

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF HAYDEN, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Regular Meeting: 5:00 PM

Hayden City Hall Council Chambers, 8930 N. Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Ed DePriest, Matthew Roetter, Tom Shafer, Sandra White.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Sandra White led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

Mayor Davis added the agenda item *2B. Transportation System Update – Idaho Transportation Department and Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization* to the agenda.

1. **CONSENT CALENDAR** *All items on the Consent Calendar are Action Items*
 - A. Approval of 2025 Flanagan Ventures dba Wiley E Waters Contractual Services Agreement
 - B. Approval of the 2025-2030 Hayden Little League Park Use Agreement
 - C. Approval of the 2025 The Peak Health & Wellness Center Contractual Services Agreement
 - D. Approval of 2025 KTigers Taekwondo Contractual Services Agreement
 - E. Approval of Justin and Heather Arts Deferred Improvement Agreement
 - F. Approval of Bills for Payment

MOTION: Council Member DePriest motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Council President Roetter provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member White	Yes
Council President Roetter	Yes
Council Member DePriest	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

2. PRESENTATION

- A. **Recognize Lee Zink for His Service on the Historic Commission**

Mayor Davis presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lee Zink for his volunteered time as a Historic Preservation Commission member.

- B. **Transportation System Update – Idaho Transportation Department and Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Glenn Miles (KMPO) outlined the history of north-south transportation planning in Kootenai County. Studies from 1997 to 2021 consistently highlighted the need for improvements to US-95,

Government Way, and Highway 41, along with developing the Huetter Corridor as an alternative route. A \$10 million grant in 2009 funded efficiency upgrades, and in 2021, the Huetter alignment was modified for the Highway 53/US-95 interchange. Public input led to a broader Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, now two years in progress, exploring comprehensive regional improvements.

Mayor Davis stressed the need to expand Huetter Corridor to keep pace with Hayden's growth. He noted past planning anticipated road improvements and warned that continued development on a two-lane road **could** create major traffic issues. He urged ITD to provide a clear timeline to align infrastructure with increasing demand.

Glenn Miles highlighted the need to finalize transportation plans to secure funding and support regional growth. He presented a building permit map (1990-2024) showing increased development, particularly north of Hayden, emphasizing the importance of expanding the Hutter Corridor and improving east-west routes like Prairie Avenue and Highway 53. He noted that without clear decisions, funding from the legislature and federal grants would be difficult to obtain. Using the I-90 widening project as an example, he stressed the importance of regional coordination and preparedness to compete for transportation funding.

Discussion continued regarding concerns about federal funding and environmental impacts. Mr. Miles responded to questions about President Trump's funding cuts, stating transportation projects are still valuable for national investment, especially for freight transportation. Regarding questions about the aquifer, Mr. Miles acknowledged concerns about stormwater runoff but emphasized that DEQ and EPA standards help minimize risks. He also noted the greater concern is septic tanks and assured that ongoing collaboration with the aquifer board and DEQ will address these issues during the planning process.

Carrie Ann Hewitt from the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) provided an update on the transportation planning process, focusing on improving safety, mobility, and system reliability due to rapid growth in the region. The project area spans from State Line to Government Way, and up to Highway 53. She explained the PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages) process, a streamlined version of the NEPA environmental review, which allows exploration of various alternatives.

Initially, 50 alternatives were considered, with community input helping to identify key issues. The options have been narrowed to 13 at this stage, and further evaluations will reduce the alternatives to 3-4 for detailed analysis. Ultimately, the goal is to select the best options for funding and implementation.

The next steps involve moving into the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) study to refine plans and pursue funding for implementation, with a goal of securing competitive grant funding and legislative support.

The options for Huetter Road include Alternative D, which would involve a road with traffic signals and local access for businesses, and Alternative H, a limited-access highway with higher speeds and interchanges. There were also discussions about the cost estimates, with some estimates ranging between \$200-300 million for potential improvements.

Public input will continue through open houses, with a comment period expected to open again in March for further feedback on the narrowed alternatives.

3. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minutes maximum)

None

4. COMMISSION REPORT

A. Arts Commission

Chair Stephanie Saterfiel provided a report of endeavors that the arts commission has been exploring and working on. Including, an upcoming community event planned for the Fall.

5. REPORTS

A. City Administrator Report and Calendar Review

City Administrator Lisa Ailport presented a report summarizing the city's 2024 activities, including the addition of 2.3 acres of parkland and 5.08 lane miles of new road, bringing the total to 185 lane miles. She emphasized the importance of maintaining streets with treatments like chip sealing, though the city fell short of the optimal goal for annual maintenance. The sewer department successfully flushed 85,000 linear feet of sewer and addressed issues like inflow and infiltration, while community development saw 188 residential permits and \$58 million in new construction value. The recreation department also experienced high demand for its programs. Updates included the Ramsey Road Extension project set to begin after February 10th and successful efforts to enforce speed limits under 35 mph on certain roads. Council members inquired about challenges related to road maintenance, particularly in terms of budget and manpower, and Ms. Ailport noted that while progress was made, improvements are still needed. Public participation on the Hayden Canyon Park concept was also encouraged.

B. Law Enforcement

Lt. Sifford provided an update on recent law enforcement activities, including two armed robberies that occurred in Hayden within a short time frame. The incidents required a large response, with over 11 patrol deputies, Idaho State Police, and Coeur d'Alene City Police involved. The first robbery occurred in the afternoon, while the second one happened on Saturday evening at a local gas station. Both suspects were apprehended fairly quickly. Lt. Sifford acknowledged the tremendous amount of follow-up work and support provided by various agencies beyond just the visible presence of law enforcement.

After recent efforts to clarify the enforcement of speed limits under 35 mph, Lt. Sifford confirmed that the sheriff's office received new guidance from the prosecutor's office on the matter, which the city officials should receive soon.

When asked if the suspects in the robberies were locals, Lt. Sifford confirmed that one was a local Hayden resident, while the other was a transient from various areas.

C. Mayor/Council

The Mayor and Council discussed the following topics

Emergency Operations Plan: Following a well-attended meeting on the Kootenai County emergency operations plan, the plan has been revised based on public feedback.

Frustration was expressed about not having enough time to review the lengthy emergency operations manual before being considered for approval during a council meeting and suggested more time should be given for future document reviews.

High-Density Development Clarification: Community concerns about high-density development were addressed, clarifying that no high-density projects have been approved in the last three years. The data is available for the public to view.

Mayor Davis recessed the meeting for a five-minute break at 5:57 p.m.

6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Davis proposed a workshop within the next 60 days to improve communication about the city's future vision and ensure council members are well-informed about upcoming projects.

7. WORKSHOP

A. ACTION ITEM SCJ Alliance Assessment of Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Mayor Davis called the meeting back to order at 6:02 p.m.

Discussion focused on the recommended actions following the assessment of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments, provided by SCJ Alliance. The key issue was deciding which recommended actions to prioritize given budget constraints. The Council debated between a less expensive amendment to the comprehensive plan costing \$30,000 and a full update to the comprehensive plan and other city long-range plans. Timing was a concern, with some suggesting delaying any action until more developments were completed, while others worried about acting under outdated policies.

Other actions, such as updating the city's transportation, parks, and sewer plans, were recognized as important but not urgent, with potential changes to impact fees depending on the impacts of the comprehensive plan update. The Council discussed whether staff could handle some tasks to reduce reliance on consultants, aiming to move forward with the amendment in 2025 and plan for other updates in subsequent years.

The focus was also on land use and zoning, particularly along Hayden Avenue. Concerns were raised about whether the updates would require changes to zoning codes or land use policies, and whether it was worthwhile given some ongoing developments.

The majority of Council expressed their support to engage SCJ Alliance to finalize amendments with a \$30,000 to \$50,000 budget allocated.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Abbi Sanchez, City Clerk

Alan Davis, Mayor