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CITY OF HAUSER

11837 N. Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, Idaho 83854

HAUSER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

(ZOOM Meeting & Public Attendance)

REGULAR MEETING – September 9, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Ray at 6:33 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Council member Pomykala
3. **ROLL CALL** – *Council:* Hoerner, present; Pomykala, present; Finley, present; Duchesne, present.
Staff: Mihara, zoom; Wheeler, zoom; Espe, present; Sauter, present; Fondahn-Baker, present.
4. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT, EX-PARTE CONTACTS:**
Mayor Ray motioned for Attorney Mihara's section be moved from number 10. to 5A. Council member Finley moved to approve Mihara's section from number 10. to 5A. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
5. **MINUTES**
ACTION ITEM:
. Minutes of August 12 – 6:35 p.m.: Council member Hoerner moved to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2025 as presented. Council member Duchesne seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
- 5A. **CITY ATTORNEY, Kinzo Mihara**
ACTION ITEM:
. Legal update: In his opinion, there is no need for a possible personnel policy if there is a good working relationship between council and administration. Is it worth the time and effort? Also ICRMP has model policies for administration.
. RIZR litigation: It continues to accrue interest and the City of Hauser should do nothing at this point.
. Area of Impact boundary: For further discussion, he needed the ACI map from Code Enforcer, Cindy Espe. She said she will be reaching out to Kootenai County. By law, we need the county's approval along with the agreement before December 31, 2025.
6. **MAYOR, Bill Ray**
ACTION ITEM:
. Replace Council member Duchesne and Hoerner's laptops: He took the liberty to tell our IT technician to order new laptops. It was approved once before but would like to replace both laptops

because the hard drives are shot. A month ago, both cost \$2,200 but have probably increased, so would like to authorize the order for up to \$3,000. Council member Pomykala moved to approve the purchase of two laptops with a \$3,000 budget limit. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM:

- . **Special Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2025:** Council member Finley moved to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2025 as presented. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM:

- . **Additional Wednesday for City Clerk to work (last Wednesday of every month):** Council thought the City Clerk working an extra day is fruitful. Council member Hoerner moved to approve the City Clerk work the last Wednesday of the month. Council member Pomykala seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

7. REPORTS

. **Cindy Espe, Code Enforcement:**

- . **Monthly report:** Has the SCJ consultant's final bill for the first draft in reference to the Comprehensive Plan. There was serious discussion on the disappointment in SCJ's execution because they supplied inaccurate information, maps were incomplete, community profiles were outdated, and relevance was poor. To keep cost down, Planning & Zoning (P&Z) handled community events and review meetings independent of SCJ. She doesn't know where the 59 hours were spent and sees no reason to continue paying them. Both Mayor Ray and Council member Duchesne suggested not to continue payments and have Attorney Mihara review the contract and write a letter accordingly. "We could have taken other city Comp Plans and modified them for Hauser." P&Z Chair, Tina Nelson, also agreed that P&Z continue to review their Plan to make sure this is what the community wants. On another note, Treasurer Wheeler confirmed Espe's building permit budget of \$50 - \$55,000 gross, netting around \$20,000. Espe stated that since there is less property for building, there will be less revenue, and the budget revenue is likely overstated.

8. TRESURER, Lee Wheeler

- . **Copy of finalized 2026 budget:** Liquor funds were presented to Council showing \$31,000 in expense. Council member Duchesne commented that he wasn't familiar with a liquor fund as an expense. Wheeler said we don't have a liquor fund expense category, it was a technical error on that particular document. Duchesne continued, wanting to know if we have a copy of the finalized 2026 budget report. Wheeler confirmed he emailed it and will do a follow up with Duchesne.
- . **Audit status:** The Alpine Summit audit is completed for 2022. Cost was up for the 2023/2024 engagement letters which will be finished in a couple of months.

ACTION ITEM:

- . **Treasurer Report – August 2025:** Cash balance is under \$910,000; Profit and Loss was less than anticipated and not concerning; July/August IT server work was higher than expected; Wants to work with the auditors to capitalize on the unexpected cost for IT work. Council member Hoerner moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 2025. Council member Finley seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

9. COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

- . **Jeff Hoerner, Public Works – Streets & Roads:** No report.

- . **Alice Pomykala, Land & Buildings:** No report.

- . **Daniel Finley, Special Projects:**

- . **YouTube start date discussion:** Since Cloud has no more storage space, our IT technician has set up a

YouTube account and wants the zoom meetings uploaded there. Starting next month, Council member Finley will train the Clerks.

. Mark Duchesne, Council Member:

. City Park discussion: A map of City-owned properties and defined right-of-ways, including the lake access off 2nd St. in the Village was passed out. The parcels could be used as playgrounds, a frisbee golf area, skateboard park, a nature walkway over the swamp, or lake access kayak launch. However, Espe commented that some parcels are in Kootenai County, not Hauser, and some are restricted open space not allowing any development. Ms. Espe also stated that parking would be a problem if the access off 2nd St. were opened to kayak launching. Mayor Ray said we need further discussion, but not today, but it is a compelling option he would like to look into.

. TextMyGov follow-up discussion: As a follow-up to previous request to look into TextMyGov, Duchesne commented that he is concerned that \$3,000 is 1.5% of the City budget. This is a significant amount that would have to be funded by increased taxes or expense reductions. Wallace, Idaho implemented the TMG feature on their website which has advantages for their community. Based on data collected, the City of Hauser appears to have a much lower level of citizen-initiated contacts. If additional channels are needed, we need to evaluate multiple options compared to TextMyGov to find the most cost-effective solutions. He is encouraging increased visibility via the City website or Facebook including full meeting data packets, city calendar, link to city and P&Z codes and documents, council meeting videos, planning board meeting videos, a message broadcast channel, and transparent Idaho participation. Council member Pomykala expressed interest in these improvements to our website.

. Kristin Sauter, City Clerk: No report.

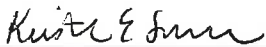
. Laurie Fondahn-Baker, Deputy Clerk: No report.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This is an opportunity to address concerns Not on the agenda (no formal action allowed.) There is a three-minute time limit. Comments regarding performance by City employees are inappropriate at this time and should be directed to the Mayor.

- a. Jeff Broadhead – Due to the power failure on Sunday, 9/7/25, he is concerned about not having water. Mayor Ray said that since we do not have a water system, he suggested calling the Hauser Fire District for emergencies; There is no word on buying Dias chairs for him to assemble; He commented that he does not do Facebook, so wants a script for non-users and notifications on our website.
- b. Robin Broadhead – Would like a budget worksheet. The City Clerk said she can obtain one from the front office desk; Asked who runs Facebook and the Mayor replied that he does.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT: 8:19 p.m.



Kristin Sauter, City Clerk



Bill Ray, Mayor