

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

September 2, 2025

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d'Alene City Library Community Room on September 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

Dan English) Members of Council Present
Christie Wood)
Dan Gookin)
Amy Evans)
Kiki Miller)
Kenny Gabriel)

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McEvers called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS: Colt Kingsbury, a student of the Summit Christian Academy, recited President George W. Bush's address to the nation in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Pulsipher, Coeur d'Alene, proposed three actionable priorities: enhancing public communication by expanding notice distribution beyond the CDA Press, establishing a volunteer chaplain program to support first responders and the community during crises, and initiating a self-imposed lodging tax by local hotels with the long-term goal of enabling the city to collect revenue from overnight stays through state legislation. He also introduced the "Better CDA Challenge," a 60-day community engagement initiative featuring weekly light-hearted activities aimed at fostering unity. The first challenge involves running or walking a mile and sharing results online. He invited fellow candidates and residents to participate.

Roger Smith, Coeur d'Alene, noted that he sent a letter sharing his thoughts regarding vehicle noise in the city. He expressed support for the creation of a working group to address noise issues. He praised the existing noise ordinance for its practicality and enforceability, noting it allows law enforcement to act based on reasonable judgment. He emphasized the need for active enforcement and public education, suggesting increased police presence, strategic placement of parked police vehicles, and the use of fix-it tickets for vehicles with faulty mufflers. Mr. Smith also recommended electronic message signs that respond to loud vehicles and outreach efforts

involving local businesses, such as muffler shops. He asked for continued efforts to reduce noise pollution in affected neighborhoods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Wood responded to Mr. Smith’s public comment expressing appreciation for his input and clarified that while the noise issue was discussed at the previous council meeting, it was not formally on the agenda at that time, and as such, no official action or formation of a working group has occurred yet. Councilmember Wood noted that the matter may be brought forward on a future agenda.

Councilmember English revisited a previous issue regarding a property at 2nd and Harrison Avenue reported by a concerned neighbor. He observed potential code violations during a recent drive-by, including overgrown vegetation posing fire hazard and obstructed visibility at the intersection. He suggested the matter be reviewed by code enforcement

Mayor McEvers requested the appointment of Kori Keller to the Design Review Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by Gookin to appoint Kori Keller to the Design Review Commission.

ROLL CALL: Wood Aye; Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye.
Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Council Minutes for the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting.
2. Setting of General Services/Public Works meeting for September 8, 2025.
3. Approval of Bills as Submitted.
4. **Resolution No. 25-046** – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D’ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CDA STRUCTURES, INC., FOR A 40 X 60 POST FRAME BUILDING TO BE USED FOR POLICE TRAINING, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$129,760.00).

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by Gabriel to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, including **Resolution No. 25-046**.

ROLL CALL: Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye.
Motion carried.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 25-1016

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AMENDING COEUR D'ALENE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 6.15.110, ENTITLED "CRUELTY TO ANIMALS," REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY OF THIS ORDINANCE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

STAFF REPORT: Police Chief Lee White proposed that Council consider the amendment to Municipal Code §6.15.110 by adding a new subsection F to address the issue of animals, particularly dogs, being left in unattended vehicles under dangerous conditions. The proposed language would prohibit leaving or confining an animal in a vehicle under conditions that could endanger its health or well-being due to heat, cold, poor ventilation, or lack of food or water. Chief White highlighted the volume of related service calls, approximately 110 in a six-month period last year and 58 in a similar timeframe this year, and noted the inadequacy of current Idaho code, which requires a veterinarian's assessment. The proposed amendment would allow enforcement based on a reasonableness standard, enabling animal control officers to act more effectively.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin shared that someone mentioned online about potential ambiguity in the proposed amendment to the animal safety ordinance, specifically regarding how officers would determine adequate ventilation, food, water, and other conditions. Chief White responded that enforcement would rely on a reasonableness standard, emphasizing that most cases are resolved through education rather than citations. He noted that officers receive training to ensure fair application of the law and cited examples of dangerous conditions, such as leaving a dog in a sealed car on a hot day. Councilmember Wood supported the amendment and suggested exploring future regulations to address pet safety during hot-weather public events downtown. Chief White acknowledged the concern but did not have specific data on related complaints. Councilmember Wood suggested revisiting the topic in the future with input from other cities that have ordinances addressing animals at special events. She proposed that this could be something the Council may want to consider implementing as well. Councilmember English added that the ordinance's inclusion of cold weather conditions was also important, and Chief White agreed, noting its relevance in colder climates like Coeur d'Alene.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by English, to dispense with the rule and read **Council Bill No. 25-1016** once by title only.

ROLL CALL: Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye.
Motion carried.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Miller, to adopt **Council Bill 25-1016**.

ROLL CALL: Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye.
Motion carried.

COEUR D'ALENE POLICE ASSOCIATION NEGOTIATION PROPOSAL

STAFF REPORT: Officer Daniel Haley, Coeur d'Alene Police Officers Association (POA) President, addressed the Council for two key reasons. First, to resolve a potential open meetings concern raised by the City Attorney regarding an email he had previously sent and speaking with any of the Councilmembers. Speaking publicly was part of the remedy to ensure transparency. Second, he presented the POA's position on stalled negotiations over Coeur d'Alene Police Department supervisory pay for sergeants and lieutenants. He explained that current pay structures can result in officers taking a pay cut upon promotion, discouraging advancement. The POA proposes a 3.16% increase to sergeant pay and a 2.57% increase to lieutenant pay, totaling an estimated cost of \$89,859 including benefits. Mr. Haley emphasized that the proposal aims to incentivize leadership roles without creating pay disparities among officers promoted at the same time. He explained that while the city's proposal appears favorable on paper, offering a 10% increase for all senior officers, it would result in pay discrepancies among officers promoted on the same day, with some earning more despite having less experience. He emphasized that this could lead to inequities, division within the ranks, and is unacceptable to the POA. He added that there is a need to improve participation in the sergeant promotional exam, noting that only three officers had recently tested. He clarified that the low turnout was not due to lack of capability or fear of the exam, but rather the financial disincentive of taking on greater responsibility while facing a potential pay cut. He concluded by stressing the importance of fair compensation to encourage more officers to pursue promotions and continue serving the community in leadership roles.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin asked Mr. Haley about the city's response to the POA's supervisory pay proposal. Mr. Haley explained that the proposal had been presented in multiple meetings but was not accepted, and the City Administrator declared an impasse following the last meeting. Councilmember Wood expressed concern about ongoing pay compression and asked how the POA's proposal would address it. Mr. Haley responded that the proposal would create and maintain a pay gap between ranks, correcting past compression issues caused by contract interpretation. He clarified that the proposal includes updating the entire supervisory pay range by 3.16%, allowing for growth and experience-based increases. Councilmember English emphasized the Council's support for public safety and noted the low number of applicants for recent sergeant exams as a key concern. Mr. Haley confirmed only three officers tested, with two advancing. Councilmember Gabriel asked whether the POA's proposal to fix pay compression between officers and sergeants could create future issues for non-supervisory officers. Mr. Haley explained that the current 10% gap between the top officer pay, and the minimum sergeant pay is standard, but senior officers face financial disincentives when promoting. The proposal aims to raise the minimum sergeant pay to maintain that gap and support career advancement. Mr. Haley confirmed that while some officers may receive more than a 10% increase upon promotion, the issue primarily affects senior officers. Mayor McEvers inquired about the budget impact, and Mr. Haley stated the total cost would be \$89,859, including \$67,319 for sergeants and \$22,540 for lieutenants. Councilmember Wood asked about the status of negotiations following the declared impasse. Mayor McEvers clarified that discussions could continue and would be addressed further in the Executive Session. Mr. Haley confirmed the POA remains open to continued negotiations.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 25-1017

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025" APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$151,945,475 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE FOR SAID YEAR; LEVYING A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATION IS MADE; LEVYING SPECIAL TAXES UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITH SAID CITY FOR SPECIAL REVENUE PURPOSES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF SAID CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho:

Section 1 That the sum of \$151,945,475 be and the same is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the City of Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025.

Section 2 That the objects and purposes for which such appropriations are made are as follows:

	FY 2025-26 PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:	
Mayor and Council	286,810
Administration	259,678
Finance Department	1,913,676
Municipal Services	3,073,760
Human Resources	548,119
Legal Department	1,447,251
Planning Department	814,379
Building Maintenance	928,991
Police Department	21,465,567
Police Department Grants	567,456
Fire Department	15,043,792
General Government	7,015,993
Streets/Garage	3,258,893
Parks Department	838,840
Recreation Department	1,180,047
Building Inspection	70,810
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:	\$58,714,062

FY 2025-26

PROPOSED

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURES:

Library Fund	2,140,076
2025 Bond Expenditures	16,336,161
CDBG	342,971
Impact Fees	-
Parks Capital Imp.	781,100
Annexation Fees	580,000
Cemetery Fund	366,420
Cemetery Perpetual Care	19,700
Jewett House	33,115
Reforestation	137,000
Street Trees	-
Community Canopy	-
Public Art Fund	201,000
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS:	<hr/> \$20,937,543 <hr/>

