

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

June 17, 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 June 17, 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)
Kiki Miller)
Amy Evans)
Kenny Gabriel)

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

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

PETER LUTTROPP DAY: Councilmember Evans read the Proclamation declaring June 17, 2025 as “Peter Luttrupp Day” in recognition of his 18 years of dedicated service to the Coeur d’Alene Planning and Zoning Commission spanning three full terms. Mr. Luttrupp accepted the proclamation and expressed gratitude for his time in local government. He reflected on the value of community service, thanked his family for their support, and encouraged others to volunteer. He ended with a reminder about the July 5th Tubbs Hill cleanup. Planning Director Hilary Patterson honored Mr. Luttrupp with a nameplate commemorating his 18 years of service, reflecting the appreciation of the Planning Department and fellow commissioners. Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Tom Messina and Vice Chairman Jon Ingalls praised Mr. Luttrupp’s dedication, highlighting his thorough preparation in meetings and thoughtful contributions.

JUNETEENTH DAY: Councilmember English read the Proclamation declaring June 19, 2025 as “Juneteenth Day” recognizing its historical significance and promoting a more inclusive and equitable community. Human Rights Education Institute (HREI) Executive Director Jeanette Laster accepted the proclamation. In her presentation, she highlighted the origins of Juneteenth and emphasized the contributions of Black Americans, including Buffalo Soldiers in North Idaho and pioneers like York and Jeannie Hughes. She also addressed ongoing racial challenges, noting recent hate crime incident in Coeur d’Alene and the City’s response with a new hate crime ordinance. Ms. Laster invited the community to the Annual Juneteenth Community Conversation and Leadership Panel at HREI.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT: Finance Director Katie Ebner presented on the City of Coeur d’Alene’s Financial Statement Audit for the year ended September

30, 2024, noting that the city received a clean, unmodified opinion from independent auditors Alpine Summit CPA's, confirming the accuracy of its financial statements and internal controls. The audit also found no issues with federal fund compliance, and the City was classified as a low-risk auditee. Key highlights included a general fund balance of \$19 million, with \$12 million unassigned fund balance, which represents 22% of general revenues. The general fund operating revenues increased by \$4.2 million, of which \$830,000 was an increase in property taxes and one-time events like ARPA fund revenues in 2024, Police Department storage facility fire loss settlement of \$1.57 million, and payment from ignite of \$1.185 million from a land transfer reimbursement cost. Ms. Ebner explained that the Government Finance Officers Association recommends municipalities maintain at least 60 days' worth of unassigned general fund operating revenues in reserve. Coeur d'Alene currently exceeds that benchmark, with reserves covering 80 days of revenue or 75 days of expenditure. She also highlighted performance in the City's two largest proprietary funds. The water fund saw a 2% revenue decrease due to seasonal variation and a 4% rise in operating costs, largely from salary and benefit increases, resulting in a net loss of \$91,000. In contrast, the wastewater fund experienced a 5% revenue increase and a rise in expenses due to both staffing and capital projects, ending the year with a \$4.1 million net income. Overall, the water fund was close to breaking even while the wastewater fund revenues exceeded the expenditures, aligning with its rate study plan.

Councilmember Gookin raised questions about notable changes in the city's audit report, specifically the increase in custodial credit risk from \$500,000 to \$13.5 million. Ms. Ebner clarified that while she wasn't certain of the exact cause, the city's investments comply with Idaho law and are secured through low-risk instruments like treasuries and fully collateralized accounts. She acknowledged the need for clearer language in future reports to avoid confusion. Councilmember Gookin also inquired about lease disclosures, noting that not all leases were listed in the report. Ms. Ebner said she would consult the auditors at Alpine Summit for clarification on disclosure thresholds.

Councilmember Wood congratulated Ms. Ebner on receiving a clean audit, calling it a remarkable achievement. Ms. Ebner expressed gratitude and credited her team for their hard work. Councilmember Miller followed up, noting the 12% increase in general fund expenditure and asked if more details would be provided during the upcoming budget. Ms. Ebner confirmed that the budget workshop would include a breakdown of those increases, distinguishing between one-time and ongoing costs, and would also address the water rate expansion plan and its impact on funding future projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Korver, Coeur d'Alene, thanked the Mayor and City Council for addressing safety concerns involving two large, hazardous cottonwood trees located at North 7th Street. He expressed relief and excitement that the trees, which posed a danger to children walking and playing nearby, are scheduled to be removed the following morning. He invited anyone interested to witness the tree removal and reiterated appreciation for the city's behind-the-scenes efforts.

Lauren McCroskey, Coeur d'Alene, thanked the Mayor and Council for the Juneteenth proclamation and Ms. Laster's informative presentation. She shared that Idaho for All, a new group

focused on promoting inclusivity, organized the first Juneteenth commemorative walk last year in response to a racial incident involving the Utah women's basketball team. The second annual walk will take place this Thursday, starting at 5:00 PM from 501 E Wallace and ending at Independence Point with music and a celebration. The event aims to honor those affected by racism and celebrate community diversity, and all are invited to participate.

Justin Nagel, Rathdrum, followed up on concerns he emailed to Council regarding the Idaho State Police (ISP). He claimed that the ISP fabricated investigations involving officers from outside jurisdictions. He urged the Council to consider filing a public corruption complaint with the Idaho Attorney General.

Kathryn Boss, Coeur d'Alene, raised safety concerns of the residents from the Fort Grounds neighborhood about the lack of barricades during 4th of July festivities in recent years. Previously, residents had helped manage barricades to limit traffic in the area, ensuring safety for families and children. Without the barricades, cars now drive through crowded areas, creating hazards and obstructing views. Ms. Boss requested the return of the barricades and offered resident support to monitor them. City Administrator Troy Tymesen explained that he reached out to the Homeowners Association President for a discussion on this matter, but he was out of town. He added that due to limited resources, the City can no longer provide or staff barricades but is open to meeting with neighborhood representatives to explore alternatives, such as reader boards for local traffic only.

Ted Turrentine, Coeur d'Alene, commented about the ongoing labor negotiations, particularly how potential increases in city employee's compensation could impact property taxes. He questioned the necessity of certain employee benefits such as sick leave payouts and bereavement pay, suggesting they may be excessive. While acknowledging the importance of fair compensation, he asked the Council to balance employee agreements with the financial realities of local taxpayers.

Patti Jester, Coeur d'Alene, echoed earlier concerns about 4th of July safety, urging the City to reinstate barricades in the Fort Grounds neighborhood. Having lived there for 46 years, she described past experiences of severe traffic congestion, especially during cold or rainy holidays, which created dangerous conditions. She emphasized that gridlock has previously prevented emergency vehicles from accessing the area, posing serious risks to residents. She asked the Council to seriously consider solutions to prevent such situations and ensure public safety.

Max El Kacemi, Coeur d'Alene, raised concerns about being denied use of the city's podium computer during a previous public comment period. He questioned whether the computer, being publicly funded, should be accessible for public use during meetings. City Attorney Randy Adams clarified that while the computer is publicly funded, its use for presentations must be prearranged to protect the city's network from potential risks. Mr. Kacemi expressed frustration over the lack of a clearly published policy and felt his First Amendment rights have been restricted. Mayor McEvers reiterated that presentations must be coordinated in advance with staff, and Mr. Adams noted that Mr. El Kacemi was, in fact, exercising his First Amendment rights by speaking at the meeting. Councilmember English emphasized that the policy is based on cybersecurity protocols, not content control.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Gookin responded to Mr. El Kacemi's concerns by suggesting the city develop a clear policy for using the podium computer during public meetings. He proposed creating simple, printed guidelines outlining the process such as requesting access in advance to prevent future confusion.

Councilmember Wood commented that the issue at the Fort Grounds stems from the lack of available barriers, and they are allowed to put up barriers if they can find some. She added that Mr. Tymesen would continue coordinating with the neighborhood's vice president. Councilmember Gookin added that the City currently lacks a formal policy for closing streets outside of events like parades or block parties, which complicates efforts to manage traffic for safety. He emphasized the need to develop a proper policy to address these concerns moving forward.

Councilmember Miller supported the idea of creating clear policies for both presentations and public comments. She also shared updates from her upcoming participation in the Association of Idaho Cities Conference, with interesting agenda on housing. She highlighted her recent meetings with federal and state housing officials, including a promising discussion with HUD's Region 10 representative and ongoing collaboration with the Housing Solutions Partnership. She will testify before the state's Senate 103 Committee in August to present recommendations aimed at improving access to attainable housing.

Mayor McEvers requested the appointment of Kris Jamtaas to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by English to appoint Kris Jamtaas to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin stated he would oppose the motion because someone he had encouraged to apply was not selected, and he had promised to vote no in that case.

All in favor except Councilmember Gookin. **Motion carried.**

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Council Minutes for the May 27, 2025, June 3, 2025, and June 9, 2025 Council Meetings.
2. Setting of General Services/Public Works Committee meeting for June 23, 2025
3. Bills as Submitted
4. Approval of Financial Report
5. **Resolution No. 25-030** - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT #271 FOR EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs) FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2025-2027; AND APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT, ACCEPTING INSTALLED PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, AND APPROVING THE AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE/WARRANTY OF SUBDIVISION WORK, FOR COEUR D'ALENE PLACE 39TH ADDITION [S-1-20]

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by Gabriel to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, including **Resolution No. 25-030**.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gookin noted that the consent calendar includes the School Resource Officer (SRO) agreement with the School District, highlighting it as a long-standing and valuable partnership. Councilmember Wood agreed.

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

CANVASSED ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE MAY 20, 2025 ELECTION TO BE REFLECTED IN THE MINUTES

STAFF REPORT: City Clerk Renata McLeod, in her staff report, stated that in accordance with Idaho Code §50-412 and §50-1026, the Kootenai County Clerk, Jennifer Locke, has certified and distributed the Canvass of Votes following the May 20, 2025 election. This canvass must be formally entered into the City Council meeting minutes. The statute mandates that county commissioners canvass election results within ten days of an election, and that these results, once tabulated by election officials, be recorded in the City Council’s official proceedings. City Attorney Randy Adams has clarified that the canvassing requirement also applies to other city elections, including bond elections. Therefore, the City Council is advised to accept and record the certified election results as presented by Kootenai County in the Council meeting minutes.

	IN FAVOR OF	AGAINST	OVER VOTES	UNDER VOTES
Precinct 322	203	77	0	8
Precinct 401	93	41	0	2
Precinct 402	116	50	0	5
Precinct 403	178	50	0	15
Precinct 404	204	57	0	6
Precinct 405	186	44	0	10
Precinct 406	164	91	0	5
Precinct 407	177	49	0	7
Precinct 408	157	60	0	6
Precinct 409	171	58	0	7

Precinct 410	260	100	0	6
Precinct 411	120	70	0	4
Precinct 412	149	60	0	9
Precinct 413	106	42	0	6
Precinct 414	123	43	0	4
Precinct 415	131	47	0	8
Precinct 416	175	42	0	10
Precinct 417	198	43	0	4
Precinct 418	230	54	0	5
Precinct 419	213	45	0	3
Precinct 420	98	33	0	3
Precinct 517	55	21	0	0
Total	3,507	1,177	0	133

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by English to recommend the canvassed election results as presented by Kootenai County be reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember English Councilmember English commented that he believed it was a good election, praised the work of the Election Department, and expressed his full support.

All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 25-1012

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COEUR D’ALENE, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO, AMENDING COEUR D’ALENE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.98.020, ENTITLED “DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION;” 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 HEREOF.

STAFF REPORT: Community Planning Director Hilary Patterson noted that an amendment to Municipal Code §2.98.020 (A) is being recommended to clarify residency requirements and broaden eligibility for a specific seat on the Design Review Commission (DRC). This seat currently requires the commissioner to reside within one of several designated districts, such as the Downtown Core or Midtown Overlay, which has made it difficult to fill. The proposed change would allow applicants who live within city limits and either own property or a business in one of the districts, or serve on the Historic Preservation Commission, to qualify. Additionally, the amendment would clarify that six of the seven commission members must reside within city limits, with one at-large member allowed, aligning the structure more closely with other city commissions.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Miller asked whether the proposed changes to the Design Review Commission membership had been discussed with current commissioners. Ms. Patterson responded that while she had spoken informally with some members and received no objections, there was no formal vote. Councilmember Wood added that she opposes district-based requirements, as they limit participation, suggesting it's time to update the commission's structure.

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by Gabriel, to dispense with the rule and read **Council Bill No. 25-1012** once by title only.

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

MOTION: Motion by Evans, seconded by Wood, to adopt **Council Bill 25-1012**.

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

AUTHORIZATION REQUEST TO APPLY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

STAFF REPORT: Community Planning Director Hilary Patterson asked Council to direct staff to proceed in submitting a \$2,500 grant application through the Idaho State Historical Society's Community Enhancement Grant (CEG) program, using a matching \$2,500 donation from Idaho Strategic Resources. The grant would support the Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) proposed signage program for historic buildings in Downtown Coeur d'Alene. This initiative aims to install signs featuring building names, construction dates, the HPC logo, and QR codes linking to the Historik app for self-guided tours. The project aligns with the CEG's goals of enhancing public access and interpretation of local history. There is no financial impact to the City, as the required match has already been secured through the donation. If awarded, funds would be available in September 2025, with final reporting due by May 2026.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Gabriel asked how far the \$5,000 in funding would go. Ms. Patterson explained that while \$5,000 in combined grant and donation funds may not go far, it could still launch the historic signage program. Bronze markers with QR codes are being considered to reduce the need for detailed text, potentially lowering costs to around \$500 per sign, especially if produced in bulk locally. Councilmember Gabriel expressed strong support for the project, emphasizing the importance of honoring and embracing the community's history.

Councilmember Wood questioned the need for Council approval for a \$2,500 grant application, suggesting a policy might be needed. Mr. Tymesen clarified that Council approval is required to authorize the use of both the grant and the previously received donation. Councilmember Miller proposed allowing future donations to be pre-approved for use under a designated donation line item, eliminating the need for repeated Council approvals.

MOTION: Motion by Miller, seconded by Wood to direct staff to proceed in submitting a \$2,500.00 Historic Preservation grant application through the Idaho State Historical Society Community Enhancement Grant program, to use \$2.500 of donated funds as the required match,

and to use any future funds donated towards the ongoing signage program. **All in favor. Motion carried.**

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

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

The Council entered into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Those present were the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, and Finance Director.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.