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

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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 5:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
Present: Ed DePriest, David Erickson, Matthew Roetter, Tom Shafer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Davis asked Council Member David Erickson to lead the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS
None

1. **PROCLAMATION**
   A. Extra Mile Day

   Mayor Davis read the proclamation and proclaimed November 1 Extra Mile Day in Hayden.

      i. Presentation of Extra Mile Heroes

      Mayor Davis recognized Judy Eichelberger, Joy Richards, and John Young as Extra Miles Heroes for Hayden.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR** ***All items on the Consent Calendar are Action Items***
   A. Approval of September 29, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
   B. Approval of October 13, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
   C. Approval of October 13, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
   D. Acceptance of the Grant of Easement from Richard Bingham
   E. Approval of Agreement with Buddy's Backhoe Service, Inc. for Installation of Sewer Line to Public Works Facility
   F. Ratification of Bills Paid
   G. Approval of Bills for Payment

   Council Member Shafer received clarification that bills on the agenda for ratification were for budgeted equipment purchases that were ready for delivery and due for payment before this council meeting.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:	
Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council Member Roetter	Yes

Council President DePriest Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

AMENDED MOTION: Council President DePriest moved to amend the motion to include Item 1E that was not read prior to the original motion. Council Member Roetter provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Council Member Shafer Yes
Council Member Erickson Yes
Council President DePriest Yes
Council Member Roetter Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

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

Staucia Kosoff, Hayden Resident, expressed opposition to constructing a civic center, noting that voters approved a recreation center in 2023 and that many community members, particularly families, would prefer recreational amenities. She emphasized the need for an indoor basketball court, stating that existing parks do not provide adequate basketball facilities and that the community lacks a free indoor gym. She questioned the city's explanation that funding constraints have delayed the recreation center, citing concerns about past project management issues. Ms. Kosoff encouraged the city to pursue grants or other funding opportunities for a recreation center and argued that existing community gathering spaces, such as churches and the library, already serve functions that a civic center would provide. She concluded by urging the city to prioritize recreational facilities over the proposed civic center.

Joe Rezzonico, Hayden Resident, described an incident in which three unleashed dogs attacked and killed his leashed dog while he and his spouse were walking on North Maple Street. Mr. Rezzonico stated that the attack occurred near an area where children were present and expressed concerns about public safety for residents, pets, and families.

Mr. Rezzonico recounted interactions with law enforcement and animal control following the incident, stating that initial enforcement actions were delayed due to what he was told was an ongoing contractual dispute between the City of Hayden and the Sheriff's Office. He indicated that, after additional follow-up and correspondence with local officials, citations were issued and further action regarding the dogs was pursued.

Mr. Rezzonico requested that the City Council ensure the incident is thoroughly investigated, take appropriate actions available under local laws to protect public safety, and work with the Sheriff's Office to address any enforcement challenges. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of accountability, consistent enforcement of local ordinances, and measures to help prevent similar incidents in the future.

Angela Faire, Hayden Resident, began by expressing appreciation for City Administrator Lisa Ailport, thanking her for her work addressing complex issues, responding to questions, and serving the community.

Ms. Faire then discussed the status of law enforcement services following the City Council's September 22nd rejection of the proposed law enforcement services contract.

She noted that the rejection was based on concerns related to accountability and cost allocation, referencing a document previously prepared by Commissioner Bruce Mattare. She expressed concern that public discussion has become focused primarily on accountability rather than the broader issues originally identified.

Ms. Faire provided a timeline of recent discussions involving the Public Safety Commission, Kootenai County Commissioners, and the Sheriff's Office regarding law enforcement services and cost recovery calculations. She noted that a draft Matrix Consulting report had been presented to the Public Safety Commission and questioned when the final report would be released and made available for public review.

Ms. Faire also requested information on what law enforcement and related services are currently being provided, citing community interest in issues such as animal control. She encouraged continued public engagement, including opportunities such as a potential town hall meeting, and asked for greater transparency regarding the next steps in evaluating future public safety service options.

4. COMMISSION REPORT

A. Quarterly Written Reports

Written reports were provided in the packet. There were no comments or questions from Council.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. *ACTION ITEM* Consider Exhibit A Law Enforcement Contract for Enhanced Services for FY2027

The City Council discussed a proposed law enforcement services contract with Kootenai County for FY 2027. Mayor Davis explained that the agenda item was intended to provide direction on acceptable contract parameters and potentially authorize the mayor to sign the agreement if only minor changes were made by the county.

It was noted that the Kootenai County Board of Commissioners had discussed the contract earlier in the day and appeared to be considering significant changes to the city's proposal, including a reduction in patrol staffing levels. Several council members stated that because negotiations were ongoing and the county's counterproposal had not yet been formally presented, further discussion or approval of the current draft contract was premature.

Discussion centered on:

- The status of ongoing negotiations between the City of Hayden, the Sheriff's Office, and the Board of County Commissioners.
- Questions regarding patrol staffing levels, contract costs, and county overhead calculations.
- The distinction between services funded through the county's Justice Fund and services provided through the city's enhanced law enforcement contract.
- Transparency regarding the costs and services residents already fund through county taxation.
- Clarification of negotiating roles and authority among the Sheriff, county commissioners, and city representatives.

City Administrator Lisa Ailport explained that the city's proposed contract reflected discussions held with the Sheriff's Office and was intended to continue negotiations

with the county. She also noted that additional discussions regarding overhead calculations were scheduled between the city's consultant and county staff.

Council members also referenced concerns raised during public comment regarding animal control and law enforcement response. City officials explained that Sheriff Norris has stated that services should continue as normal while contract negotiations are ongoing and that steps had been taken to address communication issues that arose during the reported incident.

No formal action was taken on the contract during the discussion, and several council members expressed a preference to continue negotiations and await additional information from the county before considering approval of a revised agreement.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. *ACTION ITEM* Consider Updating the Kinds and Levels Chart to include a Director of Public Safety

The council discussed a proposal to create a part-time Director of Public Safety position to provide law enforcement expertise and support to the city. City staff explained that the role would be intended to replace or reduce reliance on contracted consulting services while providing ongoing subject matter expertise related to law enforcement operations, contract negotiations, accountability measures, and public safety issues.

Several council members expressed support for the concept, citing the value of having an in-house expert to help the city understand law enforcement systems, evaluate service levels, review reports, and participate in negotiations regarding law enforcement services. Supporters noted that the position could help the city better manage significant public safety expenditures and provide greater oversight and transparency.

Council Member Shafer voiced concern about creating a new government position, noting that consultants provide flexibility because their services can be adjusted or discontinued more easily than permanent staffing. He questioned whether the city had sufficiently explored continuing to use consultants rather than establishing a new position.

Discussion also included potential benefits of an employee serving in the role, including the possibility of direct access to law enforcement data systems, which may not be available to outside consultants. City Administrator Lisa Ailport stated that consultants are typically used to supplement staff for specific projects, whereas public safety oversight is an ongoing city responsibility that may justify dedicated staffing.

Council members generally agreed that specialized law enforcement expertise is needed as the city continues evaluating public safety service options and negotiating with Kootenai County. Supporters of the proposal emphasized that the position could improve the city's ability to advocate for its interests, understand law enforcement operations, and manage future growth and public safety needs.

MOTION: Council Member Roetter moved to approve the updated Kinds and Levels Chart to include a Director of Public Safety position. Council Member Erickson provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council President DePriest	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council Member Shafer	No
Council Member Roetter	Yes

The motion was approved by a majority vote in favor.

B. *ACTION ITEM* *Come Together* Bench Walk Event

The council considered a request from the Arts Commission to hold a "*Come Together* Bench Walk" community event to formally introduce the newly installed artist-painted benches located throughout Hayden. The event is intended to showcase the benches, recognize community donors and sponsors who supported the project, and introduce the participating local artists.

The Arts Commission proposed holding the event on November 14 at 1:00 p.m., beginning with a ceremony at McIntire Park followed by a self-guided bench walk for attendees to view the artwork. The commission was seeking council approval to host the event.

MOTION: Council Member Shafer moved to approve the event to be held. Council President DePriest provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Roetter	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council President DePriest	Yes
Council Member Shafer	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

C. *ACTION ITEM* Winter Wonderland Immersive Light Display Event

The council considered a proposal from the Arts Commission to host the Winter Wonderland Immersive Lights Display, an art installation designed by Christina Villagomez. The display would provide a seasonal light experience for the public and complement the city's holiday activities.

The proposed event would run from December 5 through January 3, beginning in conjunction with Hayden's annual Christmas parade and tree-lighting ceremony. The proposed location for the installation is the former Public Works facility east of City Hall.

MOTION: Council Member Erickson moved to approve the event. Council Member Roetter provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council President DePriest	Yes
Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member Roetter	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

D. *ACTION ITEM* Agreement with Companions Animal Center for Impounded Dogs

The council considered an agreement with Companions Animal Center to ensure that stray or impounded dogs can be brought to the shelter. Staff explained that contract negotiations for law enforcement services revealed a service gap affecting the intake of dogs brought in that were found in Hayden.

The agreement would allow the shelter to accept these animals and collect applicable fees. Staff noted that such cases occur infrequently, historically averaging fewer than five per month.

Council discussion focused on how fees are handled, the distinction between stray dogs and owner surrenders, and whether the city could incur costs for unclaimed animals. Staff emphasized that the agreement provides a reliable process for sheltering stray dogs and maintains an important partnership with the local animal shelter, regardless of future law enforcement contract arrangements.

MOTION: Council President DePriest moved to approve the agreement. Council Member Erickson provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	
Council Member Roetter	Yes
Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council President DePriest	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

7. REPORTS

A. City Administrator Report and Calendar Review

City Administrator Lisa Ailport reported that the final Matrix Consulting Group public safety study has been received. The Public Safety Commission previously reviewed and accepted the draft report, and the next step is to hold a community town hall to discuss the findings and gather public input before recommendations are brought to the City Council. Scheduling that public engagement has been delayed while the city focuses on ongoing law enforcement services contract negotiations with Kootenai County.

Ms. Ailport also stated that a comprehensive update on transportation and planning projects is being prepared and is expected to be presented at the next council meeting as part of the public meeting packet.

Council members discussed the recently completed Honeysuckle/Ramsey roundabout project and whether an after-action review should be conducted to identify lessons learned regarding construction delays and public communication. City officials noted that, although publicly posted completion dates were missed, the project was opened to traffic only a few weeks beyond the contractual completion date.

Ms. Ailport also announced a community trunk-or-treat event at Hayden Meadows Elementary School on Friday evening.

B. Law Enforcement

It was noted that no law enforcement report was presented because the city currently does not have an active law enforcement contract in place.

C. Mayor/Council

Mayor Davis reported attending an Airport Advisory Board meeting. The meeting primarily focused on routine airport-related business, and the council member indicated there were no items discussed that were considered significant or directly relevant to the City of Hayden.

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Shafer requested that the city review its wireless infrastructure ordinance in light of a recently adopted Idaho broadband infrastructure law and evolving wireless technology deployment. He shared that he had researched the issue, compared Hayden's current ordinance to recently drafted model regulations being considered by other local jurisdictions, and submitted findings to city staff. Mr. Shafer requested consideration of the topic as a future agenda item.

Council members discussed potential legal limitations related to regulating wireless infrastructure and generally agreed that the proposed ordinance review should first be evaluated by the city's legal counsel before further council discussion.

Council President DePriest proposed exploring a regional discussion involving local cities and Kootenai County regarding law enforcement funding, service levels, and cost allocation. He expressed interest in examining whether cities are receiving services proportional to the taxes and fees paid into county public safety funds.

Council members discussed the idea and suggested it may be appropriate to raise the topic through the regional Council of Mayors. Mayor Davis agreed to contact other local mayors to gauge interest in a broader discussion and determine whether a collaborative review of public safety funding issues would be productive.

Mayor Davis recessed the meeting from 6:19 - 6:25 p.m. for a break.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ***ACTION ITEM*** *(Action will be taken to enter and exit Executive Session. No action will be taken during the Executive Session)*

A. Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

MOTION: Council President DePriest moved to enter the meeting into executive session. Council Member Roetter provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	
Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council Member Roetter	Yes
Council President DePriest	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor and the meeting entered executive session at 6:25 p.m.

MOTION: Council President DePriest moved to exit executive session. Council Member Roetter provided the second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	
Council Member Erickson	Yes
Council Member Shafer	Yes
Council Member Roetter	Yes
Council President DePriest	Yes

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in favor and the meeting returned to regular session at 6:45 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

_____

Abbi Sanchez, City Clerk

_____

Alan Davis, Mayor