ENTERPRISE FUND EXPENDITURES:

Street Lighting Fund	\$883,820
Water Fund	16,451,232
Wastewater Fund	28,835,381
Water Cap Fees	3,220,000
WWTP Cap. Fees	5,350,000
Sanitation Fund	5,625,198
Public Parking Fund	1,834,020
Drainage Utility Fund	2,251,951
TOTAL ENTERPRISE EXPENDITURES:	<hr/> \$64,451,602 <hr/>

FIDUCIARY FUNDS:	\$3,611,200
STREET CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS:	2,440,000
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS:	1,791,067
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL EXPENDITURES:	<hr/> \$151,945,475 <hr/>

Section 3 That a General Levy of \$27,104,507 on all taxable property within the City of Coeur 'Alene be and the same is hereby levied for general revenue purposes for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2024.

Section 4 That a Special Levy upon all taxable property within the limits of the City of Coeur d'Alene in the amount of \$3,991,334 is hereby levied for special revenue purposes for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2025.

Section 5 The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity or unconstitutionality or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, clauses, sentences, subsections, words or parts of this ordinance or their application to other persons or circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part had not been included therein, and if such person or circumstance to which the ordinance or part thereof is held inapplicable had been specifically exempt there from.

Section 6 This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage, approval and publication in one (1) issue of the Coeur d'Alene Press, a newspaper of general circulation published within the City of Coeur d'Alene and the official newspaper thereof.

STAFF REPORT: Finance Director Katie Ebner explained that Council Bill No. 25-1017 establishes the annual appropriation for the fiscal year starting October 1, 2025, totaling \$151,945,475. This ordinance is required by Idaho law and serves to outline expected revenues and expenditures, including property tax adjustments. In her presentation, Ms. Ebner presented discussions from previous budget workshops and emphasized that the presentation was intended to clarify key points for the public. She explained the city's general fund revenue sources, highlighting property taxes as the largest contributor, followed by licenses and permits, intergovernmental receipts, and inter-fund transfers. Although Coeur d'Alene is experiencing significant growth, the city's ability to generate revenue from new construction has declined sharply, over 70% since 2016, due to changes in Idaho's property tax formula. She clarified a common misconception that rising assessed property values result in increased city revenue; in reality, higher assessments lower the preliminary levy rate, reducing the revenue gained from new development. Additionally, legislative restrictions now limit the city to capturing only 90% of new growth in its tax formula. As a result, despite \$93 million in new construction added this year, the city will receive only \$202,000 in new revenue which is insufficient to meet the demands of growth in services like streets, public safety, and staff retention. Ms. Ebner explained that due to limitations in Idaho's property tax formula, the city can no longer rely on revenue from new growth to cover the rising costs of serving a growing population. As a result, the city's only remaining mechanism to address these financial needs is through a budgeted increase to the property tax levy. Ms. Ebner recommended implementing the allowable 3% increase and recapturing 1% of previously forgone taxes to ensure a more sustainable revenue stream to support essential services.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Miller asked for clarification on the impact of new construction under current limitations, noting that while the city now receives \$202,000 from the \$93 million in new construction, the past years brought in significantly more between \$800,000 to \$1 million range. Ms. Ebner confirmed that revenue from new growth has declined due to changes in the property tax formula, and the cumulative losses over recent years have made it difficult for the city to keep up with service demands. Councilmember Miller commented that it draws the gap between

what the city is receiving under the new limitations and what it could have received had it been able to continue with the previously projected recapture of growth-related funds.

Ms. Ebner also addressed public misconceptions about property tax increases, explaining that a 4% increase in the city's levy does not equate to a 4% increase on individual tax bills, which vary based on property valuation and market growth. She illustrated that a \$450,000 home would see a \$0.94 monthly increase, while a \$1 million home would see about \$2.13.

On expenditures for FY26, Ms. Ebner noted an overall reduction of \$2.1 million due to the completion of a one-time construction project. The Police Department's \$4.3 million decrease reflects the removal of a prior capital project. She explained that while capital outlay is down, wages and benefits are increasing by \$2.1 million, driven by scheduled merit increases and negotiated wage adjustments. These include a 3.5% wage increase for the Fire Department from a prior year contract, a tentative agreement with the Lake City Employees Association (LCEA), proposed increases for exempt (non-bargaining) employees, and offer to Police Officers Association employees. Ms. Ebner noted that the Mayor and City Council will receive no increase, as previously voted in the budget workshop. Councilmember Gookin inquired about the basis for wage increases for exempt and unrepresented employees, with Human Resources Director Melissa Tosi clarifying that this is governed by Council-approved resolution and personnel rules, aligning unrepresented employee increases with those negotiated by the LCEA, while exempt staff increases are as approved by Council through the budgeting process. Ms. Ebner added that another item in the expenditure is the 3% increase in health benefit premiums. She also outlined several staffing changes in the proposed budget, including the addition of three new Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) in building maintenance, cancelling custodial contracted services to hire custodians; two new firefighter FTE to lower constant-manning overages; and one new FTE in Building Inspection to address a legislative requirement to meet permitting deadlines.

Councilmember English expressed strong support for hiring in-house custodial staff, noting the benefits of flexibility and reliability, and asked whether the cost of adding these employees would be roughly equivalent to the previous contract. Ms. Ebner explained that while hiring three custodians will cost more than the current contract, the projected increase in contract costs next year makes the switch to in-house staff more cost-effective, with improved consistency and service quality. Councilmember Miller asked whether the new permit review deadlines were recently introduced by legislation and if the city currently lacks sufficient staffing to meet them. Ms. Ebner confirmed that the requirement is new this year and that additional staffing is necessary to comply with the mandated timelines.

Ms. Ebner explained that capital outlay decreased by \$4.4 million due to the completion of ARPA-funded projects. She also highlighted a projected \$1.8 million use of fund balance to support ongoing operations, stating that continued reliance on reserves could lead to unhealthy financial levels. She presented future budget scenarios showing that even with a 4% property tax increase, sustainability depends on controlling expenditure growth. Ms. Ebner recommended for Council to approve the proposed budget, which includes a 3% increase in property tax revenue and the use of 1% of forgone taxes. She stated the importance of planning for future fiscal years by managing expenditures, as revenue growth is limited. She noted that despite population growth since 2010, the city has maintained efficiency, with most general government departments seeing minimal

increases in staffing. A review of FTE positions shows that the number of employees per 10,000 residents has decreased since 2019, indicating the city is doing more with less.

Councilmember Gabriel commented on the significance of the data showing how city employees are handling a growing workload across departments without a proportional increase in staffing. He noted that even when new firefighter positions were proposed, they had to be thoroughly justified, reflecting a long-standing culture of efficiency. Despite concerns about the proposed 3.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), he argues that retaining experienced staff is crucial due to their institutional knowledge and the reduced need for training.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Mayor McEvers opened the public testimony portion of the meeting.

Councilmember Gookin shared an email from Susan Snedaker who has attended budget hearings for 25 years and meticulously reviews each line item. In her email, she emphasized the importance of transparency and fiduciary responsibility from the council, requesting a detailed accounting of fire expenditures and reimbursements. She also inquired about the status of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which appeared in the 2023 budget, but she cannot find in the current budget. HR Director Melissa Tosi clarified that the EAP is still active and in its second year. She added that it has been expanded to include telehealth services, partially funded by the city and medical trust funds.

With no comments received, Mayor McEvers closed public testimony.

MOTION: Motion by Wood, seconded by Gookin, to table **Council Bill No. 25-1017** to the last meeting of the month or a special call meeting before the end of the month.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Wood expressed understanding and support for the proposed 3% tax increase due to the city's revenue challenges and past efforts to avoid tax hikes. However, she advocated for delaying the budget adoption until the end of the month to allow time for unresolved issues. These include finalizing contracts with two bargaining units, evaluating employee retirement incentives more thoroughly, and ensuring all potential cost-saving measures have been explored. She noted the need for Council discussion on items like the Urban Renewal District (URD) and the compensation salary study, which have not been placed on the agenda despite previous requests. Councilmember Wood stressed that while she supports the increase, she wants to proceed only after confirming that all options have been considered and discussed in a workshop. Ms. Ebner emphasized the urgency of approving the ordinance due to an upcoming deadline for submitting levy paperwork to the County and State Tax Commission. Councilmember Evans asked for the exact deadline for submitting the levy paperwork. Ms. Ebner explained that the paperwork is scheduled for completion the following day and expressed concern that even a short delay could jeopardize the city's ability to levy taxes. Without approval, the city risks losing the ability to levy taxes, potentially turning a \$1.8 million deficit into a \$30 million shortfall. Councilmember Miller expressed support for discussing various budget-related items, including the pending URD conversation. She explained that while preliminary data was gathered, there wasn't enough time to compile everything before the budget deadline due to moving parts like leadership changes at the hospital. She assured that it is scheduled for a future meeting. She stated that she has some notes too and tracking these discussions to ensure they are addressed in the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Gabriel supported moving forward with the budget ordinance, noting that the retirement incentive program has been successful in the past and can be revisited later. He emphasized that the budget process should be ongoing throughout the year and encouraged continued exploration of new ideas. Councilmember English supported moving forward with the ordinance, noting that the budget can be amended later. Councilmember Wood, noting the urgency of approving the ordinance, withdrew her motion and requested for a dedicated workshop on retirement incentives within the next month. Councilmember Wood stated that she will make a request to the Mayor to set the workshop date.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Gabriel, dispense with the rule and read **Council Bill No. 25-1017** once by title only.

ROLL CALL: Gookin Aye; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye.
Motion carried.

MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Gabriel, to adopt **Council Bill 25-1017**.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin explained his vote against the motion, agreeing with Ms. Ebner's assessment of the legislature's impact on property tax revenue, which he described as unfair to taxpayers. He acknowledged that Councilmembers had proposed budget cuts during workshops and praised the decision to forgo their pay increases as a positive message to the public. He raised concerns about whether certain line items, like Fire Department apparatus and utility fee adjustments, were included in the budget, and suggested exploring additional revenue options such as leasing city-owned land. Given the financial strain on residents, especially those 40% or more being on fixed incomes, he cannot support a huge increase. He agreed to hold a workshop to continue these discussions. Councilmember Evans thanked Ms. Ebner for her thorough work in preparing for budget workshops, responding to Council inquiries, and presenting a comprehensive and educational overview of the city's financial situation. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Ebner's efforts in helping the Council and community understand the challenges involved in the budget process. Councilmember Wood expressed discomfort with adopting the budget before negotiations with two employee associations were finalized. She appreciated the Council's agreement to hold a workshop and emphasized the importance of ongoing budget discussions throughout the year, rather than limiting them to a short seasonal window. Councilmember English voiced strong support for the budget, including the 3% increase and the use of the 1% foregone amount. He acknowledged that such measures should have been taken in previous years and emphasized that using the foregone amount now is justified, given the long-term impact and the need to meet current demands. Councilmember Miller expressed that while no one wants to raise taxes, the financial data leaves little choice. She supported holding additional workshops and emphasized the need for a more organized and efficient way to track and consolidate Council ideas and proposals. She noted that some suggestions were discussed and either incorporated or set aside, while new ones continue to emerge. She advocated for a consolidated or running list to help the Council review, prioritize, and follow up on these items more effectively as they move into the next budget cycle.

ROLL CALL: Gookin No; English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-047

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF FOREGONE INCREASE TO BE BUDGETED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, SPECIFICALLY ONE PERCENT (1%) EQUAL TO TWO HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$290,146.00), PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE §63-802(1)(e), FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

MOTION: Motion by English, seconded by Wood to approve **Resolution No. 25-047** – Certifying the amount of foregone increase to be budgeted for fiscal year 2025-2026, specifically in the amount of Two Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Forty-six and No/100 Dollars (\$290,146.00), pursuant to Idaho Code 63-802(1)(e), for maintenance and operations.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Wood acknowledged that no one enjoys raising taxes, but given the city's deficit, it's a necessary step. She supported Councilmember Miller's idea of consolidating budget suggestions to streamline the process and avoid duplication, noting that ideas are constantly emerging and it's hard to track which have been addressed. She emphasized that everyone is working hard to find savings and reduce the need for additional tax increases, suggesting that a more organized approach could also ease the burden on staff. Councilmember English agreed to have a centralized record of Council proposals to track which ideas were approved, dropped, or still pending. Councilmember Miller agreed, noting that some items seem to fall through the cracks. Councilmember Gookin stated that when the City Council makes a decision, it becomes a collective one that all members ultimately support. He shared his observation that it seems the Council has no problem taking foregone taxes but has an issue with taking foregone rent.

ROLL CALL: English Aye; Wood Aye; Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin No.
Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Gabriel to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 74-206(1)(j) and 74-206A(1)(a), to deliberate on a labor contract offer or to formulate a counteroffer.

ROLL CALL: Wood Aye; Evans Aye; Miller Aye; Gabriel Aye; Gookin Aye; English Aye.
Motion carried.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. Those present were the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, Finance Director, and Human Resources Director.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Miller, seconded by Gabriel that there being no other business this meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:51 p.m.