CITY OF PIERCE
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, September 14, 2026
WORK SESSION, PUBLIC HEARING, and REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the Work Session to order at 4:58 p.m.

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

Discussion was held regarding the potential adoption of an ordinance establishing gross vehicle weight limits or restrictions on streets within the City of Pierce. The City recently completed an overlay project on a section of Canal Street at a cost of nearly $80,000. In an effort to preserve the improved roadway and protect the City's investment, the City is considering adopting an ordinance to restrict the gross vehicle weight of vehicles traveling on city streets. Concerns have been expressed by citizens regarding the condition and longevity of Canal Street, as well as pedestrian safety. Canal Street experiences a substantial amount of logging truck and lowboy traffic hauling equipment. Residents have raised particular concerns about the safety of children walking along Canal Street due to the increased volume of heavy truck traffic. Representatives from Rayonier, the Idaho Department of Lands, and independent truck drivers were present to express their concerns regarding potential restrictions on the use of Canal Street. A recent large timber sale in the Shanghai area is expected to generate approximately 1,200 loads of logs, with the current plan calling for the loads to travel through Canal Street. Representatives from Rayonier and the Idaho Department of Lands explained that using Canal Street has been a longstanding practice and, as a result, they had not considered contacting the City in advance to notify officials of the anticipated increase in truck traffic. Representatives also noted that fuel taxes paid by truck operators provide revenue that is distributed back to the City of Pierce. It was discussed that the amount received by the City through these distributions is relatively small when considered at the municipal level. Alternative routes for transporting the timber were discussed. One potential option would direct traffic along the route that exits near the Jaype mill site. However, use of this route would require payment to Rayonier and modifications to the existing timber sale contract. The possibility of obtaining an engineering assessment to evaluate the impacts of logging trucks and lowboy trailers on Canal Street was discussed. Such an assessment could help the City better understand the effects of heavy vehicle traffic on the roadway and assist in determining appropriate weight restrictions. Seasonal weight restrictions during spring thaw and road breakup were also discussed as a possible means of protecting city streets during periods when road surfaces may be more susceptible to damage. Additionally, the possibility of working with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to designate Canal Street as an alternate route for Highway 11 was discussed. Such a designation may provide opportunities for the City to pursue additional funding for street maintenance and preservation. Mayor Gerot thanked the representatives for attending the work session and for sharing their perspectives and concerns regarding the proposed gross vehicle weight restrictions on Canal Street.

Councilmember Jared made a motion to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Work Session adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Mayor Gerot called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Gerot, Councilmembers John Stinson, Theresa Root, and Amy Jared, Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke, and PVFD Treasurer Clare Brick. Absent: Councilmember Guy Bonner.

Councilmember Jared moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes August 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes, and September 2026 Accounts Payable. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

No Citizen's Comments Received

Mayor Gerot opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. regarding the City of Pierce's application for financial assistance through USDA Rural Development. The City of Pierce is working with Merrick & Company and USDA Rural Development to secure additional funding for Phase III of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The additional funding request totals $818,000 and includes the following items:

- $14,300 for electrical engineering related to the generator upgrade;
- $583,000 for an emergency generator;
- $181,500 for an aeration blower; and
- $40,000 for electrical work.

Councilmember Root inquired whether the request was for additional funding beyond the amounts previously requested and awarded. It was confirmed that the $818,000 request was for additional funding. Councilmember Stinson asked whether the funds were available. It was explained that the City of Pierce had been advised that USDA Rural Development potentially had excess funds available for award. However, funding was not guaranteed, and the City was submitting an application for consideration. Resident Pete Forsman recommended that the City monitor public auctions for a generator, noting that hospitals and other entities sometimes surplus equipment that remains in good working condition due to their operational practices. There being no further public comment, Mayor Gerot closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor Gerot opened the public hearing regarding the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities at 6:12 p.m. The City of Pierce is submitting an application to the Idaho Department of Commerce for an Idaho Community Development Block Grant in the amount of $245,000. The proposed project includes improvements to the city park, including new multi-purpose sports court and playground equipment. Dodd Snodgrass, representing Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA), was present to discuss the need for the project, the application process, the project's scope of work and location, the proposed funding and budget, the project schedule, and the anticipated benefits. The deadline for submitting the grant application is September 21, 2026. There being no further public comment, Mayor Gerot closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

Mayor Gerot opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m. to receive public input regarding the special use permit application submitted by Rikki Forsman for the placement of eight (8) Connex containers on the Forsman property. Pete Forsman was present to represent Rikki Forsman and address the request. Pierce City Ordinance No. 323 was referenced, which states that the use of prefabricated containers is not permitted on properties within residential zones in the City of Pierce. In all other zones, such structures are permitted only with a special use permit issued at the discretion of the City of Pierce. During the discussion, it was noted that the containers are located on the parcel with the physical address of 106 Cemetery Road, rather than Forsman Avenue as indicated on the special use permit application. The parcel appears to be zoned R-4. Councilmember Jared asked whether the containers could be moved farther back from the road to avoid obstructing the remainder of Forsman Avenue. The possibility of relocating the containers to the adjoining parcel, which is zoned commercial, was also discussed. Pete Forsman commented that increased regulation limits population growth. He indicated that he might be willing to move the containers in May of next year if the City required other property owners to remove their belongings from the sides of Forsman Avenue as well. Pete also stated that he would like to gravel Forsman Avenue from the storage containers to 705 S. Main Street. Receiving no other public input Mayor Gerot closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Department Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke reported that the automatic sprinkler project at the park has begun. Funding for the project came from proceeds from the 6C Ridgerunners Club Father's Day Ride, as well as proceeds from the raffle of the wooden American flag that was crafted and donated by Jack. The sprinklers have been installed and tested. There is plenty of water pressure to operate the sprinklers and they will be easy to winterize. Three loads of sand have been purchased and hauled for the streets in preparation for the upcoming winter months. The contractor is making great progress on the

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project. The wet well has been installed, and excavation has begun for the new tank. A new seal was purchased for the sanitation truck to help address the liquid that results when residents place liquids in their garbage, which is released when the garbage is compacted. A new polymer will be tested at the sewer plant. The new polymer is approximately $800 less per barrel than the polymer currently being used, which could provide significant cost savings. The generators were load tested, and all are functioning properly. The maintenance team, with assistance from Clare Brick, painted the fire hydrant posts and installed new signs. Approximately six hydrants remain to be completed. The previous signs were in very poor condition and, in some cases, unreadable. This could create issues during an emergency if mutual aid agencies unfamiliar with the area needed to locate the hydrants. The maintenance crew will also be addressing two water leaks, one located on Timberline and another on Cedar. Both leaks are very small but need to be taken care of.

Pierce Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer Clare Brick reported that the Fire Department completed a training session on Sunday, August 30th. Clare attended the Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary meeting on September 10th as the representative for the Pierce Fire Department. The annual chimney cleaning began on Saturday, September 12th. Clare helped with preparation work for painting the fire hydrants and replacing the fire hydrant signs. Clare expressed her gratitude to the maintenance crew for doing most of the work to get this project completed and thanked them for their efforts. On Saturday, October 17th, the Fire Department will hold its annual Fire Prevention and Fundraiser Breakfast at the Pierce Community Center from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. The event will include a big breakfast, door prizes, fire safety handouts, activities for kids, a home fire safety information table, and a 50/50 drawing. The event helps the department fulfill their duty of fire prevention education. Councilmember Jared asked about maintenance records for the Fire Department's equipment. Clare indicated that maintenance logs have been created; however, there are currently no entries because no recent maintenance has been completed. Councilmember Root requested that the maintenance logs be presented at the next Council meeting for review. Jack Koepke asked about the siren being tested every day at noon. It was noted that this topic had been discussed at previous meetings, but no action has been taken to date. Clare stated that she would pass the inquiry along to the Fire Chief for follow-up.

City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke reported that the State Controller's Office report has been submitted and approved. The L-2 has also been certified. Mayor Greg Gerot and Teresa attended a Recreational Workshop focused on opportunities to bring tourism and commerce to Clearwater County. Tony Tenne with Idaho Commerce was in Pierce and toured the site of the proposed playpark upgrades. CEDA is assisting the City with applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the project. At Councilmember Jared's suggestion, Teresa contacted Chuck with The Computer Guy for assistance with the City's computer issues. Chuck was able to resolve the issues that previous providers had been unable to fix, and his services were also significantly less expensive. Teresa reported that the City currently has both Starlink and eMerge internet service. eMerge had previously been provided to the City at no charge; however, the City has recently begun receiving a bill for the service. The City currently uses eMerge for the Ethernet connection to the printer. Teresa has ordered an adapter that will allow the printer to connect through Starlink. Chuck will install the adapter once it is received. Teresa indicated that she would prefer to discontinue eMerge service, as it has been less dependable than Starlink and frequently experiences interruptions. The City also currently has eMerge service at the sewer plant. Councilmember Jared suggested looking into a Starlink Mini as an alternative for the sewer plant. Teresa reported that both the older Case equipment and the sanitation truck have been paid in full. With this capital now freed up, the City may want to consider replacing the sanding and plow trucks with a multi-use truck.

New Business:

Councilmember Jared moved to authorize Mayor Gerot to execute and submit all necessary documentation pertaining to the CEDA Community Development Block Grant Application for the proposed playpark project CEDA Community Development Block Grant Application (CDBG). Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root moved to approve the Idaho Community Development Block Grant Program Request for Funds #5 in the amount of $20,838. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson moved to approve Michelle Bly Consulting LLC Invoice No. 5 in the amount of $4,500. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council member Jared moved to approve Merrick Invoice # 10298802 in the amount of $11,357.00, Invoice # 10298804 in the amount of $1,032.00, and Invoice # 10298805 in the amount of $3,948.75. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Root moved to approve the US Army Corp of Engineers Request for Funds #23 in the amount of $239,206.63. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson moved to approve USDA Rural Development Request for Funds #35 in the amount $79,735.55. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jared moved to approve DW Excavating, Inc. Contractor's Application for Payment No. 2 in the amount of $318,942.18. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The topic of a passing an ordinance regarding gross vehicle weight restriction within the City of Pierce was tabled. No ordinance was read or passed.

No action on the issuance of a Special Use Permit for 106 Cemetery Road for the placement of Connex containers was taken.

Councilmember Root moved to deny Clay Hosley's request to calculate the Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) for the Pioneer Inn/Chubby's based on his most recent month's water usage rather than the standard rolling 12-month average. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. The Council discussed the City's standard practice of reviewing EDUs for commercial accounts every six months and calculating the EDU based on the average water usage for the most recent rolling 12-month period. It was noted that, when excessive usage occurs for one or two months due to a leak or other unusual circumstance that is identified and corrected within a reasonable amount of time, those months may be excluded from the EDU calculation. In this case, Mr. Hosley's water usage has been excessive for more than 24 months due to a leak that he recently discovered and had repaired. Mr. Hosley requested that the City use only his most recent month's usage and exclude the higher-usage months when calculating his EDUs for the October review. After discussion, Councilmember Root moved to deny the request. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jared moved to send Timothy Rackley a written notice for violation of Pierce City Ordinance No. 325 concerning the keeping of a rooster within the city limits, and to require Mr. Rackley to correct and abate the violation within fifteen (15) days of the date of the notice, or be subject to further enforcement action as provided by Pierce City Ordinance No. 321. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Jared moved to adjourn. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasuer