

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

May 6, 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 May 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

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

Dan Gookin                                 ) Member of Council Absent

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

**INVOCATION:** John Pulsipher of Interfaith CDA led the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilmember Wood led the pledge of allegiance.

**MILITARY CAREGIVER MONTH:** Councilmember Gabriel read the Proclamation declaring the month of May 2025 as Military Caregiver Month. Regent Michelle Fansler and Vice Regent 1 Kathy Swanson received the Proclamation on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Hidden Heroes Foundation. Regent Fansler, a daughter and caregiver of a Vietnam veteran and wife of a Persian Gulf War veteran, discussed the Hidden Heroes program, an initiative by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation launched in 2016. The program supports the 14.3 million military and veteran caregivers in the U.S., many of whom begin their caregiving journey in isolation. Hidden Heroes aims to raise awareness, inspire community action, and connect caregivers with resources through platforms like hiddenheroes.org. In Idaho, the program has limited reach, prompting a call for local involvement. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a nonprofit women's service organization with a strong presence in Idaho, is working to identify and support military caregivers. Idaho cities are encouraged to join the initiative by recognizing caregivers, appointing local contacts, and promoting available resources. The goal is to build a supportive network across the state, with 43 counties and 40 cities already participating, to ensure caregivers feel seen, supported, and connected. Councilmember Wood requested their contact information so she could connect them with another local veterans organization.

**PRESERVATION MONTH:** Councilmember Miller read the Proclamation declaring the month of May 2025 as Preservation Month. Walter Burns, Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, accepted the Proclamation. Mr. Burns stated that the City is celebrating Preservation Month in

partnership with the Museum of North Idaho and the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene. Events begin with a reception at the Northern Pacific Railway Depot, where the Heart of History award will be presented to Clark's Jewelers for preserving their historic storefront. Other events include a Mother's Day tea at the Hamilton House, cemetery tours highlighting notable women, and appearances at the 5th Street Farmers Market to promote preservation awareness. A major highlight is the official listing of the Garden District on the National Register of Historic Places. This will be celebrated with a walking tour on May 31 and a community event at Phippeny Park on June 1, featuring a plaque unveiling.

**2025 WILDLAND SEASON OUTLOOK:** Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sells presented on the wildfire outlook and preparations for the upcoming wildland fire season, emphasizing that while fires typically occur in the hotter months, planning and coordination happen year-round. Due to drought conditions and below-average snowpack, experts predict a higher-than-normal fire risk this summer. The wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas in Coeur d'Alene are mapped and monitored, with fire-resistant building practices and burn restrictions being key safety measures. Burn permits, required starting May 10, are free and help ensure compliance with fire safety rules. The FireSmart program, supported by state and federal grants, funds fuel break projects that protect both individual properties and the community. Coordination with regional partners, including the Idaho Department of Lands and the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association, ensures mutual aid and resource sharing during emergencies. Formal agreements facilitate access to air support and statewide mobilization resources. Mr. Sells emphasized the value of real-world experience gained through deployments, which enhances local preparedness and training. Most importantly, the community is a vital partner in prevention. Residents are urged to stay informed and have evacuation plans. Tools like Alert Kootenai, PulsePoint, and Watch Duty help keep the public informed during emergencies. Lastly, the Avista Utilities Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program allows power to be cut in high-risk areas to prevent or mitigate wildfires.

Councilmember Wood asked whether the Fire Department offers workshops or online resources to help residents prepare for wildfires—such as what essentials to pack or how to care for pets. In response, Mr. Sells confirmed that public outreach is ongoing, including an upcoming talk with the Tubbs Hill group. He highlights resources available through the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management, which include detailed checklists and home preparation tips. He also notes that the department is available to assess individual properties for wildfire readiness.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Michael Sims, Coeur d'Alene, asked Council to advocate for lowering the speed limit on Atlas Road between Prairie Avenue and Hanley to 25 mph due to excessive traffic noise affecting nearby residents. He presented a petition with 45 signatures, each representing a household, and notes that around 100 homes are impacted, many of which are just 13 yards from the road. He stated that traffic has significantly increased over the years, with vehicles often exceeding the current 35 mph limit, and that the noise is unbearable. He argues that reducing speed is a proven, cost-effective method for noise abatement and urges the Council to act quickly and appealed for compassionate response to improve residents' quality of life.

Linda Coppess, Coeur d'Alene, noted strong support for the upcoming Firefighters Bond initiative on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Chamber's Board and nearly 1,000 member businesses. She emphasized that public safety is a shared community responsibility, especially as Coeur d'Alene continues to grow. The Fire Department is currently operating with outdated equipment and undersized facilities, limiting its ability to respond effectively to emergencies. The proposed bond would fund critical upgrades to stations, modernize equipment, and expand training programs. Ms. Coppess stated that a well-equipped Fire Department is vital not only for protecting lives but also for supporting economic vitality. She urged the community to vote in favor of the bond on May 20, framing it as an investment in the safety, resilience, and future of Coeur d'Alene.

Nick Bell, Coeur d'Alene thanked the Council and city departments for their efforts in resolving the C Street issue. He acknowledged the complexity of the situation and expressed appreciation for the city's decision to prioritize the broader community's well-being over the threats of a lawsuit from a single individual. He emphasized the importance of the precedent set by this issue, especially in light of ongoing historic preservation efforts. He also expressed desire for continued communication and transparency moving forward.

Justin Nagel, Rathdrum, expressed concern about jurisdictional overreach and accountability involving law enforcement agencies. He mentioned an ongoing issue where a Coeur d'Alene police officer allegedly conducted police activity in Spirit Lake, outside city limits. He also mentioned missing investigative files within the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office and criticizes a lack of transparency and accountability in law enforcement, including the Idaho State Police. He asked the City to re-evaluate its partnerships and practices with other law enforcement agencies.

Asa Gray, Coeur d'Alene thanked Council especially the City's Police and Fire Departments for their outstanding service. He shared two personal experiences: one involving a suspected gas leak at his apartment, where the Fire Department responded quickly and professionally, and another where a police officer reassured his wife and young daughter during a concerning encounter at a park. He emphasized how much these acts of service meant to his family and thanked the City for the dedication and care shown by its first responders.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Councilmember Gabriel congratulated the Water Department for receiving the Water System Award of the Year from the Idaho Rural Water Association.

Councilmember English referenced a recent news article and a regional report highlighting new legislation that outlines a structured approach to closing urban renewal districts. He expressed a desire to begin this process through a deliberate and well-organized review, which would include direct meetings and collaborative input.

Mayor McEvers expressed condolences to the family and friends of Connie Florence Thompson, formally known as Connie Goularte. She worked for the City of Coeur d'Alene from 1990-1998 as the Deputy City Clerk and remembered as a fun-loving outgoing person. The City is thankful for her years of service.

Mayor McEvers requested the appointments of Tom Messina to the Design Review Commission and Alivia Metts to the ignite CDA Board.

**MOTION:** Motion by Wood, seconded by Evans to appoint Tom Messina to the Design Review Commission and Alivia Metts to the ignite CDA Board.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Approval of Council Minutes for the April 15, 2025 and April 21, 2025 Meetings.
2. Setting of General Services/Public Works Committee Meeting for May 12, 2025.
3. Approving Approval of Bills as Submitted.

**MOTION:** Motion by Evans, seconded by Gabriel to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH KEENAN JOHNSON FOR COMMERCIAL USE OF CITY STREETS FOR RECREATIONAL TRANSIT.

**STAFF REPORT:** Deputy City Clerk Kelley Setters presented a proposal from Keenan Johnson to operate a recreational, electric-assist trolley on Coeur d'Alene city streets, similar to the pedal pub approved last summer. The service would run seasonally from May to October, offering two-hour scenic tours for all ages (non-alcoholic) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and separate alcohol-allowed tours for guests 21+ from 1:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All tours begin and end at Jeremiah Johnson Brewing Company, with designated loading zones to minimize traffic disruption. Stops include local landmarks and businesses, with brief breaks for refreshments. The police and streets departments reviewed the proposal and raised no objections, with the police requesting flexibility to adjust the route if needed. The proposal aligns with Municipal Code Chapter 5.18 and allows the City to impose conditions or revoke the permit if needed.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Evans expressed support for the innovative recreational trolley proposal but raised concerns about parking and loading near Jeremiah Johnson Brewing, noting the area is already congested. Mr. Johnson clarified that guests would park in the public lot near 3rd Street, across from Panhandle Cone and Coffee. Councilmember Wood recalled a detailed discussion on a similar proposal last summer involving a different vendor and asked if that vendor was still operating. Ms. Setters confirmed that the previous vendor had a one-year agreement with the City but ultimately chose not to use it. Councilmember Miller asked about music, and Mr. Johnson explained that while music is played, it would be kept at a respectful volume in residential areas, with alternatives like trivia or historical commentary. City Attorney Randy Adams confirmed that the agreement includes broad language allowing the City to modify conditions at any time to maintain peace and safety within city limits.

**MOTION:** Motion by Wood, seconded by English to approve **Resolution No. 25-020**, approving a letter of Agreement with Keenan Johnson for recreational transit upon designated city streets

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

### **PRICING FOR NEW MILLSTONE ART NICHE WALL AT FOREST CEMETERY**

**STAFF REPORT:** Parks and Recreation Director Bill Greenwood discussed the proposal for a new artistic niche wall project at Forest Cemetery, created by local artist Dale Young. He mentioned that years ago, Mr. Young was selected to repurpose granite stones found at Cherry Hill, one of which became a pinecone bench. Over several years, he developed the concept for a “millstone niche wall,” which features 16 smaller niches and a central “family niche,” using millstones he had collected. As part of the agreement, Mr. Young and his wife will be interred in the niche bearing his signature. He requested the structure face east-west so the morning sun would shine on his niche. The City budgeted for the project through the Parks and Cemetery Fund. Mr. Greenwood asked Council to approve pricing for the exclusive “Millstone Niche” art installation at Forest Cemetery: \$3,500 for a 10” x 5” niche (holds one urn) and \$6,500 for a 16” x 5” niche (holds up to four urns). Final pricing approval will be included in the upcoming fee schedule update.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Gabriel praised the artistic niche wall project, noting how it enhances the cemetery’s atmosphere, making it feel more like a peaceful park. He appreciated that artist Dale Young would have his own niche marked with his signature. Mr. Greenwood added that Dale has long been community-minded, sharing a story of how Dale once repaired a damaged cemetery angel statue at no cost. Councilmember English inquired about the size of the structure, and Mr. Greenwood explained it sits on a 9-inch pedestal and is fairly large. Mayor McEvers asked for clarification on pricing, and Mr. Greenwood confirmed the new niche would be nearly double the cost of standard ones due to its uniqueness. He expressed confidence that the niches will sell quickly.

**MOTION:** Motion by Gabriel, seconded by Miller to direct staff to move forward with the fee schedule as proposed to be included at the next fee public hearing.

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

### **COUNCIL BILL 25-1010**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.15.010 OF THE COEUR D’ALENE MUNICIPAL CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

**STAFF REPORT:** Municipal Services Director Renata McLeod presented the proposed amendments to Municipal Code §6.15.010 to add subsection F and G to allow for temporary housing on goats on private property, such as the request of Meadow Ranch Homeowners Association (HOA), to use goats for weed abatement in areas where traditional methods are unsafe

due to steep slopes. The current code only permits the City and other public agencies to use goats for weed abatement within city limits. The HOA, unable to find landscapers willing to maintain a steep, overgrown area in their subdivision, proposed using goats as an alternative. The code amendment would allow HOAs to apply for permission to use goats in open spaces with difficult terrain. The application would be filed at the City Clerk's office and reviewed by the Police Department, which oversees animal control, and includes specific requirements to minimize neighborhood disturbances—such as limits on duration, frequency, and a ban on unneutered male goats due to odor concerns. The Fire Department also supports the proposal due to the fire risk posed by dry vegetation. The financial impact is minimal, and the change would provide an effective, low risk weed control option ahead of fire season.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Gabriel praised the approach, noting its low impact and effectiveness, as well as the growing popularity of the use of goats for weed abatement around the country. Councilmember Wood raised potential issues with goats escaping and Sgt. Jared Reneau clarified that the contractor would have someone on-site 24/7 during their brief deployment. Councilmember Miller suggested expanding the ordinance to allow individual homeowners with suitable properties to use this method with goats so there is no need to go back and rewrite the ordinance. Sgt. Reneau explained that the reason for limiting broader use of goats is due to the tendency of livestock to escape, which poses challenges in urban environments. While goat grazing is environmentally friendly and effective for certain terrains, there are other weed control methods that are equally effective. Goats, being livestock, also bring issues like noise and odor, which the City aims to minimize. He added that the goal is also to restrict the impact of raising goats within neighborhoods. Councilmember Miller expressed that the use of goats for vegetation management could be a practical solution for areas like the wildfire interface zone near Hill Road, where large lots and steep terrain make traditional maintenance difficult. She suggested that, rather than limiting the ordinance to HOAs, individual property owners with qualifying conditions—such as lot size and slope—should also be allowed to apply for permits under the same criteria. While acknowledging the potential for issues like goats escaping, she felt the benefits could outweigh the risks and that any problems could be addressed later if they arose. Councilmember Wood agreed, noting that the ordinance already includes a review by the Police Department's animal control supervisor. Sgt. Reneau explained that the current plan is to treat the goat-grazing initiative as a trial run to identify any unforeseen issues before expanding its scope. However, he cautioned that if significant problems were discovered during the trial, it might be more difficult to scale back the program. Councilmember Miller suggested revisiting the matter in a year to evaluate its effectiveness and determine whether broader implementation would be appropriate.

Ms. McLeod clarified that an additional amendment to the ordinance had been sent out to Council earlier following discussions with the HOA. The first change involved reducing the required insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$500,000, aligning it with the standard for many public works contracts. The second amendment addressed the challenge of confining goats to half-acre sections in sloped areas, which can be impractical. To address this, the ordinance now includes a provision allowing for flexibility in fencing requirements, subject to approval by the City's animal control.

**MOTION:** Motion by Evans, seconded by Miller, to dispense with the rule and read **Council Bill No. 25-1010** once by title only.

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

**MOTION:** Motion by Evans, seconded by Miller, to adopt **Council Bill No. 25-1010.**

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-021**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH IDAHO FAIR FOR A TRIPLE-WIDE MODULAR UNIT OWNED BY THE CITY.

**STAFF REPORT:** Streets and Engineering Director Todd Feusier presented an update on the proposed sale of a triple-wide modular building previously used by various departments, including the Water Department, Engineering, and most recently, the Police Department and Code Enforcement. The modular building, now vacant, is in the middle of a crowded city campus and is seen as an obstacle to future development. The North Idaho Fair Board expressed interest in purchasing the building, and a sale price of \$125,000 has been agreed upon. The building will be relocated to the fairgrounds' property. Mr. Feusier emphasized that selling the building is the first step in a broader campus reorganization plan, which includes potential projects like a covered truck structure and relocating the salt operation to free up space for police and fire services. Mr. Feusier stated that a comprehensive campus plan will be presented at the next council meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Wood thanked the North Idaho Fair Board for their patience and understanding throughout the process. She acknowledged that while the Police Department had initially shown interest in using the modular building for training purposes, it appeared that ongoing discussions between city departments were leading to alternative solutions. Mr. Feusier stated that he had been in close communication with the Police Department, and both parties agreed that the building's central location made it impractical for long-term use. Instead, they are exploring a new location nearby that could meet the department's needs. He added that a more detailed plan will be presented at the next council meeting.

**MOTION:** Motion by Miller, seconded by Wood to approve **Resolution No. 25-021**, approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the North Idaho Fair Board for the Triple-Wide Modular Unit, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

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

## RESOLUTION NO. 25-022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AN ACCUBRINE AUTOMATED BRINE PRODUCTION SYSTEM, WITH UPGRADE KITS AND ACCESSORIES, FROM CARGILL SALT - ROAD SAFETY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$88,321.00, THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.

**STAFF REPORT:** Streets and Engineering Director Todd Feusier presented a proposal to purchase new brine-making equipment for \$88,321 due to the current system being outdated and unsupported, posing a risk if it fails during winter operations. The existing facility, established in 2008, has expanded significantly and now produces brine not only for city use but also for several external agencies, including the County, School District, and College. Despite fluctuations in winter demand, production has remained high, with over 269,000 gallons produced even during a mild winter. The new system would increase production capacity by 1,000 gallons per hour, offer electronic tracking and remote monitoring, and allow for quicker adjustments in brine type. While the purchase is not currently budgeted, Mr. Feusier stated that it can absorb the cost through savings from unfilled positions and a mild winter. The goal is to have the new system installed by mid-August and fully operational by end of November.

**DISCUSSION:** Mayor McEvers asked about whether salt brine goes bad and how it works in different temperatures. Mr. Feusier clarified that it does not; the tanks are not emptied each season, and any remaining brine can be stirred and reused by adding more to it. He explained that standard salt brine is effective in most conditions but begins to lose effectiveness around 20°F and can refreeze at around 15°F. In colder conditions, an additive is used to create a "hot mix" brine that works below 15°F. When temperatures drop near zero, the department switches to using sand, road salt, or a combination, as brine becomes ineffective.

**MOTION:** Motion by Wood, seconded by English to approve **Resolution No. 25-022**, approving the purchase of a new Accubrine brine production system, with Upgrade Kits and Accessories, from Cargill Salt-Road Safety for \$88,321.00, through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program pursuant to Idaho Code section 67-2807.

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

## RESOLUTION NO. 25-023

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH INTERSTATE CONCRETE AND ASPHALT COMPANY, FOR THE 2025 MILL & INLAY PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY AND 65/100 DOLLARS (\$283,730.65).

**STAFF REPORT:** Streets and Engineering Assistant Director Justin Kimberling requested approval for Change Order No. 1 to the 2025 Mill and Inlay Project, following a favorable low bid from Interstate Concrete and Asphalt. The cost savings from the original bid allowed the City to

expand the project scope to include additional deteriorating roadways. The proposed changes include milling and repaving sections from Harrison to Birch Street and along Birch between 3rd and 4th Streets, which also require stormwater upgrades due to drainage issues. Another addition is St. Michelle Drive, a heavily used and deteriorated road near Woodland Middle School, which connects Kathleen Avenue to Dalton Avenue. Due to its width and complexity, this section is not suitable for in-house paving. Mr. Kimberling stated that the change order would cover approximately 14,725 square yards of road surface and recommended awarding the additional work to Interstate for \$283,730.65.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember English expressed support for the proposed change order, noting that the affected street is heavily used and familiar to them personally. He acknowledged the road's deteriorated condition, especially near the middle school, where traffic from parents, school buses, and daily commuters contributes to its wear.

**MOTION:** Motion by English, seconded by Wood to approve **Resolution No. 25-023**, approving change order No. 1 to the Mill and Inlay project with Interstate Concrete and Asphalt Company in the amount of \$283,730.65.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilmember Miller disclosed that she owns a property directly on one of the roads included in this project; therefore, she will be recusing from the vote.

Mayor McEvers expressed excitement on the long-awaited repaving of 4th Street all the way to the freeway.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.