

**MINUTES OF THE
COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RUPERT, IDAHO**

Minutes of the regular council meeting of the Mayor and the City Council of Rupert, Idaho on the thirteenth day of May, 2025 in the Council Chambers located inside City Hall at 624 F Street, Rupert, Idaho at the hour of 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Tammy Jones
Councilmembers Present: Wardle, Thompson, Faux, Heward
City Administrator Kelly Anthon (Absent)
City Clerk Bayley Maughan
City Attorney Lance Stevenson

Visitors: David Joyce, Ginger Smith, Leslie Garner, Jeff McEwen, Taylor Scott (Employees)
Brenda Sene, Noel Santana, Colleen Johnson, Katie Rogers, Wayne Schenk (Visitors)

Mayor Jones welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Everyone stood for the Pledge.

Pastor Brenda Sene gave invocation.

Mayor Jones called for any addenda to the agenda and there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items: A. & B. Approval of the Bills, Payroll & Minutes

Councilman Heward made a motion to approve the bills, payroll and the minutes of the April 22nd, 2025 council meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded and the motion carried.

RECOGNITIONS – AWARDS – PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Jones read aloud a proclamation, supporting the caretakers of veterans, and signed the same.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: A. PUBLIC HEARING – Hawk’s Landing Subdivision – Final Plat Amendment for Lot 1 Block 4

Noel Santana explained that there had previously been an area of Hawk’s Landing Subdivision that was dedicated as storage for the homeowners. The property has become an eyesore and the residents have signed off on changes to the covenants to turn those lots into homes instead. Santana had also met with the City Department heads regarding utilities for the lots.

The Planning & Zoning Commission had held a hearing on this item and made a recommendation to the Council to move forward with approval.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:13 PM. With no public comment or questions Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 7:14 PM.

Councilman Heward made a motion to approve the final plat amendment for Lot 1 of Block 4 of Hawk's Landing Subdivision, with the condition that the road be cut and replaced in the way directed by the City Public Works Department and that the drainage area to the back of the properties continue to be maintained by the subdivision property owners. Councilman Thompson seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Item: B. Presentation Regarding Minidoka Legacy Foundation

Wayne Schenk presented information that he wanted to be considered regarding a foundation for the community. There was no action taken.

Item: C. Discussion & Possible Approval to Waive Fees for the Saint Nicholas Gala Event

Coleen Johnson came before the Mayor and Council to ask that fees be waived and services provided for the school's annual fundraising gala event on September 27th, 2025. The school had already been in contact with the City to go over the details and there were no concerns.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to waive the fees and provide park services for the annual Saint Nicholas Gala fundraising event on September 27th, 2025. Councilwoman Faux seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Item: D. Discussion & Possible Approval to Waive Fees and Provide Park Services for the Lunch in the Park Program

Katie Rogers gave an overview of the School District's plans for the lunch in the Park Program for the upcoming summer. The program would have a route but would stop in the Lincoln and Neptune Parks for lunches and activities. There were no concerns.

Councilman Heward made a motion to waive the fees and provide park services for the Lunch in the Park summer program. Councilman Wardle seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Item: E. Discussion & Possible Approval of the Lease Documents for the Fire Hall Project Loan

Leslie Garner presented the Mayor and Council with the lease paperwork for the Fire Hall Project loan. The Council had previously approved a loan through D.L. Evans bank with a lease, leaseback set up. The documents being presented contained all of the same terms previously approved by the City when the loan was initiated.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the lease documents from D.L. Evans Bank for the Fire Hall Project Loan, contingent upon legal review of the final draft once received, and authorize the Mayor to sign the same. Councilwoman Faux seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Item: F. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding Sewer Services for the Fries & Williams Properties

Wastewater Superintendent, David Joyce, explained that the two property owners, with lots in the same general area, were wanting to build houses but had no access to sewer. There was not a cost effective way for the City to bring sewer services to the homeowners, until other developments take place. Joyce was suggesting that they allow the property owners to install septic tanks, with the condition that if the City does bring sewer services near their properties at a later time, they would then need to connect to the system.

Councilwoman Faux made a motion, allowing for property owners Fries and Williams to install septic tanks on their properties for their new construction, contingent upon an agreement being signed by both that if and when sewer services are available to them, they will connect to the City sewer system. Councilman Thompson seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Item: G. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding the Police Department K-9 Purchase

This item was moved to follow Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Heward made a motion to move to Executive Session Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 to have discussions under subsections (1)(b) and (1)(f). Councilman Wardle seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Executive Session Began: 8:18 PM.

Discussion under subsections (1)(b) and (1)(f).

Open Session Resumed: 8:47 PM.

There was general discussion regarding the possible purchase of a Police K-9.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the K-9 Purchase for the Police Department.

Councilman Wardle seconded and the roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Thompson, Councilwoman Faux, Councilman Heward, Councilman Wardle

Nays: None

The motion carried.