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CITY OF HAUSER

11837 N. Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, Idaho 83854

HAUSER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

(ZOOM Meeting & Public Attendance)

COUNCIL & PUBLIC HEARING – July 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ray at 6:35 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Hoerner
3. **ROLL CALL – Council:** Hoerner, present; Pomykala, present; Finley, present; Duchesne, present.
Staff: Mihara, present; Wheeler, (technical difficulties); Espe, present; Sauter, present; Fondahn-Baker, present.
4. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT, EX-PARTE CONTACTS:** The Mayor entertained the City's Treasurer's section #9 be moved to #6 (before the Mayor), and the Mayor's section #6 be moved to #12 (before Public Comments). Council Member Hoerner moved to accept moving section 9 to section 6, and section 6 to section 12 in the Agenda. Council Member Pomykala seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
5. **MINUTES**
ACTION ITEM:
. Minutes of June 9, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.: Council Member Hoerner moved to approve the June 9, 2026 Minutes. Council Member Duchesne seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
6. **TREASURER, Lee Wheeler**
ACTION ITEM:
. Treasurer Report – July 2026: Due to technical difficulties, the Mayor proclaimed the Treasurer's Report will be tabled for next month's Council.

7. REPORTS

- . **Cindy Espe, Code Enforcement:** Planning and Zoning (P&Z) has worked persistently for a year and a half on the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) to include local awareness with community events, basic maps (City limits, zoning, aquifer), addressing growth within Hauser, and one public hearing. The Comp Plan can be changed and amended every five years or any year if that is what Council wants to do. They can make the choice of when the Plan wants updated or changed. Council Member Duchesne commented that he appreciates P&Z's investment with the Comp Plan.

8. PUBLIC HEARING: CALL TO ORDER 6:45 p.m.

ACTION ITEM:

- . **City of Hauser Comprehensive Plan:** The Mayor addressed a full house stating that decisions affect everyone. "P&Z has worked on the Comp Plan for over a year, so please be respectful. Each person will have a three-minute time limit, groups will have four to five minutes. That in mind, it is important and valuable of each one's comments." Council Member Duchesne questioned if someone does not finish in time, can they speak later? Attorney Mihara answered if one does that, then we must accommodate everyone who wants to speak and we don't have the time; Public testimony was taken: 11 citizens spoke and 12 people submitted Public Comment forms; Council Member Hoerner moved to accept P&Z's Comp Plan with annual review. Council Member Pomykala seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, nay; Duchesne, nay. The Mayor cast the deciding vote as being "in favor of," based on his review, research, and talking with several citizens in reference to and based on city growth, access, and emergency services, etc., not code or law enforcement. The motion was approved by the majority vote for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan; Deliberation was at 7:40 p.m. and Council readjourned at 7:47 p.m.

9. COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

- . **Jeff Hoerner, Public Works – Streets & Roads:** Wanted to also thank P&Z with their work and planning from our consensus mailers in the newsletter reiterating that people like this small community. "We do have issues, like our park, and we'll have to look into enforcement. Great job P&Z"; He attended the IDC (Idaho Dept. of Civil Engineering) meeting on July 8 relating to the Rathdrum Prairie Area Transportation Study and was very informative. There is obviously huge growth and funneling into Hauser. The Pleasant View bridge will open after the construction season is over and will have two lanes in each direction.

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

ACTION ITEM:

- . **Landscaping:** She thanked everyone for coming out saying the Comp Plan is a great guideline for community direction and it appears we all want to keep our small community feel; Pinpoint Landscaping sent in a bid of \$100 for lawn services. Their last invoice is in question whether their services should be taxed. She received another landscaping bid with the same quote as Pinpoint for the same services. Council Member Pomykala moved to hire Pinpoint Landscaping for "as needed" mowing and cleanup. Council Member Finley seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Finley, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.
- . **Daniel Finley, Special Projects:** Commented that if a person still needs to voice their opinion, they can attend Council or P&Z meetings. He said, that based on the attendees' feedback, they do not

really want much to change. They want to maintain the rural feel and are concerned with taxes and code enforcement. “There are some educations with ADUs and people are worried about taxes. They’re worried about enforcement of the code, more so than what the code itself says because the code doesn’t matter if it’s not enforced. Something I haven’t mentioned to any other council member is that I have an unorthodox solution to this that I don’t think people will like, but I think should be on the table. The community can get everything they want if the City unincorporates and it goes to the county. What happens then is that they don’t have to pay City property tax, that that tax could go to the fire department. We know the fire department definitely needs the funds and I would be very happy not to pay City taxes if that went to the fire department instead. But then you have larger lots because the county doesn’t provide larger lots. They are the ones that own the park. They are the ones that can enforce the park. For the City to actually enforce all these codes, we would have to increase taxes a lot, and we would have to hire people for this or contract out for it. The citizens are basically asking us to provide the services the City ought to provide and if we’re not providing those services, maybe the jurisdiction has the resources to do it. Everybody gets what they want if we go that route. As for the Comp Plan meeting, it’s definitely good, lots of energy to be discussed.” He turned to Mayor Ray and asked that he see a scheduled Comp Plan workshop before Council votes on anything final. He concluded that he didn’t have any specific comments on the Plan.

- . **Mark Duchesne, Council Member:** He appreciates all the work that P&Z has put into and all the citizens that have shown up tonight. His objective was to write everything everybody said and to understand and put a little more thought into what was said. He believes there are some adjustments that need to be made to make it the best possible Comp Plan and wants to do everything to help accomplish this. He voted “no” on the Comp Plan because he was surprised and disappointed that P&Z did not want to have further discussions about it. He felt that the document needed modifying, was misleading, and had incorrect information. However, he said it can be modified at next month’s Council meeting. Ms. Espe commented that if it needs minor modifications, to go to Council for the changes. Attorney Mihara said he will research if this is the legal formality.

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

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

10. CITY ATTORNEY, Kinzo Mihara

- . **General Legal Update:** He is still dealing with ACI (Area of City Impact) and no decisions have been made. He will be online with the Kootenai County Commissioners next week; There were no claims or lawsuits against the City this month.

11. MAYOR, Bill Ray:

ACTION ITEM:

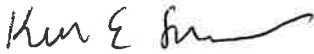
- . **Schedule Comprehensive Plan Workshop:** After reviewing the Comp Plan in the Public Hearing, the decision was made not to have a workshop because the Plan was approved. He revered the comments, complimenting that he “Truly can’t thank you enough with your valuable starting point.” A vote was not taken since the Comp Plan was approved in the Public Hearing.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- . Haley Lake (P&Z Committee): She is glad to be a part of the Comp Plan process but will be very upset with all the effort and hours that P&Z has put into this Plan if it has to be revised too soon.
- . Tina (P&Z Chair): Questioned if the workshop was to be scheduled with P&Z prior to the vote? The Mayor replied that it was and moved it to the end of the meeting. She interpreted, "So with that item on the Agenda, that gives the appearance that the City Council made a decision on this Plan prior to hearing public comment. I want it on the record that P&Z will not meet with City Council until there is a vote one way or another on this Plan. That is not fair to the public. There has to be an image of no pre-decision prior to hearing the public testimony."

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT: 7:57 p.m.



Kristin Sauter, City Clerk



Bill Ray, Mayor