

MINUTES OF A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM #6

January 8, 2026

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a continued meeting of said Council at the City Hall Conference Room #6 on January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., there being present the following members:

Dan Gookin, Mayor

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

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

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS AND DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR VACANT COUNCIL SEAT#3: Mayor Gookin stated that the purpose of the meeting is for Council to interview and discuss candidates for Council Seat #3, in accordance with the Human Resources policies. He noted that the interview process will include Councilmembers taking turns asking various questions. There are 18 interview questions, and each candidate is provided with 45 minutes each. The following questions were asked by Mayor and each Councilmember as follows: 1 Mayor Gookin; 2-4 Councilmember Evans; 5-7 Councilmember Wood; 8-10 Councilmember Gabriel; 11-13 Councilmember Miller; 14-16 Councilmember English; and 17-18 Mayor Gookin.

1. How long have you lived in CDA and why do you want to be on the City Council?
2. What is your understanding of the role of a Councilmember?
3. What unique skills or perspectives would you bring to the position of Councilmember?
4. What community/public services or activities in Coeur d'Alene have you been involved in?
5. What leadership roles have you held?
6. All of us may have areas of the city government or public issues, due to our experience or other factors, that are of particular interest to us. How would you separate that special interest from decisions that you need to make on behalf of the whole city, including all citizens, businesses, and city employees?
7. What do you believe are the top five items of concern for our citizens? How would you bring those forward to your fellow Councilmembers?
8. What is your understanding of urban renewal and what do you consider the benefits and detriments of urban renewal for the City of Coeur d'Alene and why?
9. How would you contribute to a collaborative and respectful debate and discussion with fellow Councilmembers? How do you believe you would handle speaking up in public during debates and discussions, even if you appear to be in the minority?

10. Do you have any experience that gives you a particular understanding of Idaho city governance, finance, and authority? Explain.
11. What issues do you think would raise concerns for the City regarding large developments, without mentioning any specific development, and why?
12. What ideas do you have to address the City's current budget shortfall?
13. What ideas would you bring forward to address traffic issues within the City of Coeur d'Alene?
14. If you were engaged in strategic planning, what services do you believe the Council and Mayor should be focused on for city residents in the next 5 years?
15. What is your experience with public budgets, public policy, and City, State, and Federal laws that pertain to Municipal Government?
16. Are you aware of any current conflicts of interest that may affect your service as a councilmember?
17. What is your opinion about fraternization with City staff, for example going out for drinks, parties, birthdays, and/or outside of city business?
18. Do you have any questions for us, or do you have anything else you would like to share with us?

TONYA COPPEDGE: Ms. Coppedge noted that she has lived in Coeur d'Alene since childhood and seeks a Council seat to apply her MBA in Healthcare Administration and continue serving the community. She views the Council's role as setting vision and policy, not operations, and higher-level decision making. She believes her healthcare background and extensive community interaction offer a unique and broad perspective. Her experience includes nearly a decade with nonprofits such as Cancer Clinic at Kootenai Health, Heritage Health, AmeriCorps service, and informal leadership through training interns as a pharmacy technician. Key interests include public health, accessibility and well-being, and addressing barriers for underserved populations. She identifies affordability, housing, transportation, infrastructure, and effective communication as top citizen concerns and emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and respectful debate. While unfamiliar with urban renewal and city finance, she is eager to learn and contribute thoughtfully. She values listening, data-driven decisions, and would advocate confidently even in the minority. Strategic priorities she noted include infrastructure and housing. Ms. Coppedge acknowledged her experience with public budgets and policies is limited, though she emphasized her ability to learn quickly, noting she completed her MBA in six months through Western Governors University's self-paced program. She stated she is unaware of any conflicts of interest but would recuse herself if any arise. Regarding fraternization with city staff, she considers it inappropriate and would avoid such interactions. Ms. Coppedge inquired what resources and steps would help a new Councilmember transition effectively, expressing interest in guidance and learning tools. She concluded by noting her familiarity with high-pressure environments and the importance of earning trust, drawing from her pharmacy experience.

DAN SHECKLER: Mr. Sheckler has lived in Coeur d'Alene since 2011 and has deep family roots in North Idaho, motivating his desire to help set a long-term course for community stability. He views the Council's role as nonpartisan and focused on core city functions like public safety, housing, and infrastructure, avoiding broader cultural issues. His background as an attorney provides experience in conflict resolution and understanding the real-world impact of laws. Mr. Sheckler has led Coeur d'Alene Youth Sailing since 2018, served as the Associated Students of

North Idaho College (ASNIC) President, and participated in the Open Space Committee in 2011 and Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission, and helps some nonprofits in his legal capacity. His primary interest is land use and housing affordability, advocating for flexible density rules in new developments to support attainable housing. He identifies growth, affordability, and taxes as top citizen concerns and favors public workshops for collaborative decision-making. Mr. Sheckler stated his understanding of urban renewal is limited but sees it as a tool for funding infrastructure and expanding the tax base. He supports the concept but emphasized the need for accountability in spending public funds to avoid favoritism or misuse. On collaboration, he highlighted his legal experience in conflict resolution, stressing patience, listening, and finding common ground. He affirmed he would speak up publicly even as the lone dissenting voice, citing a past example where he opposed a resolution in a politically charged setting and defended his stance despite strong opposition. Regarding city governance, he noted limited financial expertise but significant experience with city codes, quasi-judicial processes, and legal frameworks from his law practice. On large developments, he identified traffic as the primary concern, along with impacts on schools and parks, advocating for proactive engagement with school boards and transparent workshops to address long-term planning needs. He suggested addressing the city's budget shortfall by exploring additional revenue streams such as fees and considering a local option sales tax to reduce reliance on property taxes. He noted that a sales tax could help distribute costs to visitors and alleviate pressure on homeowners, while emphasizing the need for prudent spending to maintain essential services like police and fire. On traffic issues, Mr. Sheckler admitted he had no clear solution, stressing the importance of multimodal transportation and deferring to traffic engineers and planners. For strategic planning, he prioritized maintaining strong public safety services, which he believes distinguish Coeur d'Alene from neighboring areas. He cited broad legal experience with state and federal laws, though acknowledged he is not an expert in municipal finance and would seek counsel when needed. Mr. Sheckler disclosed a potential conflict of interest due to his criminal defense practice involving cases against the city prosecutor's office, which he would resolve by substituting out or declining such cases. On fraternization with staff, he supported limited social interaction with clear professional boundaries. He closed by expressing his love for North Idaho and commitment to fair, fact-based decision-making that respects public input.

Mayor called for a recess at 10:08 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:13 a.m.

TODD TONDEE: Mr. Tondee has lived in Coeur d'Alene for six years and in the region for over 30 years. He wants to join the Council to help navigate upcoming leadership transitions, citing extensive experience in government roles, including Post Falls City Council, Kootenai County Commissioner, and Post Falls Highway District. His background also includes managing businesses, leading a real estate team, and serving on boards such as Boys & Girls Club and Green Idaho Foundation. Mr. Tondee emphasized strong leadership skills, customer service, transparency, and strategic thinking, with interests in planning and zoning and addressing growth challenges. He identified infrastructure, traffic, management employee retirements, and fire department transitions as key concerns and stressed fact-based decision-making, respectful dialogue, and openness to input when working with Councilmembers. Mr. Tondee supports urban renewal as a strategic tool when applied with clear goals, measurable taxpayer benefits, and defined end dates, citing successful experience with Post Falls projects. He favors its use for job creation over housing but is open to exceptions for affordable housing needs. He emphasized

respectful, fact-based dialogue and said he is comfortable speaking publicly even in the minority, referencing past experiences. He brings extensive knowledge from prior roles in city and county government, including tax and planning processes. On large developments, he stressed managing traffic and utility impacts while acknowledging infrastructure must follow growth, advocating for smart planning and right-of-way protection. For the budget shortfall, Mr. Tondee plans to review department spending and avoid creating future financial cliffs, noting challenges like Fire Department restructuring. On traffic, he supports expanding roads where feasible and praised roundabouts for improving flow. Strategic priorities include hiring a new City Administrator, Police Chief, and Fire Chief, and managing Fire Department reorganization. He reported no current conflicts of interest but would recuse himself if real estate work created one. Regarding fraternization, Mr. Tondee sees value in occasional informal interactions for candid feedback but warns against favoritism or perceived impropriety. He asked about the timing and process for upcoming leadership transitions and whether the Fire Department reorganization would occur before hiring a new chief. He also inquired about what qualities or contributions the Council is seeking from the new member.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Gookin stated that he will announce his nominee next week, with Council confirmation scheduled for the January 20 meeting. He remarked that all candidates are highly qualified. Councilmember English noted that each candidate brings unique value to the role. Councilmember Wood thanked all participants for engaging in the process, emphasizing the importance of transparency and public involvement.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Wood, seconded by English that there being no other business, this meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.