

(Minutes subject to council approval)

NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON August 10, 2026**

PLACE: City Hall, 606 Maple Street

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR INGRAM AT 7:05 AM

PRESENT were Councilmembers: Kimberly Ingram, James Zenner, Michael Jensen, Kelby Heartburg, Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt via Teams, Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross, and guests Nathan Boguslawski and Laysn Berry. Fire Chief Dave Kuther was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was led by Mayor Ingram.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public provided comment regarding the proposed ordinance addressing bicycles, electric bicycles, scooters, and similar devices.

Nathan Boguslawski appeared before the Council and expressed concerns regarding creating additional regulations when existing laws may not always be enforced. He encouraged the City to focus on education, parental responsibility, and enforcement of existing laws. He also expressed concerns about speeding within the City and dogs running at large.

A representative of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office discussed the existing state laws governing bicycles, motor scooters, and similar devices and noted that such devices are generally required to follow the rules of the road. The group also discussed concerns about establishing different rules for children that could conflict with existing state requirements.

MINUTES of the previous meeting of 07/15/2026 were approved as emailed upon motion by Cm. Zenner; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:

The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated August 10, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand \$ 348,953.81 (approximate due to no Pool Account Information)

All bills and payroll disbursements were examined and approved for payment upon motion by Cm. Heartburg and seconded by Cm. Jensen, motion carried. Disbursements totaled \$357,173.85, including grant disbursements of \$300,754.46, check numbers 18796 through 18836. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$125,014.55. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties signed the August Claim Approval Report.

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

1. **Land App Update:** The pump at the reservoir was successfully started; however, a leak was discovered near the wet well. The affected area was excavated, repaired, and backfilled. The plan is to resume pumping water into the reservoir.

Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell informed the council that we had received a change order request from the contractor regarding the setup and operation of the pumps. After a discussion with the contractor, it was decided that the council could review the change order after the contractor completes the required work. Cardwell discussed seepage testing of the reservoirs. Testing is expected to take approximately 1 week per reservoir, with additional time required to pump down and switch between reservoirs. The City is working to complete testing and prepare for start-up to test the sprinkler system on September 8.

The Council discussed the project schedule and confirmed that, based on available information, the City remains within the current contract requirements to finalize the project.

Wastewater Property/Farming

The Council discussed plans for managing the City's property associated with the wastewater project, including the possibility of having a custom farmer seed, cut, and managing the alfalfa crop.

The Council discussed the importance of generating revenue to fund future wastewater system maintenance. Staff will continue researching the most advantageous way to manage the property and market the resulting crop.

2. **Council Selection for Council Seat Vacancy Discussion:** The Council discussed potential candidates for the vacant City Council position. Several individuals have expressed interest in or been contacted about the position. Mayor Ingram spoke with Larissa Brannan and Cm. Heartburg spoke with Mitchell Barnett, and both seemed interested. The Council agreed to invite interested candidates to attend the next City Council meeting so the Council can meet with them and discuss their interest in serving on the City Council.
3. **Zwygart Engagement letter for services:** The Council reviewed the engagement letter for the City's upcoming audit in the amount of \$13,800. Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt advised that the cost includes \$5,000 for the wastewater-related single audit, with the remainder covering the City's regular audit services. Cm. Zenner moved to approve the engagement letter. The motion was seconded by Cm. Heartburg. The motion carried.
4. **Ordinance 2026-4 Traffic Law Applying to bicycles, e-bikes, etc.:** The Council returned to discussion of the proposed bicycle and scooter ordinance. The Council agreed to review the applicable Idaho statutes before proceeding and to continue public education regarding bicycles, scooters, and traffic safety. The Council discussed making additional information available to residents through social media and encouraging parents to discuss traffic safety with their children.
5. **Personnel Discussion:** The Council discussed the proposed creation of a position combining Treasurer/office duties with water and wastewater compliance responsibilities. Staff explained that the City's new wastewater system will require substantially more data collection, testing, recordkeeping, monthly and annual reporting, and compliance tracking. The proposed position would assist with these responsibilities and could reduce the compliance work currently performed by outside engineers. The Council also discussed the position's potential

to provide additional operational backup and office support. Funding for the position was discussed in the proposed budget. The Council discussed a proposed flat \$5 water fee to help fund the position and build funds for future system maintenance. Staff will finalize the combined Treasurer/Compliance Officer job description and advertise the position for applications and interviews.

6. **Surplus Recycling Bins-** The Council discussed the surplus recycling bins. No significant public interest has been received. The Council asked staff to contact recycling and surplus organizations, including Simmons and potentially Lewis County, to determine whether there is interest in acquiring the bins.
7. **Legion Hall-**The Council discussed potential improvements to the Legion Hall and the possibility of pursuing approximately \$250,000 in grant funding. The Council discussed remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and addressing the existing breezeway and floor configuration. Due to floodplain requirements, the Council discussed demolition and rebuilding the structure as impractical. The Council discussed completing the project in phases and using qualified local contractors where permitted to reduce project costs. The Council agreed to pursue the grant opportunity more aggressively and investigate cost-effective options for completing the improvements.
8. **Pickleball Court Improvements:** The Council discussed improvements to the City's recreational courts. Approximately \$7,000 in funding from two sources is available to offset the costs of the improvements. The new lights were reported to be working well, but they need adjustments to point more toward the court. Staff will investigate the necessary adjustments. The Council also discussed temporary repairs to the existing court surface and a potential layout that would provide two additional courts while retaining tennis facilities. The Council also discussed relocating a basketball hoop to improve the basketball court layout.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Maintenance

Water-Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell reported receiving several emails about cybersecurity concerns, though he is not overly concerned because the city water system is not connected to the internet or the cloud. Cardwell received a call from JUB about our communication line on the Avista poles. He hopes they are working on replacing the wire as part of the fiber project.

School - Cardwell reported repairs to a water line at the school ball field associated with the installation of the school's sprinkler system. Additional work is required to remove the existing cap and restore water service to the sprinkler system.

Sewer-A new sewer line was installed for Brian Miller, eliminating the previous connection to another property. The rest of the sewer report is in the land app update above.

Payne Property-JUB has submitted plans to extend sewer service to the Payne property. A preliminary plan has been received. The proposed work would include water and sewer improvements, manholes, and a two-inch sewer line connecting to the City's main sewer line on Cedar Street. The Council was advised that the work has been approved for inclusion in the City's wastewater project.

Streets—Substantial chip sealing and patching were completed on streets on the east side of town. The City will clean up loose chips later this month. The City also repaired a damaged culvert near the Matson property

and replaced a damaged clay pipe with a plastic pipe. A portion of the sidewalk was damaged during the culvert repair and will need to be replaced. Cardwell also reported that they are awaiting bids for asphalt work near St. John's Alley, in front of the PSPS building, and for improvements near the Fair Barn.

Community service- Cardwell reported that a 14-year-old individual on probation may need to complete community service hours. Staff will investigate whether appropriate supervised work is available in the City's parks or other facilities.

2. Clerk

Budget- Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt reported that she has been working on the City budget for the last 2 weeks in order to present it to the public today.

New Job Description - Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross and Clerk-Treasurer Schmidt have been working on a complete job description for the new compliance reporting officer and a future addition to the personnel policy for an employee who would need a light-duty position after a non-job-related injury.

3. Fire Department-No report

4. Code Enforcement-

The Council discussed nuisance properties and ongoing cleanup efforts. Cardwell reported that a dumpster at one property remains partially filled and that the property owner has been advised to continue filling the dumpster before requesting pickup.

PUBLIC HEARING

TIME: 8:00 AM

Proposed Budget FYE 2027: Mayor Ingram opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 AM and asked if anyone had any questions or comments concerning the proposed budget. No one had any questions. Mayor Ingram closed the hearing.

1. **FYE 2027 Proposed Budget Review and Approval:** Following review, Cm. Jensen moved to approve the proposed budget as presented and advertised. Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion; the motion carried.
2. **Budget Ordinance 2026-6 – Review and Approve:** Mayor Ingram read the title of the ordinance, then asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Cm. Jensen moved to suspend the rules; Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote follows:

Cm. Jensen aye,
Cm. Heartburg aye,
Cm. Zenner aye.

Cm. Jensen moved to adopt the Budget Ordinance 2026-06, Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote follows:

Cm. Jensen aye,
Cm. Zenner aye,
Cm. Heartburg aye.

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER

ADJOURNMENT: Cm. Heartburg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen; motion carried.

Other/Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Council Meetings: September 14 at 7:00 AM and October 13 at 5:30 PM

ICCTFOA: September 22-25

Lewis County Fair: October 1-4

Closures: September 7th and October 12th

Kimberly Ingram, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer