

(Minutes subject to council approval)

CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO

REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2026

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

PLACE: Nezperce City Hall, 606 Maple Street.

Time: 5:30 PM

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Tyler Nelson at 5:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT were Councilmembers Tyler Nelson, Kelby Heartburg, Mike Jensen, and Kimberly Ingram via Teams, Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt, and Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross. In attendance were Dodd Snodgrass from CEDA, Tim Lynch from MY Architect via Teams, and resident Laysn Berry. Fire Chief Dave Kuther and Cm. Jim Zenner were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MINUTES of the previous meetings of 12/08/25 were approved by a motion by Cm. Heartburg, motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen, motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:

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

Funds on Hand \$382,741.91

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 \$114,462.21, which included grant disbursements of \$14,810.90, check numbers 18463 through 18518. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$51,326.72. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties signed the January Claim Approval Report, except Cm. Ingram, who will sign upon her return to Nezperce.

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

1. **Swearing in of Elected Council Members:** Clerk Schmidt swore the 3 councilors in, and everyone signed the pertinent paperwork except Cm. Ingram, who will sign upon her return to Nezperce.
2. **Legion Hall Remodel** – Tim Lynch walked the council through his design, and they discussed options, especially in the men's room. Doors on storage extra tall for chairs and tables. Discussed the options in the kitchen, pantry, and back patio. Will follow up with a few questions for the seniors about their fridge and freezer, dishwasher, and toilets. Tim will give the plans to his mechanical systems design engineers. Tim spoke with the building inspector and was told that we would not need a suppression hood in the kitchen. Tim will make changes to the plans and get us a cost estimate.

3. **CEDA Profession Services Contract for Legion Hall:** Dodd gave the council a rundown of what is needed to apply for the ICDBG Grant due March 6th, while cost estimates need to be to commerce by Feb. 9th. The council will need to review and approve the cost estimate to accept the contract between CEDA and the City for the Legion Hall Grant application, Cm. Jensen made a motion to table this matter until a cost estimate was available; Heartburg seconded it, and it carried. The Council has asked for a special meeting to review and approve the cost estimate and handle the specifics of the grant application; Cm. Ingram will be back after the 26th so that the meeting will take place then. Mayor Nelson asked that the meeting be scheduled after a progress meeting, at which time we can address the specifics of the grant application.

4. **III-A Amended and Restated JPA and Declaration of Trust:** Motion by Jensen, seconded by Heartburg, motion carried to accept the amended JPA.

5. **Land App Project Update:** Pumps are in the shop and will be installed this week. The irrigation pumps are huge. The HVAC guy has started. The transformer is in the upper building. For the moment, maintenance is managing lagoon levels, so we don't have to discharge much. Controls are supposed to be here this month. Once the heat and doors are in, maintenance will start to paint. Cardwell asked the Council to start thinking about which contractor they want to hire to begin the farming side of the project. Mayor Nelson discussed competitive bidding and the options the city has for the bidding process. Mayor Nelson would like the city to work with the school on the farming side. Cardwell wants a plan for seeding it. Different options were discussed regarding what is available this year and whether it is too late to plant alfalfa; if so, what else could be planted, as we need to get it seeded. We also need to start planning a program for harvesting and marketing the hay. Cm. Heartburg will talk to the high school's agriculture teacher to see if he would be interested in partnering with the city on a program.

6. **Impact Area Update:** Clerk Schmidt gave an update on the outcome of the County Commissioner meeting regarding the area of impact. The commissioners denied our request and voted to keep our current area of impact. Schmidt reported that we can revisit the request whenever we want to increase our area of impact, as long as it is within 2 miles of the city limits. Council asked for the reasoning behind the objection, and Schmidt informed them that there was opposition from 3 or 4 individuals. Mayor Nelson reported that he is conducting research to support a future request. Cm. Jensen wanted to know why we were doing this. Schmidt explained that in 2024, the legislature decided that cities need to reestablish their area of impact. As a result, the city can expand the area of impact, which is a benefit for future growth.

7. **Sanitation Fund Deficit:** Clerk Schmidt let the council know there is a fund deficit. When the city purchased the recycling bins, it put the funds into a deficit that has never been recovered. Schmidt asked whether the council would be interested in increasing the monthly fee to help recover some of the funds. The council wanted to know whether the bins were even being used and, if not, whether they should be discontinued instead of increasing monthly fees. After the discussion, the council wanted to put it to the citizens, informing them that the city has lost money on recycling and is looking for ways to recoup some of those funds. The council would like to poll the citizens to see if they want the program and, if so, inform them that it will come with an increase in fees to cover the cost. The council decided that if most citizens do not want the program, we would investigate selling the bins.

8. **ADA Website Update:** Deputy Clerk Ross gave an update on the building of the new website. It has been moving at a snail's pace this last month; however, the site will be up and running by the last week of January. Most of the information has been moved; we are just tweaking the content to improve the flow. Bridget Lux has been working with Ross to get the site up and running.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Maintenance:

Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell reported that new water meters are to be installed at Barnett's place and that a fire hydrant repair is scheduled. Sewer work on Ash Street is currently underway. Christmas Park lights are turned off and will be removed as time allows. Replacement locks for the RV Park were discussed, with the preferred option costing approximately \$2,500 per door. Avista has hired a contractor and plans to replace utility poles throughout town over the next couple of months. Cardwell is waiting to replace the culverts on Pine until Avista finishes replacing the poles. Cm. Jensen requested that de-ice be applied to the hill at 5th Street and Walnut Street for safety purposes. Cardwell will check for any streetlights that may be out and let Avista know.

2. Clerk:

We are preparing to apply for the America 250 grant. As part of the application process, we have requested letters of support from Prairie Day committee members. Application materials are being finalized to meet program requirements and deadlines, and no action from Council is required currently. We will provide updates as the application progresses and will notify Council once a funding decision is announced.

Mayor Nelson received an email from DEQ requesting additional information on the replacement of water and sewer services to the Payne property, which we found very encouraging, as it was not an immediate "no" to our request. Council wanted to know if this would be part of a change order to the existing wastewater project, which it would.

3. Fire Department:

The Bureau of Rating called and will be here soon. Dave says they come around every 5 years to conduct the fire department ratings. He would like to get the requirements packet ahead of schedule so he can start working on things. He is sure there is testing of pump capacity and different training. The department has picked up 3 or 4 new volunteers. Cascade system will go into the building and get a construction trailer to pull around and get rid of the old ambulance. MES is expected to recalculate the air packs.

4. Code Enforcement:

Clerk Schmidt reported that Steve has been stopping by the courthouse regularly to get updates on the Hamilton house, which is still moving through probate court, and it is just a waiting game until the court issues a decision. Schmidt has received several complaints about barking dogs on 2nd Ave. She has advised homeowners to contact the sheriff's office to file a complaint.

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER: Cm. Heartburg made a motion to approve the liquor licenses for the Nezperce Hotel and Nezperce Market, Cm. Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Cm. Heartburg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Cm. Jensen, motion carried.

Other/Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Council Meetings: February 9th and March 9th at 5:30PM

Closures: January 19th

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will be on Monday, February 9th, at 5:30 PM at City Hall.

Tyler R. Nelson, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer