

(Minutes subject to council approval)

CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO

REGULAR MEETING

July 15, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON July 15, 2026

PLACE: Nezperce City Hall, 606 Maple Street.

Time: 7:03 AM

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Kimberly Ingram

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT were Councilmembers Kimberly Ingram, Kelby Heartburg (via Teams), Jim Zenner, and Mike Jensen; Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt, and Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MINUTES of the previous meetings of 6/08/2026 and 6/24/2026 were approved by a motion by Cm. Zenner, the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen, motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:

The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated July 15, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand \$ 297,861.97

All bills and payroll disbursements were examined and approved for payment upon motion by Cm. Zenner and seconded by Cm. Jensen, motion carried. Disbursements totaled \$95,834.68, including \$0.00 in grant disbursements under check numbers 18741 through 18795. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$42,587.14. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties in attendance signed the July Claim Approval Report.

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

1. **Council Seat Vacancy Discussion:** Council discussed potential candidates for the vacant council seat. Cm. Heartburg reported that Preston Hill does not feel he has adequate time to serve as a council member. Chase Lunders is considering the opportunity and may be interested. Mayor Ingram reported that she spoke with Larissa Brannan. Other names suggested for consideration included Kayleigh or Mitchell Scott and Mitchell Barnett. Council members will continue reaching out to community members to gauge interest in serving on the council.
2. **Land App Update:** Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell reported that we are waiting on the design for the utility extensions to the Payne property. There is a plan to start the pumps next week; we are still a couple of weeks out on the sprinkler system. A change order has been issued to fix the wobbly pipe in the PIPS building. The electrician is done and is now waiting for ACS to write the software for running the

system. Mitch Barnett at Nezperce AG has the seed. Luke Lowe recommends we put on 15 to 20 lbs. per acre. He also recommended that the field be cultivated again. Mitch Barnett also recommended 18 lbs. per acre. There are more weeds, and they will be handled and sprayed. The council suggested that we have Nezperce AG spray rather than maintenance. With all that said, before any seed can be planted, seepage testing must be conducted.

3. **Nuisance Update:** Epeldi's has had the travel trailer placed in the dumpster, and it has been smashed down, so there is still room to place more items inside. Code enforcement officer Steve Bateman stopped by City Hall to ask who to bill for the dumpster, and it was decided to send the bill to Dan Johnson (Senior Citizens representative). Letters have gone out to 2 more residents regarding mowing their yards. We have received new complaints about roosters. The council would like to investigate an ordinance prohibiting roosters, as our city is among the few that do not have one.
4. **Ordinance 2026-4 Traffic Law applying to bicycles, e-bikes, etc.:** Following a brief discussion Council tabled the ordinance until next month giving them additional time to review. Questions were asked about motorcycles; Cm. Jensen is questioning where the kids under a specific age should ride and clarification on riding on the sidewalk or the street. The council decided that they would like to hear public input, so they asked that the ordinance be posted on the website and on Facebook.
5. **Resolution R2026-5 Authorizing Mayor to sign:** Cm. Zenner moved to approve Resolution 2026-5, authorizing the mayor to sign contracts with DEQ and Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. **Personnel Discussion:** Clerk Rhonda Schmidt proposed a new job/position and description where it would be a combination of two different departments, the treasurer's position, and what she proposed being called a compliance reporting clerk. The new wastewater project will require extensive reporting on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, and the clerk's office cannot handle all that it entails. She has spoken with maintenance supervisor Craig Cardwell about this, and he feels that it would be very beneficial for his office as well. This person would not only perform all the treasure duties but would also be required to obtain their wastewater licenses and could serve as a backup operator. Mayor Ingram will meet with Clerk Schmidt and Supervisor Cardwell to draft a clear job description for presentation to the council.

Maintenance worker Ryan Anderson is scheduled to have back surgery soon and is expected to be out for several days to several weeks. Supervisor Cardwell noted that the injury occurred before Anderson's employment with the City.

7. **Council Meeting Date Discussion:** The council discussed changing the days and times of the city council meetings, and after discussion, it was decided to leave the meetings on the same dates and times.
8. **FYE 2026-2027 Budget:** Clerk Schmidt provided a proposed budget to the council to review and tentatively approve. She reported that since the sewer department will not use the DEQ grant/loan package to finish the wastewater reuse project she recommended that the \$5.00 fee be converted to a sewer improvement fee. She added that the expenses for the sewer department will be changing with the irrigation added to the department. It will take a couple of years to determine what the revenues and expenses will be. For the time being the electrical and testing expenses have been doubled. Schmidt suggested that a \$5.00 fee be implemented in the water department for improvements as well to help cover costs as water revenues need addressed in the coming budget. By creating a new administration position in sewer and water Schmidt will need to rework the wage and payroll expenses. Cm. Jensen suggested that we budget for a lawnmower upgrade. The airport will need seal coated this year to preserve the runway so streets will take a hit in the coming year.

9. **LEPC – Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update:** Clerk Schmidt reported that the Lewis County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held its kick-off meeting on July 8th for the Lewis County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. This update occurs every 5 years, and it is time to update the plan. She informed the Council that we needed to start considering any potential natural hazards in Lewis County and add them to the plan. Participating in this process opens the city up to applying for grants in the event of a natural disaster.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Maintenance:

Water: Avista was in the area inspecting their poles prior to fiber installation, and it was discovered that the communication line currently on their poles needs to be replaced. The line is too low, is a single-strand wire when it should be a duplex wire, is missing its insulation coating, and has been spliced and repaired several times in several places. The Avista inspector will try to secure the funds through the fiber grant to pay for upgrading the line. The new ACS system could add the wells to the system currently being installed at the wastewater project.

Streets: North Sky is currently installing posts and boxes for the fiber project coming to town. There was only one mishap, when they hit a clay storm drain at the corner of 5th and Walnut. Maintenance will be digging up Walnut Street to repair the storm drain in the next week or so. Chip sealing will be completed at the end of July, dust abatement was completed. Maintenance would also like to place a culvert in the street by 408 Walnut.

Tennis Courts: New lights have been installed at the tennis courts. While Live Wire was here, they were able to cut out some of the limbs that were obstructing the lights. Mayor Ingram asked whether they could reposition the lights, as some are not pointing at the court.

Other: Cardwell asked if anyone knows of any deals on picnic tables; let him know if you do, as some of the tables need to be replaced. Resident Brian Miller has asked the city to assist with replacing his broken sewer line cleanout. Cardwell informed him that they would help to keep the line clean, but that he would need to hire someone to replace the line and connect it to the city's main line on Fir.

2. Clerk:

703 Oak St: Lane Williams received his letter and called City Hall to ask what he needed to do to avoid having a judgment filed against him. He was told he must apply for a new building permit, pay fees equal to double the amount previously paid, and complete the building within 90 days. He was also told to address the weeds around the property because they are becoming a growing fire hazard. He was given the name of a local yard-work provider and said he would contact them. He also stated that if he could not complete the work himself, he would hire someone to do it before winter.

3. Fire Department: No Report

4. Code Enforcement: No Report

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT: Cm. Zenner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 a.m. The motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen and the motion carried.

Other/Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Council Meetings: Aug. 10 and Sept. 14 at 7:00 AM

Budget Hearing: Aug. 10 at 8:00 AM

ICCTFOA Conference: Sept. 22 to Sept. 25

City Hall Closed: Sept. 7 and Oct. 12

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:00 AM at City Hall.

Kimberly J. Ingram, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer