(Minutes subject to council approval)

NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON October 13, 2026

PLACE: City Hall, 606 Maple Street

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR INGRAM AT 7:00 AM

PRESENT: Councilmembers Kimberly Ingram, James Zenner, Michael Jensen, and Kelby Heartburg; Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell; Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt; Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross; and Fire Chief Dave Kuther. Guests in attendance were Megan Snyder

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment. Ms. Snyder shared her perspective and addressed the demand of payment to get her water turned back on. Ms. Snyder felt her accounts were not handled properly. She asked who decides whose water to turn off and why. Mayor Ingram told her that she ultimately decides whose water is shut off. The city has worked hard to pass ordinances that clearly outline how to handle utility accounts and past dues so situations like this do not occur.

MINUTES of the previous meeting of 9/14/2026 were approved as emailed upon motion by Cm. Zenner; the motion was seconded by Cm. Heartburg. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:
The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated October 13, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand $ 265,771.17

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 $124,024,94, including grant disbursements of $46,073.92, check numbers 18885 through 18932. Receipts from the last meeting totaled $37,425.92. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties signed the October Claim Approval Report.

BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

1. Land App Update:
Seeding: Dave Kuther plans to seed the field this week. After seeding, the crew will run a sprinkling cycle through the system to check operations. The plan is to plant wheat for erosion control and crop will be killed in the spring for alfalfa seeding. Additional spraying is desired, and staff are looking for an effective mixture to help control the morning glory problem.

Payne Property: Crea Construction is installing the water and sewer lines to the Payne property.

Equipment and Parts: Maintenance Operator Ben Mauer identified and resolved the solenoid issue. Spare parts for the grant project are being set aside, and Crea Construction will also be providing parts. All parts will be properly stored.

Electrical and Pump Operations: No issues have been reported with the electrical system since the power outage. Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell discovered the pumps running after the power outage; however, he spoke with ACS, and they assured him that running the pumps with no water in the system would not hurt them. As of now, there does not seem to be an issue.

DEQ Sampling: Cardwell is working with DEQ to resolve an issue regarding sampling requirements.

Security: Maintenance has installed padlocks on the gates and locks them nightly. RD Electric will install electric locks and cameras on both the PSPS and PIPS buildings.

Paving: Paving work at the PSPS building is complete.

2. Council Selection for Council Seat Vacancy Discussion: Mayor Ingram has spoken with Mitch Barnett and Larissa Brennan, who both seem to be interested in the vacant seat. Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt reminded the council that she emailed them Paul Kylo's name, who is also interested in the seat. Mayor Ingram will reach out to Paul and share her thoughts at the next council meeting. Then the council can decide who to appoint.

3. Property Split Request – Block 20, Lots 5 and 6: Resident Ken Kuther requested approval to split two lots in Block 20 of Johnson's Addition. The Council discussed roads and utility services needed if they approve the split. Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell and Clerk-Treasurer Schmidt stated that utilities are available and readily accessible. They also noted that Birch Street will need to be extended from 7th Avenue to 8th Avenue. Cm. Heartburg moved to approve the property split, Cm. Jensen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Note: Kuther visited City Hall following the council meeting and there appears to be an issue with the deed for lots 4,5,6 and until the issue is handled the split and sale of lots 5 & 6 is on hold.

4. Pickleball Court Improvements – Prefabricated Restrooms: Information Presented: Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross provided the Council with a packet outlining prefabricated restroom options and the cost of each unit. **Next Steps:** The Council would like to contact the Lewis County Fair Board, Lewis County, and the Idaho Transportation Department to request assistance with project costs.

5. Surplus Recycling Bins – GovDeals: Deputy Clerk Ross reported that, while attending a conference last month, she learned about GovDeals, a company that assists municipalities with selling surplus property. She asked whether the recycling bins could be listed on GovDeals to recover a portion of their cost. The Council agreed to list the recycling bins on GovDeals.

6. LC Hazard Mitigation Plan – Projects for Plan: Clerk/Treasure Schmidt informed the council that she attended the latest LECP meeting and is working on updates for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She asked the Council for input on what they feel could be issues/problems in Nezperce. The Council wanted to add mitigation of the storm drain by 910 3rd Ave, a plan for extended power outages, and add fiber service to the area.

7. Avista Survey – Ideas: Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt shared that she had received an email from Avista asking for feedback as part of a survey for the utility. Schmidt asked the Council if they wanted her to reply to Avista

with anything specific. The council was concerned about low lines in an agricultural community. Equipment gets bigger in "ag" and those moving fields have difficulty maneuvering through town. The council was grateful for last year's pole replacement and hopeful more poles will be replaced and lines raised for the big equipment. They also asked that whoever Avista hires to trim trees that the trees look better when cutting them out of the lines. Several trees would look better if they were cut differently. And lastly, the council is thankful for the donations received from Avista.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Maintenance:

Water: Cardwell spoke with Avista, and they will replace the signal wire between the wells; which is wonderful news. 4 fire hydrants and some valves need to be replaced. Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt also proposed adding an hydrant in the area of Cedar and 6th Avenue in the case that Block 40 sells for development as the closest hydrant is at the alley by the Peterson's or in the alley by Fred Hess's on 7th Ave.

Streets: St. John Alley Project: The project is complete and looks good. St. John's building runoff has been connected directly to the storm drain system. Cardwell would like to pave gravel strips in the future. Ash Street needs additional gravel.

The flowerpots are also being cleaned up.

Fair Street Closure: Commissioner Justin McLeod appreciated the street closure during the fair. He suggested that, next year, handicapped parking be provided on the closed section of the street nearest to the Eller Building.

Certifications: Ben and Craig will be working on getting their land app certification.

Shop: Cardwell would like to replace the maintenance shop lighting. He will contact Livewire to evaluate the project and identify any available rebates that could help offset the cost.

2. Clerk: Clerk Schmidt stated that her job is to collect money due to the city and that only 5% of the customers are difficult to collect from. She clarified that she did not send Ms. Snyder a threatening text message and offered to provide the message to the Council for review. The text stated that in order to turn the water back on in the house, Snyder would need to pay the past due amounts on both of her accounts. Collections are handled in accordance with the city ordinance which trumps the Public Utility Commission and state statutes.

Liberty Bell: The Liberty Bell was a huge success. The kids really enjoyed the treats the City Council provided and were excited to see the bell. 2 or 3 said next time we should hand out earplugs because it was so loud when it rang.

Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross reminded the Council that December 31 is Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt's retirement and asked if they would be willing to donate some funds to the cost of food for the party. The Council agreed to provide food for the party.

3. Fire Department: The Single Resource Boss (SRB) was here on Sept. 23 and did an inspection. Fire Chief Kuther hopes the fire department can keep its 6 rating. He is confident we will keep the rating because all of his volunteers have up-to-date training documentation. The department will conduct a fire safety class at the school the week of Halloween, then hand out Trick or Treat bags and lights to the kids.

3. Code Enforcement:

There was no report; however, the council wanted to know whether any progress had been made on the Montgomery judgment or filling the dumpster at the Epeldi property. Deputy Clerk Ross will follow up with the city attorney on the judgment and request that an additional letter be sent to Epeldi requesting her to finish filling the dumpster so we can have it picked up before it snows.

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER

ADJOURNMENT: Cm. Zenner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen; motion carried.

Other/Upcoming Events:
Upcoming Council Meetings: November 9th and December 14th at 5:30 PM
Closures: November 11 and November 26-27

Kimberly Ingram, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer