

CITY OF PIERCE
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
404 South Main St Pierce, ID 83546
Monday, March 9, 2026
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Gerot called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Councilmember Root made a motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the February 9, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and March 2026 Accounts Payable. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Citizen's Comments – Cheryl Stenzel asked about getting gravel put on Pierce Ave. She said the gravel has depleted over the years. Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke said they could look at putting some gravel down this spring/summer. Councilmember Bonner asked about having gravel put down on Carle St below where Russ Koepke did some logging for Lawson Land Inc. Jack said they could look at that area as well. Ziply will be putting gravel down on Carle St in the area they installed the fiber optic cable. Cheryl also inquired as to whether the city planned to do dust abatement again this year. Mayor Gerot stated that the intention was to do the dust abatement but that a final decision would be made by the council and would be determined by the budget at that time.

Department Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke reported that the buyers of the Trojan picked it up last week. The maintenance team repaired two water leaks in the Pines, one on Cedar Dr and one on Timberline Dr. Both leaks were on service lines and were approximately 5-6 gallons per minute each. This equates to approximately 2.6 million gallons per year per leak. There is still a leak at the end of Cedar Drive. The team is trying to better locate the leak in order to minimize how much of the street is torn up to repair the leak. The booster plant is currently down to 9.5 GPM. During the last power outage, the booster plant generator failed at some point. The generator had a low coolant alarm that either didn't allow the generator to start or shut off in operation. Jack has been looking into the issue and has been in contact with the manufacturer. There is a possibility that during past maintenance/repairs, air could have been trapped in the system and not allowing coolant to draw from the overflow tank. Jack has been checking the coolant levels daily and there is no sign of a leak at this point. Ziply's contractors did some trenching on the south side of Pierce St. When they finished trenching, they filled the drain ditch with mud which plugged the culvert. The plugged culvert then caused the water to run down the road. The maintenance team did a temporary fix and dug the culvert out enough to drain. The contractor was notified and will come to make the repairs when the ground is drier. The maintenance team has been cleaning out ditches and storm drains around town as well as cold patching as weather allows. Jack has recently been working with Judgetown Water & Sewer District trying to get a better idea of their actual water usage. The city's meter is

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reading differently than Judgetown's meter. After consulting with Core & Main, it sounds like the city's meter is accurate and Judgetown's meter is not registering accurately. Dalton Thomson has enough hours to apply for his second water license. He has already successfully taken the test. He just needed enough hours before applying for the license. Jack will follow up with Dalton to make sure he gets that done.

Clare Brick provided a written report for the Pierce Volunteer Fire Department. Clare Brick attended the Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary meeting on March 5th, as the representative for the Pierce Fire Department. The department had a training session with Rod Hickman on Sunday, February 22nd. They went over the new medical emergency equipment and supplies on Engine 81 and did some CPR and "stop the bleed" practice. The plan at the March 15th meeting/training is to get Engine 82 (old engine) running and go over the equipment and supplies on it. This is weather dependent. The department is working on applications for the Clearwater Valley Fire Academy training in April. The plan is to send about five fire fighters. Engine 81 (main engine) is now operational. The problem was isolated to a throttle sensor. John Payne installed a new one. A follow-up question from February's council meeting regarding the maintenance records for the engines was asked. Clare stated that she would need to follow up with Chief Hagele on that question.

Code Enforcement Liaison Officer Jeffrey Getchell was present and reported that he has not had any calls since the last meeting.

City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Koepke reported that the Idaho Central Credit Union CDs were rolled over to the 12-month promotional rate as voted on by the council at the February meeting. Teresa reached out to the 6C Ridgerunners ORV Club about the possibility of them raffling off a wooden American flag that Jack Koepke made. The proceeds from the raffle would come back to the City of Pierce to be used for upgrades to the park, such as automatic sprinklers and some more trees. The club agreed to sponsor the raffle and will sell tickets up until their Father's Day Ride on June 20th. The club also indicated that they may be willing to donate some of the proceeds from the ride back to the city as well for park upgrades. PERSI representatives are scheduled to be onsite this Wednesday, March 11th to educate the city employees on their PERSI benefits. Teresa reported that she put together a giveaway basket trying to encourage residents to get their dog licenses renewed. So far this year only 12 annual dog licenses have been issued compared to 80+ in 2023 when the ordinance was passed that an unlicensed dog in violation of any city code would also incur a \$177.50 fine for not being licensed.

New Business:

A conference call was held on March 4, 2026 with Terrence Stevenson of Merrick & Co regarding updates to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Advertisement for Bid will be published in the Clearwater Tribune on March 11th and March 18th. A pre-bid meeting will be held at City Hall at March 24th. Bids will be opened at City Hall on April 7th. Discussion was held regarding the current generator at the WWTP being sufficient to run the new blowers. An estimated cost for a new generator is approximately \$163,050, including engineering costs. A propane versus diesel generator was discussed. No action taken.

Resident Jeff Root appeared before the council to discuss concerns regarding snow placement along Main Street. He stated that the snow being plowed to the sides of the street by local

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businesses creates a safety hazard. Mr. Root further noted that residents are not permitted to plow snow into the street, raising concerns about fairness and consistency in enforcement. He emphasized that the city's snow removal policy should be applied equally to all parties and expressed the opinion that the city should not bear the cost of managing snow placement resulting from business activities. Discussion was held that there are not a lot of options and that people may tend to forget what the city's snow policy is. In recent years the city has allowed businesses to push snow into the pushout between the Elk Snout and the Pierce Gold Rush Saloon. There have been some issues with the individuals not pushing the snow out far enough or causing damage to the sidewalks in front of the pushout. Councilmember Bonner made a motion to send a letter to businesses to remind them that Pierce City Code prohibits the placement of snow in the street and that they need to consult with Maintenance Supervisor Jack Koepke prior to pushing snow into the city's pushouts. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

A code compliance complaint regarding Wally's dipStick was reviewed. A resident reported that Mr. Culpepper was working on a vehicle in front of his home on Friday, February 20. Mr. Culpepper was present at the meeting and initially denied working on any vehicle in front of his residence. However, when presented with a photograph showing him working on a vehicle clearly located in front of his home, he stated that he was only inspecting a friend's car to diagnose a potential issue. He further explained that any actual repair work was completed later at the friend's residence. Councilmember Jared advised Mr. Culpepper that there appears to be ongoing concern or tension with neighbors, and as a result, he may be subject to closer observation and scrutiny to ensure compliance with business license requirements. He was asked to make sure he upheld his end of the business license by not working on vehicles at his own residence. The complaint also alleged that Mr. Culpepper is operating an automotive repair shop out of a storage shed located on Carle Street. Mr. Culpepper responded that the shed is used solely for storing his tools. No action was taken.

Councilmember Jared moved to approve Resolution No. 356, authorizing the destruction of records that have met their retention requirements. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Root. All in favor. Motion carried.

A proposed redesign of the play park, prepared by Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc., was reviewed. The project includes replacing the aging playground equipment and adding a multi-purpose court, with a total cost of approximately \$562,000, including installation. Teresa Koepke is currently exploring potential grant opportunities to help fund the project. The possibility of securing funding from the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy was also discussed, as cadets regularly use the park and would benefit from the addition of a multi-purpose court. Additionally, it was suggested that forming a committee composed of community members and a couple of councilmembers could help ensure the new play park's design reflects the needs and preferences of the community. No action was taken.

A proposal from Vitruvian Planning to update the City of Pierce's comprehensive plan was reviewed. The proposal of \$24,985 would include collection of information, community health assessment, surveys, and the generation of a comprehensive plan. The City of Pierce was awarded \$25,000 from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Inc. to use toward updating the city's comprehensive plan. Councilmember Jared moved to accept the proposal from Vitruvian Planning in the amount of \$24,985. Councilmember Root seconded the motion. Roll call: Stinson – Yes, Bonner – Yes, Root – Yes, Jared – Yes. Motion carried.

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A request from Jason Mohl to install an in-ground basketball hoop at 181 Timberline Drive was reviewed. Mr. Mohl proposed placing the pole in concrete near the curb so the hoop could be used from the street. Following discussion, it was determined that the proposed placement would not meet setback requirements and could potentially create issues with snowplowing and right-of-way easements. Councilmember Stinson made a motion to deny the request to place the basketball hoop near the curb. Councilmember Jared seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clare Brick, representing the Pierce Gem Community, announced that this year's Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. She requested that the city provide a trailer and maintenance personnel, as has been done in previous years. Clare also asked Teresa Koepke to mail postcards to residents as reminders of the free dump day. Clare noted that she will need to confirm with Clearwater County whether tires will be accepted free of charge or if a fee will apply this year. The Gem Community will host an appreciation luncheon on May 2nd for city employees, mayor, councilmembers, fire department members, and other contributors. The Gem Community plans to replace burnt-out bulbs on the decorative snowflakes that hang from streetlight poles. No action was taken.


A proposal from Coleman Oil for propane was reviewed. The proposal was comparable to Clearwater Propane on price per gallon and \$65 per year less on the tank rental. Discussion was held that the savings were not significant enough to change propane suppliers as the city had just recently switched from AmeriGas to Clearwater Propane. No action was taken.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming public meeting about Ziply's proposed fiber optic installation in the Pines. Ziply's original plan involved underground boring to install fiber optic infrastructure throughout the neighborhood. This approach would require crossing streets more than 40 times, including multiple crossings over major water and sewer lines. Due to the age and fragility of these existing utilities, the city expressed concern that repeated crossings pose a significant risk of damaging water or sewer mains. As a result, the city does not consider underground boring to be a viable option. Several alternative installation methods were discussed: *Utility poles*. This option would involve installing new poles to carry fiber lines above ground. However, both the city and many residents oppose this approach, as the Pines currently has no utility poles and the change would significantly impact the neighborhood's appearance. *Micro-trenching*. This method would place fiber lines within shallow cuts in the street. The city noted that future road reconstruction projects could increase the risk of damaging these lines, potentially creating financial liability for repairs. *Soft surface placement*. This option would install fiber lines approximately 18 inches deep within the existing utility right-of-way. This was discussed as a less invasive alternative compared to full underground boring. The discussion highlighted the need to balance infrastructure improvements with the protection of existing utilities and neighborhood character. No action was taken. The public meeting will be held Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Pierce Community Center.

Business license applications were reviewed for Elk Snout Eatery & Mercantile, Olive's Auto Parts, and Jeter's RV Park. Teresa reported that she was still waiting for applications for Flame Bar (business, liquor, beer & wine), McLaughlin Logging (business), and Pierce Gold Rush Saloon (business, liquor, beer & wine). Councilmember Jared made a motion to approve the business license applications presented (Elk Snout Eatery & Mercantile, Olive's Auto parts, and Jeter's RV Park) and to notify those businesses not yet licensed that their license applications


are due by March 31st or their authorization to operate within the City of Pierce will be revoked. Councilmember Stinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Stinson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bonner seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Greg Gerot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tersa Koepke, City Clerk/Treasurer