

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Presiding: Mayor Steven Adams

Meeting Via Internet and at City Hall Convened at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer: Councilwoman Ball

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Adams

Present at City Hall and Online: Mayor Steven Adams; Councilors Joy Ball, Catherine Nielsen, and Carter Stanford; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Public Works Director Arlynn Jacobson; City Attorney Chase Hendricks; Planning and Zoning Administrator and Chairman Kurt Hibbert and Spencer Haacke respectively; and others who may have joined electronically but not identified. Councilman Dayley was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Councilwoman Nielsen and seconded by Councilwoman Ball to approve the Consent Agenda; motion carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Planning and Zoning Chairman Kurt Hibbert reported on the following item:

City of Rexburg Sewer Treatment DEQ Violations: the City of Rexburg is facing a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) lawsuit for violating the Federal Clean Water Act by discharging pollutants into the South Fork of the Teton River. The City's wastewater treatment plant has exceeded pollution limits for the past five years. Mr. Jacobson reported that Rexburg has been working on compliance for the past several years but have experienced setbacks and delays with funding and the engineering company. Sugar City is concerned with our possible liability associated with the lawsuit. City Attorney Chase Hendricks will investigate the liability and Mr. Jacobson will stay in touch with Rexburg's wastewater department director for updates. A wastewater liability budget line item may be added to the 2027 budget.

Planning and Zoning Chairman Spencer Haacke reported on the following items:

Sugar Salem Zoning: talks with Salem are ongoing to work out zoning applications for the Sugar Salem area.

Land Use Map Revisions: the commission is also working on cleaning up the Land Use Map. They have asked the Council for direction and any changes they would like to make.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

2026 Arbor Day Proclamation: Mayor Adams proclaimed Friday, May 8, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City and urged all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and support the efforts to protect our trees.

Waste System Collection: City Attorney Chase Hendricks reported that the city does not have a franchise agreement with PSI Waste Systems (PSI) which would give them an exclusive right to service the city. City Code gives commercial businesses an option to use PSI or another vendor for garbage removal. PSI offers discounted prices if they go through the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Arlynn Jacobson reported on the following items:

2023 Tap Grant Design & Location: currently working on the design and locations of the proposed sidewalk project. Since the application was sent in 2022 costs have gone up which will shrink the project.

East Parkway Corridor: The City of Rexburg is currently buying property for the East Parkway Corridor. They are looking for Sugar City's plans and will support the city's proposal. They currently have an older version that is outdated and does not reflect the city's desires. The city will make sure they have an updated version.

Teton Island Estates: they are almost done with the sewer line infrastructure for phase 3.

Stillwater Development: they have completed their final plat process and will soon start putting in the infrastructure for phase 2 and 3.

Park Restrooms: Mr. Jacobson is getting quotes for different building options to compare costs and feasibility. He would like to use local companies. The idea to include the restrooms as part of the future pavilion is supported.

Stop the Bleed Kits: the kits are here and installed in the vehicles. The mayor thought training should be made available to the staff which the vendor can provide.

New Lawn Mower Purchase: the lawn mower has been purchased and delivered. A couple of additional attachments were also purchased. The brush cutter can cut up to 3-inch diameter limbs. A promotional credit of \$2000 was also realized by the city.

Solar Lights: there are some safety concerns on the corner of 3rd S and Front Streets because of the lack of lighting. Old Farm Estates development is also generally dark. The city would like to see more lights. By code, every intersection and cul-de-sac should have lights and every 150 feet. Planned Unit Developments can choose a lighting plan within that framework. Solar lights are a good affordable option to the hard-wired light poles.

Walking Path by 6th South Canal: a meeting was held with developers to discuss options.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Arbor Day Celebration: the 2026 Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 10:00 am. The theme is "Trees Anchor Our Town". A tree will be planted in the same area as last year, with choir, and art contest activities. East Idaho News will be invited to do a "Feel Good Friday" segment.

AIC Spring District Meeting: those who attended the spring training thought it might not be worth the time and effort to attend each year. Open Meeting laws were discussed. "Community Time" was encouraged at council meetings to address individual and community issues which are added to the agenda at least 48 hours prior do the council can prepare and decisions made. A Civilian Pledge could be posted to keep meetings "family friendly". They mayor was not interested in censoring public comments. They also reported that smaller cities only meet once per month.

Flood 50: the committee plans on using the old Jr High School foyer and gymnasium for pictures and a historical display of the flood. Fifty years ago, the same foyer was used to hand out clothing and other items to help flood victims, it was the main meeting place for information and staging cleanup. Walking path signs will be enlarged for the self-guided tour. The bus tour will also stop in Sugar City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

8:00 P.M. It was moved by Councilwoman Nielson seconded by Councilman Stanford to move into executive session pursuant to:

Idaho Code 74-206(a) Hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, whose qualities are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need; not to fill a vacancy in an elective office or deliberate staffing needs in general.

Idaho Code 74-206(b) Evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

Motion carried. Thereupon, the deputy clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilors Ball, Nielsen, and Stanford
Those voting nay: None
Councilman Dayley was excused.

Thereupon, Mayor Adams declared the motion passed.

9:15 P.M. The executive session ended for Idaho Code 74-206(a) and (b). No decisions were made and there was no deliberation.

PENDING GENERAL BUSINESS:

New Office Positions:

MOTION: It was moved by Councilwoman Nielsen and seconded by Councilwoman Ball to approve two new job descriptions “City Permit Technician/Code Enforcement Coordinator” and City Office Manager, Financial Controller and Compliance Coordinator” with an amendment to require an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree and experience as drafted by the City Attorney for both jobs and to delete “Deputy” from the title of the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Thereupon, the Mayor called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilors Ball, and Nielsen
Those voting nay: Councilor Stanford
Councilor Dayley was excused.

Thereupon, the mayor declared the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Signed: _____
Steven Adams, Mayor

Attested: _____
Wendy McLaughlin
Clerk-Treasurer