

(Minutes subject to council approval)

**CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**March 9, 2026**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON March 9, 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, Jim Zenner, Kimberly Ingram and Mike Jensen; Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt, Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross, Office Assistant Bridget Lux, and Fire Chief Dave Kuther. Residents in attendance were Laysn Berry and Doug Droz as well as Lewis County Sheriff Deputy Morgan Saul.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: No one in attendance offered public comments.**

**1. Budget Public Hearing:** Mayor Nelson opened the meeting with a public hearing. He asked if anyone was present to make comments on the budget amendment. No one in attendance had questions regarding the budget hearing, therefore, Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Cm. Jensen motioned to close the hearing, Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion, motion carried.

**MINUTES** of the previous meetings of 2/9/2026 were approved by a motion by Cm. Zenner, motion was seconded by Cm. Heartburg, motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:**

The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated March 9, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand \$ 459,132.73 (approx.)

All bills and payroll disbursements were examined and approved for payment upon motion by Cm. Jensen and seconded by Cm. Ingram, motion carried. Disbursements totaled \$116,250.71, which included grant disbursements of \$0, check numbers 18561 through 18606. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$441,410.20. Checks and stub approvals were appropriately signed by all parties, and all parties signed the March Claim Approval Report.

**BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED**

1. **Budget FYE 26 Amendment Ordinance 2026-02:** Review and approval: Mayor Nelson read the ordinance title and asked for a motion to suspend the rules and 2 readings of the ordinance. Cm Heartburg moved to suspend the rules, Cm. Zenner seconded the motion, which carried on the following roll-call vote. Roll call Vote was as follows:

Cm. Ingram, Aye;

Cm. Heartburg, Aye;  
Cm. Zenner, Aye;  
Cm. Jensen, Aye.

Mayor Nelson then asked for a motion to approve Amendment Ordinance 2026-02. Cm. Heartburg moved to approve the ordinance as presented, Cm. Zenner seconded the motion, motion carried with the following roll call vote.

Cm. Ingram, Aye;  
Cm. Heartburg, Aye;  
Cm. Zenner, Aye;  
Cm. Jensen, Aye.

2. **Land App Project Update** – End of Project Celebration? Craig gave the project report. The lights are up around the ponds; there are 3 feet of water in the west pond, and they have started pumping to the east pond. Karl was here on Friday to work on the erosion issue. We are still waiting on the control panels; they said they are on the way. Cardwell needs to contact JUB to make a couple of plumbing changes. Sprinklers are coming, and DEQ is completing a filling plan with a quarterly report. JUB completed the quality assurance plan, and it is very in-depth. The Idaho Department of Water Resources will inspect the reservoirs in April. Credence Clearwater is coming to camera the water and sewer lines on Cedar Street for the installation to the Payne property. New gates have been installed; Cardwell asked if he could put the old, worn-out gate by the road with a free sign for anyone who would like to take it. Clerk Schmidt added that they should be deemed surplus first.
3. **Avista Franchise Agreement – Review and discuss: June 1<sup>st</sup> timeline.** City Attorney Lewis has added redline information from her review. The document was forwarded to Mayor Nelson to review, and he asked that it be forwarded to the council as well. Clerk Schmidt will forward the document to Mike Tatko at Avista for their review too.
4. **Recycling Program - What has been discovered and community responses:** Doug Droz was present to discuss the recycling program. He has been recycling on his own and is witness to the city program and has found incorrect items in the recycling. He doesn't believe that the city could retrain the community to recycle aluminum only. Mayor Nelson reported to the council the response from 3 different residents who would like to see the program continue in any form. However, the city is losing money to the program. Cm. Jensen moved to stop the recycling program and to try and sell the bins to recoup some of the lost money, Cm. Ingram seconded the motion; the motion carried.
5. **Legion Hall – Ideas? What's next?** Cardwell informed that he called a contractor, but he wanted to ask the council if he could use the architect plans for contractors to use to put together a quote. Cm. Ingram suggested we do an RFI (request for information) to pull costs for a building and present it to more than one contractor. There was further conversation regarding how to speak with a contractor to convey what they are looking for. Cm. Ingram stated she would like to know the cost of a shell, and then we could add the cost of a kitchen, 2 bathrooms, and a main floor area. Craig will reach out to the contractor with the additional information.
6. **Arbor Day 2026 – Project Planning:** Following discussion it was decided that the Arbor Day project will be planting trees in the reuse buffer strip. The council likes the idea of having a community barbecue with burgers and hot dogs after the tree planting. The council chose Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as Arbor Day in Nezperce. Mayor Nelson will work on getting seedlings to plant. Clerk Schmidt will inform Brian Lee at the school regarding the council's decision for this Arbor Day. Meanwhile the city would like to work with the school to remove the large trees on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, but it is going to take money and time. Mayor Nelson would

like the students out of school to complete this project. Nelson will look for money to help as it is going to be expensive to remove the trees.

7. **Pickleball Courts – Update:** Cardwell believes that grinding the concrete is not a good idea. The courts were hand poured in the 1950's and grinding the top could be problematic. He suggested that we speak with companies that lay a coating over the top rather than grinding. First, he needs to speak with someone who knows concrete. Cm. Ingram stated that she feels the city needs to invest in park improvements and that we need to include a budget line for improvements in our next budget, so we have long-term financial support for the park's upkeep. Clerk Schmidt stated that there are a couple of grants we can apply for so will research to identify other available funding sources. Meanwhile Cardwell will investigate concrete coating companies.

8. **Dog Complaints –** Sheriff Davis sent Sargent Morgan Saul to speak with the council regarding dog complaints. Morgan suggested that the city performs their due diligence, then we can call the sheriff's office to ticket dog owners.

9. **Personnel Policy - Clarification on Overtime:** Following review of the policy overtime is paid once an employee has "worked" 40 hours. If vacation or sick leave is used the same week the employee must "work" 40 hours before overtime is paid. If an employee is called in on a holiday, they must use the holiday on a different day. If an employee is called in after normal working hours on a holiday those additional hours worked are overtime pay.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

### 1. **Maintenance:**

**Water:** Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell reported that our water signal wire is on Avista poles. This wire is extremely old and needs repaired and/or replaced. While the pole replacement crew was installing new poles, maintenance had to be present to remove the wire and reinstall it on the new poles. Cardwell does not think Avista is aware that we are using space on their polls at this time, but we will need to develop a plan to replace the wire. Cm. Ingram asked if we could go wireless, and this is an option once the control panels for the wastewater treatment plant are installed, we can connect the wells' signal to those panels. Cardwell will reach out to ACS to request a price for installing the signal once we receive the control panels. Cardwell reported that we no longer need to conduct lead and copper testing every year, as our levels have consistently been below reporting levels. The testing will now be every 3 years.

**Streets:** The pole crew guys are leaving for now and will be back later in the year. The pole crew did a great job in all the replacements as they only hit one water line. The fiber coming from Grangeville is at 4 corners of Old Highway 7 and will jump across the canyon and make their way to town.

**Noon Whistle:** The noon whistle is broken, and Cardwell has called around and found a place in Caldwell that can fix it. We don't necessarily need a noon whistle, but we do need a system in case of an emergency. Cm. Jensen suggested checking with Lupers in Lewiston. Cardwell doesn't know the cost to fix the system until it is looked at.

**Sidewalk:** The Fairboard spoke to Craig about replacing the sidewalk on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in front of the livestock barn; they would like it raised to make things better during the fair. Cm Jensen asked Cardwell to speak with St. John's hardware about replacing the sidewalk on their side of the street at the same time.

**Pine Street Repair:** Cardwell plans to install a culvert on Pine Street weather permitting; this will help with the leaves issue; he will also be installing drain tile that will drain to the catch basin.

**Parks:** Mowing will start in a couple of weeks weather permitting.

2. **Clerk:** Schmidt admitted that she forgot to add Council assignments to the agenda. Cm. Zenner made a motion to keep the assignments the same as last year, Cm. Heartburg seconded the motion, and the motion carried. As a reminder those assignments are:

- \* President: Kim Ingram
- \* Water & Sewer: Mike Jensen
- \* Streets – Jim Zenner
- \* Finances, Police & Dog – Kelby Heartburg
- \* Airport – Steve Bateman

3. **Fire Department:** The volunteers will be gone April 10 - 12 to a fire academy. They have set the date for the EMS and Fire departments' fundraiser for April 18. They will not be selling tickets on a specific day like last year, so if anyone wants tickets, they can reach out to a volunteer or to Dave to purchase the tickets. They will be accepting donations for a silent auction, which can be dropped off at City Hall. The cost of tickets will be \$20.00, and they will deliver meals to those who request.

4. **Code Enforcement:** Steve said that he is following up on the Hamilton house, and it seems that something will be happening soon, but we are still waiting for probate to be completed. The Gehrke house is looking better. Arnie is still bringing in items, but they are also being removed in short order.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER:**

Mayor Nelson presented the Proclamation Week of the Young Child to the council. Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to participate in the Week of the Young Child. Cm Jensen made the motion to participate. Ingram seconded, and the motion carried.

Council pictures were taken for the website.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Cm. Heartburg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. The motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen and the motion carried.

#### **Other/Upcoming Events:**

Upcoming Council Meetings: April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 AM  
Closures: May 25

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will be on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 5:30 PM at City Hall.

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Tyler R. Nelson, Mayor

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Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer