

CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, November 10, 2025
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Gerot, Councilmembers: John Stinson, Guy Bonner, Theresa Root, and Amy Jared. Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke, and Fire Chief Matthew Hagele.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Jared made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes October 6, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, and November 2025 Accounts Payable. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

No Citizen Comments

Department Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke reported that the modified blade is on the new Case and the machine is scheduled to be delivered November 11th. The water tender truck has been moved from the Pines and is being worked on as time allows. The RV dump station and park bathrooms have been winterized and closed for the winter. There are no known leaks on the city side. The oils have been changed in all snow removal equipment and are ready to go. The construction of the machine shed is complete and Jack has requested quotes for the installation of power.

Fire Chief Matthew Hagele reported that there were no calls for service other than a false alarm at the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy this morning. Next week a representative will be onsite to complete the flow testing of six of the self-contained breathing apparatuses. The fire department was approached by a resident on Court St about having the department standby with hoses for the burning of a large brush pile. The request is being made because the water pressure to that property is low and may not be sufficient should the burn get out of control. Chief Hagele had spoken to Mayor Gerot and they both felt it would be a good idea to have fire department personnel on site with hoses hooked up to the nearby hydrant. The department will be partnering with the Gold Rush on December 13th to have Santa's visit. A representative from the PVFD will be required to attend the Fireman's Ball for the Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary held in February in order to receive the department's grant check from the auxiliary. Chief Hagele said he and his wife planned on attending the ball and that the cost is \$50 per person. He is requesting that the city pay for his ticket. Mayor Gerot recommended that the city cover the cost of tickets for both Hagele and his wife.

Code Enforcement Liaison Officer Jeffrey Getchell reported that he had additional calls about the dog-at-large up on Rossiter but was never able to locate the dog and/or identify the owner. Jeff followed up on Downing's code complaint after the two-week timeframe and found that Mr. Downing had not cleaned

November 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

everything up but had made progress and given some challenges Mr. Downing faced, Jeff gave him an additional two weeks to remedy the violation(s).

City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke thanked Mayor Gerot for completing the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health's Mayor's Walking Challenge. As a result of Mayor Gerot's efforts, the city will receive \$1,000 to use toward community health. During the challenge, Mayor Gerot walked with students from Timberline Schools and the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy. Mayor Gerot and Teresa attended the last workshop of the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health Community Health Academy. The workshop was held in McCall and discussed walkability within a community. As a result of completing the Community Health Academy, the City of Pierce will be receiving a check from the foundation for \$20,000 plus reimbursement for travel expenses incurred to attend the academy. The city will need to look at how they would like to spend the grant. As a graduate of the Community Health Academy, the City of Pierce is now eligible to apply for an additional grant in the amount of \$25,000 to update our city's comprehensive plan. The last comprehensive plan was completed in July 1978. Teresa submitted the grant application last week and will hopefully hear by the end of the month if we will receive the grant. Mayor Gerot and Teresa attended the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) Funding Workshop in Grangeville. The workshop discussed the various funding opportunities for city roads and streets. One of the first items of action regarding our streets and roads would be to update our transportation plan. Many of the funding opportunities require a current transportation plan and the City of Pierce's last plan was done in 2016.

New Business:

Dodd Snodgrass with the Clearwater Economic Development Association was present to talk about what CEDA does to help municipalities and businesses. CEDA serves the five counties in north central Idaho. One of their key roles is assisting communities with public infrastructure and facility projects, especially by helping them secure funding. Dodd also spoke about Small Business Financing available as an alternative to conventional bank financing. CEDA has also been involved in broadband projects, specifically in what is referred to as "the middle mile". Another program that CEDA is involved in is the Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corps (CBYCC). The CBYCC is a partnership effort between CEDA, USDA Forest Service, and other agencies that helps expose youth to natural resource career opportunities and facilitate development of practical problem-solving skills. Councilmember Root has been a part of the CBYCC for the last three years.

Michelle Bly was present to discuss the next steps in our Community Development Block Grant. Michelle recently met with Mayor Gerot, city staff members Jack Koepke and Teresa Koepke, and a couple community members to self-assess the City of Pierce's performance in Fair Housing, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Michelle went through the self-assessments for each category. She also went through the Progress Report and Reimbursement Request No. 2. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to approve Mayor Gerot and City Clerk Teresa Koepke to sign the documents related to the Community Development Block Grant as reviewed with Michelle. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. Roll call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, and Jared – Yes. Motion carried.

Amy Manning, Executive Director with iii-A, presented their 2024-2025 Annual Report. iii-A is a self-funded health trust that administers health benefits for local government sectors. Amy reviewed the

data, such as the total number of agencies, number of members, annual budget, and estimated program savings. She discussed the budget distribution in addition to providing an overview of the benefits members receive from iii-A. As part of their wellness screenings, many conditions such as cancers, diabetes, etc. are caught earlier and provide for lower healthcare costs and a better quality of life for those affected.

Clay Hosley requested that he not be charged for water and sewer at 411 S Main. Clay stated that he spoke with John Anderson who installed the meters in/around 2009 and that a meter was never installed on that lot. Clay says he has been paying for services since April 2017. There is a meter assigned to that property in the Black Mountain Software and that meter does read each month. The maintenance crew has spent several days trying to locate the meter but due to all the debris in and around the property, they have not been able to locate the meter. Teresa Koepke reached out to Sammy Bhardwaj, who would have owned the property at the time the meters were put in. Sammy could not remember if he elected to have a meter put on the property, nor could he remember if he was paying for two services. He stated that Carmen Syed took care of paying his bills. Upon contacting Carmen, she said could not remember if Sammy paid two city service bills or not. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to stop charging Clay for the services at 411 S Main St and to not charge him the \$2,500 to remove the meter until further information can be obtained. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

A request from Dan Ebert to review the water and sewer rates for the Timber Inn EDU was reviewed. Dan recently purchased the Timber Inn and is paying 1.75 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) for water and for sewer. The EDUs are assigned based on the average water usage from the previous owner. The previous owner was known to have leaks that didn't always get repaired in a timely manner. These leaks cause higher water usage averages that therefore result in a higher EDU being charged. At this point the business is not open and Dan has used 660 gallons in September and 140 gallons in October, far below the average currently being used to calculate the EDUs. Councilmember Jared made a motion to reduce the EDUs to 1.00 for water and for sewer until the next review of EDUs. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Justin Karst had requested to be on the agenda regarding a property line on Court St. Justin was not present at the meeting so there was no discussion and no action taken.

A forgiveness request for Judy McKinstry at 411 Juniper Cedar Drive was reviewed. Judy recently had a leak and immediately upon the discovery of the leak she reached out to contractors to repair the leak. Judy normally uses about 2,000 gallons per month. Her water usage for September and October was 27,450 gallons. This is 23,450 gallons over her usual usage. Councilmember Root made a motion to forgive \$62.14 of Judy's bill. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

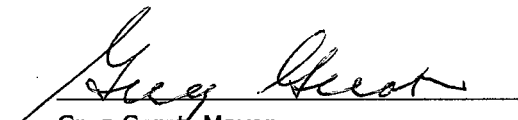
Clare Brick reported that the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department received a Rural Fire Capacity Program grant in the amount of \$4,281. PVFD will need to match \$476. The grant is to be used for the purchase of wildland fire equipment. PVFD will need to purchase the equipment and then be reimbursed. As part of the agreement, Mayor Gerot will need to sign a Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension or Ineligibility for Transactions with any Federal Department or Agency; a Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; and a Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status. Councilmember Jared made a motion to allow Mayor Gerot to sign the stated documents required for the

Rural Fire Capacity Program grant. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Roll call: Jared – Yes, Root – Yes, Bonner – Yes, and Stinson – Yes. Motion carried.


PVFD Chief Hagele reported that Pete Forsman, owner of 701 Forsman Ave, had approached him about having the PVFD burn the manufactured home on that property as a training exercise. The manufactured home has been deemed uninhabitable and Mr. Forsman is wanting to demolish the home. He thought it would be a good structure for the fire department to use for training. Councilmember Bonner asked about what was inside the home, such as furniture, appliances, etc. that may create a pollution hazard. Chief Hagele stated that they would do interior training as part of the exercise and would inspect the home prior to burning. They would also confirm that the power has been turned off to the home. Chief Hagele did mention that he had consulted with Chief Christopherson of the Weippe Rural Fire Department and Chief Christopherson thought the fire department would not be allowed to be the one to ignite the fire. Mayor Gerot stated that the City of Pierce should have a Hold Harmless agreement in place and that Mr. Forsman understands that he is responsible for cleaning up after the fire. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to allow the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department to move forward with a training exercise at 701 Forsman Ave upon the execution of a Hold Harmless agreement and that Mr. Forsman understands that he is responsible for the cleanup. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Announcements/Councilmember Input for Future Agenda Items – Councilmember Jared questioned whether there could be an issue with vehicles parked in the streets with snow coming and plowing to start. There are some areas where people have their vehicles parked in such a way that the vehicles are out in the street. The areas of most concern are Second Ave and Pierce Ave. Jack Koepke did agree that it could be an issue. Pierce City Code does prohibit vehicles to remain parked upon any street or highway when the snow accumulation exceeds 4". It also requires all vehicles to be removed within fifteen (15) minutes when snow removal equipment is present or when requested by a city employee, school bus driver, or law enforcement officer when such request is made for the purpose of clearing the street for access or passage of other vehicles, or for snow removal.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.


Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer