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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 – February 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:32 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council member Hoerner
3. **ROLL CALL – Council:** Hoerner, present; Pomykala, present; Finley, present; Duchesne, present
Staff: Mihara, absent; Wheeler, zoom; Espe, zoom; Sauter, present; Fondahn-Baker, present
4. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT, EX-PARTE CONTACTS:** None
5. **MINUTES**
ACTION ITEM:
. Minutes of January 13, 2026 – 6:32 p.m.: Council member Duchesne moved to approve the January 13, 2026 Minutes. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
6. **MAYOR, Bill Ray**
Discussed with the City's IT tech regarding a complaint that we are emailing him multiples of the same documents after posting them to our website. As a result, this is becoming costly. The Mayor asked the best way to communicate this process without duplication. Most of the council agreed to continue sending emails while the others said a phone call will do. Either way, the City Clerk stressed the importance of receiving any documents by the deadline date to council. Agendas must be posted to our website by a certain date while the Minutes, as discussed, can now be reviewed and posted after final approval at council meetings.
7. **REPORTS**
. Cindy Espe, Code Enforcement: Not present.
. Monthly Report: It has been slow working on the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) since the last meeting due to no quorum, however, two meetings are scheduled in March; The deadline for the City draft newsletter is 2/20 and will be published the first week of March; A person cannot discuss information related to code violations and Class II applications. Council member Duchesne noted that according to the Idaho Open Meeting Law, documents presented in council

meetings are, by definition, publicly disclosed and available to share. Other cities post all the documents covered in each meeting on their websites. But Ms. Espe clarified her concern that a person can appeal P&Z findings on violations and applications and advised that certain information or changes should not be discussed outside of council. Ms. Espe will follow up with our attorney for clarification. She added that maybe her report is too detailed.

8. TREASURER, Lee Wheeler

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Treasurer Report – February 10, 2026:*** The December budget is typical of October and November’s budget. The City budgeted \$5,000 through December which includes IT services for new laptops and excludes Coleman Engineering services. The end of December was ahead of the budget with building permits; The General Fund is \$250K where as the Hwy Fund is \$620K; Council member Finley moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report of February 10, 2026. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Treasurer Report – January 13, 2026:*** The cash total was \$895K; Profit/Loss was 72% of the budget for building permits; The Hwy Fund was \$619K; We were \$600-\$700 over budget for IT, software, setting up computers and in-house servers; The City’s audit deadline is 3/15/26 for 2023 and 2024 audits and at the end of April, we can submit the 2025 audit. Council member Finley moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report of January 13, 2026. Council member Duchesne seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

9. COUNCIL MEMBERS

. **Jeff Hoerner, Public Works – Streets & Roads:** No report but commented that the Post Falls Highway District is doing right-of-way work on Hwy 53 and Pleasant View Dr.

. **Alice Pomykala, Land & Buildings:**

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Shrub Bed and Bare Ground Weed Control***

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control***

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Pest/Insect Control***

Brad Remington (A&B), submitted his proposal for landscaping, and after reviewing, she said his criteria is cheaper than our current landscaper, Ramey’s Yard Care for the same scope of work. The Mayor questioned Ramey’s charges to which she replied \$1,530/month. Since we do not have a contract with Ramey’s, services can be terminated at any time. Mr. Remington discussed each Action Item (above) with use of material and timeline, reflecting his bid sheet. Council member Finley moved to accept Mr. Remington’s landscaping bid quoting up to \$1,200. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

. **Daniel Finley, Special Projects:** Spent an hour learning how to stream YouTube by consulting with AI but was unable to retrieve audio. He will speak with another AI assistant as an attempt to not have the City’s IT tech get involved.

. **Mark Duchesne, Council Member:** Noticed our website is lacking Hauser links. Our City ordinances (American Legal Publishing) and building codes can only be found on the Kootenai County website and has two links that help navigate. Ms. Espe said we use the International Building Code books from 2018 for structures but the building development code is not up to date. Council member Finley commented that links would be a simple and easy option. The Mayor suggested that Council member Duchesne send the links so our website can be updated.

. **Kristin Sauter, City Clerk:** No report.

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

10. CITY ATTORNEY, Kinzo Mihara: Not present.

. **General Legal Update:**

. **AOI Update:**

. **City Officer/Employee/Contractor Responsibilities:**

With the City Attorney absent, the Mayor reported that Mr. Mihara asked him to discuss the Area of Impact (AOI) update: Kootenai County is proposing an AOI extending one-eighth (1/8) mile around each city which would involve the County Commissioners. Mr. Mihara recommended scheduling workshops with County staff and City staff to review and explain Hauser's specific circumstances.

The Mayor noted that the proposed area cannot be annexed unless it is contiguous with City parcels. He also stated that Hauser has unique circumstances that will require further discussion. In addition, the Mayor noted that community property along the Hwy 53 corridor includes numerous rights-of-way under the County's new system and the City should communicate its intentions to the County.

The Mayor and the City Attorney agreed that holding these workshops would be beneficial.

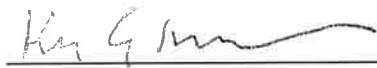
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Brad Remington – Complained that our Treasurer has not paid him for his services for the last two months.

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- a. Council member Pomykala – Wants to thank the Clerks in their efforts to lowering the price for cleaning services by Clean Nation.
- b. Council member Finley – We need to pay for Zoom services. The Mayor told the City Clerk to use our City credit card with his approval.
- c. Mayor Ray – Advised, for security reasons to council and staff, that we use the free government AI template app, "GovAI.com," for writing legal and government documents.

13. ADJOURNMENT: 7:28 p.m.



Kristin Sauter, City Clerk



Bill Ray, Mayor