

STATE OF IDAHO)
COUNTY OF BONNER)
CITY OF PRIEST RIVER)

MINUTES OF THE PRIEST RIVER CITY COUNCIL – 08/18/25

REGULAR MEETING

OPENING – Mayor Connolly called to order the regular meeting of the City Council at 5:30 pm on Monday, August 18, 2025, at the Priest River City Hall Council Chambers, 552 High Street, Priest River, Idaho.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Council Member Turner, Council Member Wagner, Council Member Mullaley, and Council Member Brower. Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Connolly, City Clerk/Treasurer Thomas, City Attorney Elsaesser, Police Chief McLain, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Quayle.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. TO CONSIDER PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE INSTITUTION OF NEW OR INCREASED MUNICIPAL UTILITY FEES, BUILDING, ZONING, AND MISCELLANEOUS REQUEST FEES, AND GENERAL REVENUE FEES FOR CITY HALL, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, CODE ENFORCEMENT, AND PUBLIC WORKS.

Mayor Connolly opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm. City Clerk/Treasurer Thomas and Mayor Connolly explained the proposed changes to the FY26 utility fee schedule. No changes were proposed to the General Fee Schedule or the Building & Zoning Fee Schedule. Discussion ensued regarding a proposed increase in the hydrant consumption charges, a proposed 4% increase in both the water and sewer base rates, the deductions in the water and sewer improvement bond rates, and the proposed increase in the meter replacement fees.

Questions from the Council:

None

Written Testimony:

None

Testimony from Those Supporting:

None

Testimony from Those Uncommitted:

Anne Wilder, 349 Primrose Lane – supported hydrant consumption charges being increase for out-of-town citizens.

Testimony from Those Opposing:

Sharon Clark, 20 High Street – was frustrated that citizens are unable to read their own meters, had issues with the quality of the water and the seemingly high cost of water and sewer, and questioned why the allowable amount was ever reduced from 12,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons.

Irene Broderick, 105 Cedar Street – said that water overage charges seem too high.

Rebuttal:

City Clerk Thomas and Mayor Connolly answered the questions and explained the concerns raised during public testimony. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Connolly closed public testimony at 5:53 pm. Discussion ensued.

i. RESOLUTION 25-040 – FY25 UTILITY FEE SCHEDULE

Council Member Brower made a motion to approve Resolution 25-040, the utility fee schedule as presented and discussed, effective October 1, 2025.

Council Member Mullaley seconded the motion. After consideration and discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

B. PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 50-1002, REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2025, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

Mayor Connolly opened the public hearing at 5:54 pm. Discussion ensued regarding proposed changes since the budget workshop was held on July 21, 2025.

General Fund:	\$1,351,726.00
Street Fund:	\$ 654,553.00
Water Fund:	\$1,030,379.00
Sewer Fund:	\$ 933,098.00
<u>Impact Fee Fund:</u>	<u>\$ 16,800.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,986,556.00

Questions from the Council:

None

Written Testimony:

None

Testimony from Those Supporting:

None

Testimony from Those Uncommitted:

None

Testimony from Those Opposing:

None

Mayor Connolly closed public testimony at 5:58 pm.

i. APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 639

Council Member Turner made a motion to adopt Ordinance 639 under suspension of the rules. Council Member Brower seconded the motion. After discussion and consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following vote: **AYES:** Council Member Turner, Council Member Brower, Council Member Mullaley, and Council Member Wagner. **NAYS:** None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. PREVIOUS MINUTES – CCPH 08/04/25

B. PAYABLES

C. MONTHLY RESERVE TRANSFER – JULY 2025

D. TREASURER’S MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2025

Council Member Mullaley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Wagner seconded the motion. After discussion and consideration, the motion passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

None

6. UPDATES

A. PARKS AND TREE COMMISSION

A Parks & Tree Commission meeting was scheduled for August 26, 2025 at 10:00 am. Mayor Connolly thanked Greg Watson, the Parks Maintenance Worker, for his hard work throughout the City. Council Member Wagner thanked the weekend employees and the Police Officers for opening and closing the park bathrooms.

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Chief McLain gave an update on Law Enforcement.

C. PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor Connolly gave an update on Public Works.

D. PROJECT UPDATES

1. WELCH COMER – PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Welch Comer provided a written project status update.

Various project updates were given.

E. BUILDING & ZONING

Planning and Zoning Administrator Quayle gave an update on Building & Zoning.

7. BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE 640 – ANNEXATION AND ZONING DESIGNATION OF BEWS ACRES

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Turner made a motion to adopt Ordinance 640 under suspension of the rules. Council Member Mullaley seconded the motion. After discussion and consideration, the motion passed unanimously by the following

vote: AYES: Council Member Turner, Council Member Brower, Council Member Mullaley, and Council Member Wagner. NAYS: None.

B. PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS – DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIALLY REQUIRING ALL TO ANNUALLY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Discussion ensued. No new information was obtained, and this item will be removed from the agenda.

C. BONNER PARK WEST – POTENTIAL ACQUISITION FROM BONNER COUNTY AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Mayor Connolly gave an update. Discussion ensued.

D. INNOVIA FOUNDATION – EQUINOX FOUNDATION PROGRAM FY25 – GRANT AGREEMENT – CITY PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Mullaley made a motion to approve the Grant Agreement with the Innovia Foundation for the City Park Playground Improvement Project. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. After consideration and discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

ADJOURN:

Council Member Mullaley made a motion to adjourn at 6:28pm. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. After consideration, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes of 08/18/25: _____

Second: _____

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Jeff Connolly
Mayor

Laurel Thomas, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer