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CITY OF HAUSER

11837 N. Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, Idaho 83854

HAUSER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
(ZOOM Meeting & Public Attendance)

CITY COUNCIL AND PUBLIC HEARING – September 8, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Hoerner

3. **ROLL CALL – Council:** Hoerner, present; Pomykala, present; Finley, absent; Duchesne, present. **Staff:** Mihara, zoom; Wheeler, zoom; Espe, absent; Sauter, present; Fondahn-Baker, present.

4. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT, EX-PARTE CONTACTS:** Council Member Finley requested prior to the meeting to be excused from tonight's meeting because he is out of town; Code Enforcer Espe is excused because she is out of state; Attorney Mihara has prior legal engagements and therefore, the Mayor requested his section 10 be moved to section 8A, after the Treasurer's section. Council Member Hoerner moved to approve Attorney Mihara's section 10 to be moved to section 8A. Council Member Pomykala seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

5. **MINUTES**
ACTION ITEM:
. ***Minutes of August 11, 2026 – 6:34 p.m.:*** Council Member Hoerner moved to approve the August 11, 2026 Minutes. Council Member Pomykala seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

6. **MAYOR, Bill Ray**
. ***Discussion on ITIP (ID Transportation Investment Program) for FY27-FY33 re Cloverleaf and Hwy 53 Interchange:*** A letter was sent to the State about concerns with Cloverleaf and the Hwy 53 interchange after the completion of the overpass. The State said they are addressing this issue and is in the planning phase. They consider this a small project and allocate a one-time per year funding for such small projects. Council Member Duchesne spoke with Mike Lenz, who stated it is considered a

small project which will proceed forward, but will require pre-significant steps that will likely be completed by 2029.

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Obsolete Surplus Laptops (Dell laptop serial #FW7QQF1 and HP laptop serial #5CD8463GBP):*** Our technician picked up the equipment and this inventory will get the City's books straight. He will either donate or trash them. Council Member Duchesne moved to dispose of these two laptops. Council member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Ms. Espe's Salary Increase (per her City's Contract):*** The Mayor would like to table this for next month's meeting. Council Member Duchesne stated that it is a misnomer in section 3 ("Compensation") of her contract and suggested changing the language from "monthly salary" to "monthly consulting fee." In addition, it was suggested by Duchesne under the "Time and Performance" section there is no notice period and it should be incorporated into the wording of the contract on both the City and Cindy's part.

7. REPORTS

. **Cindy Espe, Code Enforcement:** Absent.

8. TREASURER, Lee Wheeler

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Treasurer Report – September, 2026:*** Expressed there were minimal changes; $8,067K in Cash Balance between the accounts; Profit/Loss statement is right on track; Building Revenue was slightly higher due to August's fire impact fees; IT costs budgeted low; Engineering fees will come in timelier. Council Member Pomykala moved to accept the September, 2026 Treasurer Report. Council Member Hoerner seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: CALL TO ORDER 6:43 p.m.

ACTION ITEM:

. ***Approve and Adopt Ordinance 215 (Annual Appropriation) for FY 2026-2027:*** The Mayor asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Council replied, none. Since there were no previous questions or feedback, Mayor Ray wanted Council input. Council Member Duchesne questioned, at the top of the budget spreadsheet for FY 2026-2027, why was there a reduction of property tax from $30K to $26,300? Mr. Wheeler, Treasurer, said he talked to the County about annexation fees that are not available this year but had just received the L2 shortly before the meeting. He explained the L2 reflected a couple of factors: there were annexations from last year that increased fees that we did not have this year and that it is based on property values and new build values. Duchesne said he had heard that there were Idaho Revenue Sharing and Highway fund reductions. The Treasurer reassured us that those are historical drops. Duchesne continued, asking when are we going to calculate the Liquor, Sharing, and Highway funds? Attorney Mihara replied that they usually fall into the fiscal year or first quarter and were averaged out with a close percentage; Mayor Ray asked if there was any public Q&A. There was none. Deliberation was at 6:48 p.m. Council Member Hoerner

entertained the motion by reading the title of the Ordinance: "I move that Ordinance 215 (Annual Appropriation for FY 2026-2027) be placed on its first reading by title only, under suspension of the rules and to waiver its second and third readings." Council member Hoerner moved to accept the Annual Appropriation FY 2026-2027, Ord 215. Council Member Duchesne seconded the motion. Roll call: Hoerner, aye; Pomykala, aye; Duchesne, aye. Motion carried. Mayor Ray read the entire Ordinance by title only, then entertained a motion to adopt Ord 215 and to publish by summary only. He then asked if there were any questions and Council Member Duchesne got clarification from the Mayor on section 3 in reference to a general tax levy on taxable City property. Treasurer Wheeler interjected that the Clerks need to send the Annual Appropriation to the CDA Press tomorrow for publication. Council readjourned at 6:52 p.m.

9. COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

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

. **Alice Pomykala, Land & Buildings:** Commented that she had a good experience with Andy's Heating and Cooling installation. They were very accommodating and were pleased with making payments.

Mayor Ray interrupted Council apologizing for jumping ahead and abandoning Attorney Mihara's section 8A. Mr. Mihara said that was fine and resumed to his regular section 10 after Council's section.

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

. **Mark Duchesne, Council Member:** Would like to research Hauser's feasibility study in reference to the walkability of the City's sidewalks. Mayor Ray thought this a good idea but was firm in expressing that as long as it is done on a research level.

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

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

10. CITY ATTORNEY, Kinzo Mihara

. ***General Legal Update:*** No claims against the City.

. ***Discussion on Updating Kootenai County Common Enforcement of Boat Ramp:*** Reached out to the Deputy Attorney and will have a follow up conversation from the last conversation with Mayor Ray and Commissioner Mattare.

. ***Follow-up Conversation with Mayor Ray and County Commissioner Mattare:*** Council Member Duchesne asked if the AOI (Area of Impact, new Area of City Impact) has been approved? Mr. Mihara answered that nothing has changed. There will be a meeting in November where we can either trigger a 60-day mandatory consultation period or we can accept the 1/8 mile the County gave to everyone else for their city boundaries. What the City does is up to the Council; Duchesne asked the Treasurer if the Transparent Idaho audits are close to completion? Mr. Wheeler replied that Alpine Summit is finishing the 2024 audits, then, after a week or two review, he will distribute it to Transparent Idaho.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 p.m.

Kristin Sauter, City Clerk

Bill Ray, Mayor