lambrecht, Molly O'Reilly, and Gary Reasor testified as neutral. City residents Mary Rogers and Cathryn Fairfield testified in opposition.

Mr. Boyd and Ms. Costello provided rebuttal remarks and answered final questions from the Mayor and Council members.

Following rebuttal, two additional members of the public indicated a desire to testify. Carrie La Grace, not a resident of the City, testified in support of the application, and Joel Aispuro, Sr., testified as neutral.

No new information was presented, and the applicant declined to provide any additional rebuttal testimony.

Following public testimony and with confirmation that all who wished to testify had an opportunity to do so, Mayor Grimm closed the public hearing.

City Council deliberated, with Ms. Jovick and Mr. Staglund fielding questions from the Council members.

Motion that the Sandpoint City Council, after consideration of the criteria and relevant standards of Idaho Code and Sandpoint City Code, approve City Application Number PS24-0002, Double Penny Partners' request for approval of a preliminary plat to subdivide a 3.48-acre parcel into eight (8) single-family residential lots at 1207 Ontario Street, with approval based on the staff report and relevant evidence and testimony contained in the public record and subject to conditions of approval as noted in the staff report.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Aispuro.

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

Following the vote on and conclusion of Item 11, the Mayor recessed the meeting for a break at 7:45 p.m., reconvening at 7:51 p.m., with Councilor Duquette rejoining the meeting at that time.

Old/Unfinished Business

12. **Resolution 24-067** City of Sandpoint Local Option Sales Tax Ballot Question for November 5, 2024, Election - approved

Mayor Grimm introduced the proposed resolution following discussion during prior Council meetings. Council discussed, making two adjustments to the draft resolution that were requested in order to ensure that it was clear the tax revenue would be used for road maintenance and that alley maintenance would be limited to grading and gravelling of alleyways. It was also confirmed that the vision is for the use of the revenue derived from the tax for maintenance and improvements of all sidewalks and pathways in town. The end result reflected a resolution, approved unanimously, that will place a question on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot for a decision from Sandpoint voters as to whether the City should adopt an ordinance providing for the collection and remittance of a 1% local option sales tax in Sandpoint, effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2049, with revenue earmarked for the reconstruction and maintenance of the City's roads and sidewalks/pathways, along with certain maintenance of alleyways.

Motion to approve the resolution for the November 5, 2024, Election Ballot Question - City of Sandpoint Local Option Sales Tax.

Motion made by Councilor Dick, Seconded by Councilor Howarth.

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

The resolution will be forwarded to the Bonner County Clerk / Elections Office on or before the deadline of September 6, 2024.

New Business - none

Executive Session

13. 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 Schreiber, Seconded by Councilor Duquette.

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

14. Those not participating in the session exited the room, the meeting recording ended, and the executive session was held. During the session, Councilor Aispuro left at 8:50 p.m. (a quorum remained).

Reconvene Meeting and Immediately Adjourn

The session ended, and the regular meeting was reconvened and immediately adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk