

(Minutes subject to council approval)

CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO

REGULAR MEETING

May 12, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON May 12, 2026

PLACE: Nezperce City Hall, 606 Maple Street.

Time: 7:00 AM

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Tyler Nelson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT were Councilmembers Tyler Nelson, Kelby Heartburg, Jim Zenner, Kimberly Ingram (via Teams), and Mike Jensen; Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt, Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross, and Fire Chief Dave Kuther. Also present were resident Kyle Stapleton, Business Owner Lorna Inglet, Pam, Denise (via Teams) & Norma from Colonial Life, with Avista Regional Manager Mike Tatko (via Teams), and Steven Schramm with JUB (via Teams).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lorna Inglet, a member of the local Garden Club, told the council that the club plans to replace the five benches in the Blue Star Memorial Garden, formerly known as Clock Park. The club has received donations and funding from the State Club, and the new benches will be similar to those on Craigmont's main street. She said the Garden Club is not requesting anything from the council and is only sharing the information. Lorna also said she is a new business owner in Nezperce and is opening a coffee shop. The shop plans to be open Monday through Friday for regular coffee service, on Saturdays for children's activities, and for special occasions.

MINUTES of the previous meetings of 4/9/2026 were approved by a motion by Cm. Jensen, motion was seconded by Cm. Heartburg, motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:

The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated May 12, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand \$ 391,853.93

All bills and payroll disbursements were examined and approved for payment upon motion by Cm. Jensen and seconded by Cm. Zenner, motion carried. Disbursements totaled \$62,894.82, including \$11,699.07 in grant disbursements under check numbers 18658 through 18698; check number 18666 was voided. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$58,931.08. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties in attendance signed the May Claim Approval Report.

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

1. **DIGB2 Fiber Project Update–Dave Taylor:** Dave was not present; fiber is working its way north to town. Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell spoke about where the fiber will run to leave town. Cardwell reached out to the contractor regarding the mess at the end of the EMS building. He informed them that we are

preparing for our annual yard sale day, that it is a huge eyesore, and that we would like it cleaned up. They came out and cleaned up the area.

2. Colonial Life – Employee Benefits Options: Pam with Colonial Life presented information regarding voluntary employee benefit options available to City employees. A packet outlining the various benefit plans offered was provided to the Council. Employees may choose to enroll in any plan they wish, including life insurance, through payroll deduction at no cost to the City. Pam informed the Council that underwriting has been approved, eliminating waiting periods and pre-existing condition exclusions. The Council thanked Pam for the information and informed her that they would review the packets and get back to her at a later date.

3. Avista Franchise Agreement Ordinance 2026-03–Review and approve: Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Motion was made by Cm. Heartburg and seconded by Cm. Zenner. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Cm. Jensen; aye
Cm. Ingram; aye
Cm. Zenner; aye
Cm. Heartburg; aye

Mayor Nelson read the title of the motion. Cm. Zenner made a motion to approve the ordinance motion was seconded by Cm Jensen. Roll Call vote as follows:

Cm. Jensen; aye
Cm. Ingram; aye
Cm. Zenner; aye
Cm. Heartburg; aye

4. Friends of the Library – Storage Options: Clerk Schmidt informed the Council that the Friends of the Library need additional storage space for decorations and books. The group asked about using the cement pad next to the community room, but that area is designated for handicapped parking. Clerk Schmidt suggested an unused storage room that Maintenance discovered and cleaned out last year. A representative of the Friends of the Library toured the room and said it would meet their needs with the addition of new steps, a handrail, and a door. After discussion, the Council agreed the group may use the room if it pays for the improvements.

5. Nezperce Booster Club-Donation: Clerk Schmidt presented a request for a donation from the Nezperce Booster Club. In years past, the council has donated \$100.00 to the club. Cm. Zenner made a motion to donate \$100.00 same as last year, Cm. Jensen seconded the motion; the motion carried.

6. 25th Progressive Ag Day-Donation: Clerk Schmidt requests a donation for the Progressive Ag Day. In years past, the council has donated \$100.00 to the event. Cm. Jensen made a motion to donate \$100.00 same as last year, Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion; the motion carried.

7. Land App Project Update: Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell invited Kyle Stapleton of the school's FFA program to attend the meeting and provide input on planting the alfalfa field. Mr. Stapleton expressed enthusiasm about participating and thanked the Council for involving the school in the project. Roundup was applied about a week ago, and the field still needs conditioning to prepare the seedbed, support root development, and improve water absorption. The Council discussed possible custom-farming options, and seeding is still planned for June. For Phase 2, the project is waiting on control boxes, with electricians expected on site next week. Irrigation startup is anticipated in July. Cardwell received the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and contacted Mike Camin at JUB to review it before his meeting with DEQ. Approval for seepage

testing is ready to move forward as soon as possible. DEQ has also requested additional coliform testing, which can be completed in-house. The goal is to fill the reservoirs as much as possible. Cardwell is waiting for a Credence Clearwater Revival to come and run a camera down a couple of sewer lines to see where he will need to tie into the sewer main for the Payne property line installation. Once this is completed, he will work with Crea Construction to develop a placement plan. Steven Schramm with J-U-B Engineers asked whether the project would be engineered. He was informed that when the request to include the work in the project was made, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) required it to be engineered. Schramm also noted that, to his knowledge, a buffer area must be established before the property can be developed.

8. **Nuisance Update:** Clerk Schmidt provided updates on the Hamilton, Epeldi, and Montgomery properties. Regarding the Patty Epeldi property, the clerk's office sent her a friendly letter requesting a cleanup, which has been ignored. Following the discussion, it was decided that an attorney letter should be sent to Patty Epeldi, requiring action. The clerk's office will follow up with the city attorney regarding Jeremy Montgomery and the status of the summary judgment filing. Regarding the Hamilton property, we had a visit from the Lewis County Treasurer, who informed us that it will be a while, but that some property will be sold. However, it is very likely that the city will not receive any money from the Hamilton estate's probate, as several debts are outstanding and exceed ours.

9. **Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206 (b) Employee Evaluations:** Cm. Heartburg made a motion to move to executive session at 8:10 AM. The motion was seconded by Cm. Zenner, motion carried. The regular meeting resumed at 8:20 AM.

10. **Employee Evaluations – Review and Approve:** Cm. Jensen made a motion to accept the evaluations as presented with 5% pay increases for employees, Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion; the motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. **Maintenance:**

Water: Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell reported that four meters were upgraded last month, with additional meters and new boxes scheduled for installation this month. A leak at the Lincoln project was also repaired.

Sewer: Cardwell reported that pumping to the reservoirs is continuing, but because the lagoons are low, he expects to shut down the pumps by the end of the week. He will follow up with a contractor to complete the camera work needed for the water and sewer installation at the Payne property. Once the camera work is finished, he will gather cost estimates for the project.

Parks: Mowing season has begun and flowers will be planted in the coming weeks.

Streets: Maintenance will address potholes and plans to begin work on the alley behind St. John Hardware. Cardwell reported that the catch basins will need to be placed closer to the center of the alley because the fiber line runs along the edge. The project is expected to move slowly at first.

Tennis courts: Cardwell spoke with Live Wire about the lighting rebate. He also needs to coordinate with Cm. Ingram to obtain the grinder.

Misc.: Live Wire inspected the Legion Hall's power, and repairs are planned. Maintenance is looking for a Jumping Jack compactor, though it may need to search farther north to find one at a reasonable price. DEQ is also planning a visit. Cardwell found a great deal at the thrift store when a resident donated a large number of tools, and Cardwell was able to pick through them and snag a bunch for the new Land App buildings. Cardwell asked

the council to donate to Thrift on Fifth for the tools. Mayor Nelson asked Clerk Schmidt to put this on the agenda for the next city council meeting

2. Clerk:

Arbor Day: Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt reported that Arbor Day was very successful. Students from Nezperce High School helped the Mayor and maintenance staff plant more than 400 trees, and afterward, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk served burgers to the students and community members.

Yard Sale Day: Schmidt stated that the yard sale day was a huge success. She came over and went to several of the sales, and everyone she spoke with was very impressed with the maps and the overall planning of the event.

AIC meeting: Clerk Schmidt and Deputy Clerk Ross attended the meeting, the state financial outlook for next year isn't promising, ICRMP provided information on hiring and firing.

Grant writing: Schmidt reported that Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross has been applying for grants to support improvements to the tennis court project. Although one application was denied, she is pursuing several others, and the City remains hopeful about securing funding.

ICRMP training: Schmidt reported that almost all council members have completed the training; all but one have registered for the class, and 2 still need to complete it. Cm. Ingram spoke up, saying she was the one who still needed to register and complete the training, but that she would get on it right away.

3. Fire Department:

Training: Chief Dave Kuther reported that six people attended Clearwater Academy training last month. He will submit a \$525 invoice for the training.

Hydrants: The Survey and Ratings guy will be here soon to test hydrant flows. Chief Kuther wanted to know when a good time to do this would be. After the discussion, it was decided that they would come after planting has been completed for the season.

Fundraiser: Kuther stated that the fundraiser was a great success. The event netted around 10k, and the beef board went to a local family.

4. Code Enforcement: No report, other than what was already covered in the nuisance update.

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT: Cm. Zenner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 a.m. The motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen and the motion carried.

Other/Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Council Meetings: May 11 and June 8 at 7:00AM
AIC District Meeting – April 15 in Moscow
Fireman's Fundraiser – April 18
Arbor Day – April 24th
Citywide Yard Sale – May 9

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:00 AM at City Hall.

Tyler R. Nelson, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer