

(Minutes subject to council approval)

NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEZPERCE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEZPERCE, IDAHO, HELD ON September 14, 2026

PLACE: City Hall, 606 Maple Street

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

PRESENT were Councilmembers: Kimberly Ingram, James Zenner (Via Zoom), Michael Jensen, Kelby Heartburg, Maintenance Supervisor Craig Cardwell, Clerk-Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt, Deputy Clerk Leigh Ross, and Fire Chief Dave Kuther. Guests in attendance were Ken Kuther, Jeff Peterson, Nathan Boguslawski, Mitchell Barnett and Diana Hill; and JUB engineer Steven Schramm.

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

Public Hearing: Mayor Ingram opened the meeting with a public hearing to take comments on reallocating SRF Funds to the sewer department for future improvements and implementing a \$5.00 water fee for water improvements. Nathan Bogaslawski provided a letter to the council opposing a new fee and explaining how he feels the SRF funds should be handled. He noted that the council has the right to implement fee changes but feels that, with rising costs worldwide, the council should take that into account. Diana Hill added that seniors live on fixed incomes with no increases and the community has many seniors. Mayor Ingram told those in attendance that the city needs to think about its future, that the new sewer reuse project comes with many unknown costs, and that the water department is in great need of improvements. The attendees received a list of neighboring cities' water rates, and Nezperce clearly has the lowest rates of any of the communities listed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No other comments were made at this time.

MINUTES of the previous meeting of 8/10/2026 were approved as emailed upon motion by Cm. Heartburg; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen. The motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT AND MONTHLY BILLS:

The Clerk's Monthly Treasurer's Report dated September 14, 2026, was examined and approved, showing the following:

Funds on Hand \$ 354,266.34

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 \$105,141.40, including grant disbursements of \$25,319.57, check numbers 18837 through 18884. Receipts from the last meeting totaled \$398,678.20. 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: Change Order(s)#10 and #11: Review and Approve:** Steven Schramm informed the council that ARPA grant funds need to be spent by the end of the year. DEQ recently asked whether the City of Nezperce would be willing to de-obligate funds the city will not use on the project. DEQ would like to recoup those leftover funds to be used elsewhere in the state to keep the funds in Idaho. Steven explained his spreadsheet to those in attendance, including the funding sources, what has been paid out, and what remains, along with a list of items to be purchased either by the city or through the contractor. DEQ agreed that the city could use funding to purchase extra equipment such as the “big gun sprinklers”, parts and fittings. Change Order #10 included a list of those items, including cameras for the 2 sewer buildings and paving at the lagoons. Change Order #11 covers installing water and sewer to the Payne property. The remaining balance is the contract balance to the contractor, the JUB contract, and a reimbursement to the city. The bottom line is that we believe \$544,061.00 of the ARPA monies will remain for de-obligation.

Council asked about start-up problems and whether the funds are available if issues arise. Maintenance Cardwell said start-up has gone well overall. Steven believes that start-up is 99 percent completed. They ran into an issue with a \$10 part and will replace it to see if that fixes the issue. Steven added that there is still the grant/loan package that hasn't been used but feels that would be a worst-case scenario. Clerk Schmidt added that she kept funds aside for programming issues. Cm. Heartburg asked if we could make the de-obligation contingent on approval of change order #10 and change order #11. Steven did not see that as a problem. Cm. Heartburg moved to de-obligate \$544,061.00; Cm. Jensen seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Steven explained that seepage testing on the east pond has been challenging because of the wind and rain. They have gathered data and submitted it to DEQ; if it does not pass, they will try to collect data on a nice weather day. The west pond passed its seepage test and is good to go. Note: After the meeting, it was determined that the east pond passed the seepage test.

Mayor Ingram asked if she could have a motion on Change Order #10, Cm. Jensen made a motion to approve Change Order #10; the motion was seconded by Cm. Heartburg; the motion carried.

Mayor Ingram asked for a motion on Change Order #11. Cm. Zenner made a motion to approve Change Order #11; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen; the motion carried.

2. **Council Selection for Council Seat Vacancy Discussion:** Mitch Barnett was in attendance and is interested in being the new council member. Mayor Ingram explained to Mr. Barnett that if they selected him as a council member, the city would no longer be able to use his business for chemical services. Mr. Barnett indicated that he understood this and was still interested. Ken Kuther added his interest as well, but only if no one else was more qualified or interested, as he is old and set in his ways.

3. **Resolution R2026-7: Water & Sewer Rate Changes:** Mayor Ingram read the title of Resolution R2026-07, then asked for a motion. Cm. Zenner moved to pass Resolution R2026-07; Cm. Jensen seconded the motion; the motion carried.

4. **Ordinance 2026-4: Traffic Law applying to bicycles, e-bikes, etc.:** Cm. Jensen feels that parents took charge or the initiative and kids are wearing helmets. Kids are stopping for the stop signs. There was a two-hour presentation on riding scooters and obeying traffic laws at school last spring before school got out. The council would like to see another training at the school in the spring before school lets out for summer. Cm. Zenner wants to table this ordinance for now and revisit it in the future if it becomes an issue. Cm. Heartburg and Cm. Jensen agreed to table it for now.

5. Locks on RV bathrooms: Clerk/Treasurer Rhonda Schmidt reported that RD Electric gave a quote of \$1,30.00 for each door to have locks. The locks will automatically lock at night and can also be opened with a code for those staying in the park. Council asked if we could reset the code periodically to prevent someone who should not have it from obtaining it. Rhonda will reach out to RD Electric, as she thought we could reset them but was not sure. Upon motion by Cm. Jensen to purchase the locks and seconded by Cm. Heartburg, the motion carried.

6. America 250 Liberty Bell Tour: Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt reported that the Idaho Liberty Bell will be coming to Nezperce, and we need to have a location for it to be on display. Our idea is to take it to school so kids can see the bell, since some might never get a chance. Cm. Heartburg thought this was a good idea and said he would talk to School Superintendent Brian Lee and coordinate with him and the school to set it up in the school parking lot. The council agreed to purchase snacks for those that see the bell.

7. Addendum to the Personnel Policy for Light Duty Assignments: Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt asked if the council had a chance to review the light duty description that was in their council packet. Currently, the policy does not have any light-duty job description. To reduce the City's legal liability, it would be a good idea to include a light-duty provision in the City personnel policy. A motion was made by Cm. Heartburg to accept the addendum to the personnel policy; the motion was seconded by Cm. Jensen; motion carried.

8. Pickleball Court Improvements - Ideas or Suggestions: Mayor Ingram reported that she joined the Blue Cross of Idaho Step Challenge, which encourages participants to walk 10,000 steps per day to raise funds. She selected the pickleball courts as her charity of choice and challenged all council members and staff to participate. Mayor Ingram will personally donate \$100.00 to the fund in each participant's name who take her up on the walking challenge. She also suggested contacting the Lewis County Fair Board, Idaho Transportation Department, and Cottonwood Community Credit Union about contributing to the improvement fund. Proposed improvements include moving the basketball hoop and adding two pickleball courts on the east side. Also, much-needed restrooms would benefit everyone. Maintenance Cardwell was recently in Cambridge, ID, and he saw some prefabricated restrooms that he feels would be a cost-effective way to install the most needed restrooms. The Clerk's office will contact the City Clerk in Cambridge and see where they purchased the restrooms.

9. Surplus Recycle Bins: Clerk/Treasurer Schmidt reported receiving an inquiry from a party interested in the bins. The party inspected and photographed the bins and was informed of the asking price but has not responded. Schmidt asked for authority to negotiate the price if the party follows up, and the Council agreed.

10. Road Closure on 5th Avenue During the Fair: The Fair Board requested that 5th Avenue be closed during the fair, October 1–4. Cm. Jensen proposed closing the entire section from Oak Street to Pine Street. Cm. Heartburg moved to approve the closure from Oak Street to Pine Street; Cm. Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Council Meeting Times: The Clerk's office reported receiving complaints from residents that the 7:00 a.m. council meeting time is too early and limits public attendance. Cm. Jensen acknowledged the concern but said the time accommodates his summer schedule. Cm. Zenner agreed, noting that 7:00 a.m. also works best with his busy summer schedule. Both council members supported keeping the meeting time at 7:00 a.m. during the summer. The Council also noted that, starting with our October meeting, the time would change to 5:30 p.m. It was decided that the meeting will continue at 7:00 a.m. during the summer months.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Maintenance

Sewer: Maintenance Supervisor Cardwell will be looking for someone to start seeding this week, as the sprinklers are working and they think they have them dialed in somewhat. They still have some maintenance to

do on the field, like rock picking and will be working on that this week. There has been a problem with mice in the valve boxes, but maintenance put special food in each one to help maintain the mouse population.

Payne water and sewer project: Crea Construction dug up Cedar Street at the corner to find the end of the line. Cardwell was happy that the line is out of the pavement; he will put in a manhole there and then will repave that end of the street. Then Crea and crew can finish the water and sewer lines to the property line.

Streets: Maintenance rented a street sweeper and cleaned up the chips from the chip sealing. Crews completed patchwork on 6th Avenue and Pine Street. Cardwell hopes to finish St. Johns Alley before the fair, although removing concrete from the north half has taken longer than expected. Herco is scheduled to pave the alley around October 5. To reduce costs, the Fair Board plans to have work completed at the fairgrounds during the same visit.

Fire alarm: Cardwell is working on the noon/fire alarm. After replacing the motor, it is now too tightly wound and cannot work with the timer to go off at the right time. Cardwell is trying to figure out how to speed up the timer so that it will go off at the right time.

Sidewalks: The sidewalks at the fair barn are being replaced, as well as the sidewalk in front of the Matson residents, where the city dug it up to replace the clay pipe.

2. Clerk:

Clerk Schmidt informed the council that Leigh will be attending conference later in September.

3. **Fire Department:** The crew will be here on September 23rd to test the hydrant pressure around town. Residents may see fluctuations in water pressure around town.

4. **Code Enforcement-** No Report

COUNCIL COMMENT/OTHER

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

Other/Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Council Meetings: October 13 at 5:30 PM and November 09 at 5:30 PM

ICCTFOA: September 22-25

Lewis County Fair: October 1-4

Closures: October 12th and November 11 and November 26-27

Kimberly Ingram, Mayor

Rhonda J. Schmidt, Clerk-Treasurer