

June 15, 2026

Gooding City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gooding, Idaho was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Gooding Municipal Building, 308 5th Ave West, Gooding, Idaho on June 15, 2026. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Al Hagen.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Houser, Councilpersons Rogers, Pierce, and Shepherd. Councilman Arkoosh was not present.

Visitors

Present were Thomas Leija, Dale Thomas, Matt Presnell, Al Hagen, Jose Urrutia, Lucy Mahaffey, Richard Cooper, Dustin Vincent, and Sally Toone. Courtney Schroader was present via phone.

Changes to Agenda (Idaho Code 74-204 Sec 4 (b))

None.

Consent Calendar

(Consent Calendar contains items which require formal Council action, but which are typically routine or not of great controversy. Council members can approve the items listed on the consent calendar as one item or, if a correction needs to be made, can pull that item for discussion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council Member or a member of the audience requests removal of the items from the Consent Calendar.)

Mayor Houser asked, "Consent Calendar Items numbered are before you. Are there any items to be removed?" There being no objection, Councilwoman Shepherd moved to approve the Consent Calendar.

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Motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers. Upon roll call, Councilpersons Pierce, Rogers, and Shepherd voted aye. Motion carried.

Visitors Business

None.

Public Input

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

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New Business

Planning & Zoning Recommendation for Ordinance No. 739 for Residential Fencing

Regulations Amendment: Planning & Zoning Vice-Chairman, Al Hagen, stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission discussed the changes and approve of the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 739.

Ordinance No. 739 Residential Fencing Regulations Amendment: Councilwoman Shepherd made motion to waive the reading of Ordinance No.739 Residential Fencing Regulations Amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rogers. The motion was carried. Councilwoman Shepherd made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 739 Residential Fencing Regulations Amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rogers. The motion was carried.

Planning & Zoning Recommendation for Variance Application for Lots 21-22 of Block 40:

Planning and Zoning Vice-Chairman, Al Hagen, explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend denial of the variance request. He stated that the recommendation was based on the zoning requirement limiting a 50-foot frontage lot to one home. He also noted that there was a discrepancy regarding the parcel's actual square footage. The Commission recommended that the applicant obtain a survey to verify the parcel size before pursuing any future development or building plans.

Approval or Denial for Variance Application for Lots 21-22 of Block 40: Councilman Pierce made a motion to deny the Variance Application for Lots 21-22 of Block 40. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shepherd. The motion was carried.

Gooding Rec. District; Request to Repeal Ordinance No. 737: Al Hagen explained that the Gooding Rec. District would like the city to repeal ordinance No. 737. During a recent inspection at the pool, the facility failed to meet a requirement in the ordinance that mandates an automated chemical control system capable of adjusting chemical levels automatically. He explained that the pool has historically operated with manual chemical adjustments.

Mr. Hagen stated that compliance with the ordinance would require installation of an automated chemical control system, additional equipment to maintain pH levels, and construction of a separate containment system. The estimated cost to upgrade the current system is between \$200,000 and \$500,000, which the Recreation District cannot afford.

Mr. Hagen reported that, after contacting other public pools in the area, they found that only Nampa and Hailey currently utilize automated systems. The Recreation District would like to adopt an older ordinance that would allow staff to continue manually adjusting chemical levels and operating the facility as they have in the past.

Attorney Misseldine explained that the purpose of adopting the current ordinance was to grant South Central Public Health the authority to conduct inspections. He further explained that reverting to the previous ordinance could eliminate South Central Public Health's ability to perform those inspections.

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Mr. Hagen stated that the Recreation District would still like inspections to be conducted and has been granted a grace period until 2027 to resolve the ordinance issue. Attorney Misseldine requested that the item be tabled to allow additional time for research.

Gooding County Museum Retaining Wall: Sally Toone explained that the Gooding County Museum is experiencing a drainage issue that is causing gravel to wash out of the parking lot. She stated that the museum may receive assistance from the Elks to construct a retaining wall to help address the problem. Because the City owns the property, Ms. Toone requested the City's approval to proceed with the project. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion to approve the construction of a retaining wall at the Gooding County Museum. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shepherd. The motion carried.

Courtney Schroader; 302 Nevada Street Sidewalk Repair Request: Courtney Schroader requested consideration for assistance with repairing the sidewalk at 302 Nevada Street. She explained that many years ago the City utilized an irrigation system that contributed to significant tree growth throughout the area. When the irrigation system was discontinued, the trees declined in health. Ms. Schroader stated that two trees located near her property were subsequently removed by the City. Prior to their removal, one of the trees had caused substantial damage to the sidewalk. She also stated that a large branch fell during the tree removal process, causing additional damage to the sidewalk.

Ms. Schroader requested that the Council consider providing financial assistance, grant funding, or other support for the sidewalk repairs, citing the City's past irrigation practices and involvement in the tree removal.

Mayor Houser explained that the City does not have the financial resources to repair all damaged sidewalks within the community. Ms. Schroader then asked whether liability for injuries resulting from the damaged sidewalk would rest with the City or the property owner. Public Works Director Bybee confirmed that maintenance and repair of the sidewalk are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Ms. Schroader also asked whether the City would take responsibility for the damage caused during the tree removal process and expressed concerns regarding the delay in removing the remaining stumps, which she stated the City had previously indicated would be removed.

Mayor Houser requested that the item be tabled to allow staff time to review the matter and determine what assistance, if any, the City may be able to provide.

Stop Sign Placement Request: Lucy Mahaffey, of 339 Arizona Street, expressed concerns regarding the uncontrolled intersection at 5th Avenue West and Arizona Street. She stated that visibility at the intersection is limited due to landscaping, requiring drivers to nearly come to a complete stop before proceeding. Ms. Mahaffey indicated that the installation of a yield sign could help improve public safety.

Mayor Houser reviewed the traffic control guidelines contained in the City of Gooding Transportation Plan. Based on the discussion, it was determined that the restricted sight distance may warrant consideration of a stop sign at the intersection.

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Ms. Mahaffey noted that she did not want any solution to negatively impact the landscaping, as she considers it one of the nicer properties in the area. Public Works Director Bybee stated that he would work with Chief Fisher to conduct a site survey and evaluate potential solutions to address the safety concerns.

Request Bidding Services for River Wall Project from Keller Associates: PWD Bybee requested the item be tabled.

JUB Engineers Pay Application No.4 for Summit Construction: Councilwoman Rogers made a motion to approve JUB Engineers Pay Application No. 4 for Summit Construction in the amount of \$118,229.64. Motion seconded by Councilman Pierce. The motion carried.

JUB Engineers RFR for AIP022 & AIP023 for Airport Taxilane Project: Councilwomen Rogers made a motion to approve RFR for AIP022 & AIP023 for airport taxilane project. Motion seconded by Councilman Pierce. The motion carried.

JUB Engineers Invoice #197158 for Taxilane Project: Councilwoman Rogers made a motion to approve JUB Engineers Invoice #197158 for taxilane project in the amount of \$74,503.82. Motion seconded Councilman Pierce. The motion carried.

Vacation Leave Cash-Out Request Approval: City Clerk Haney submitted a Vacation Leave Cash-Out Request form. After review, Councilwoman Shepherd made a motion to approve this request and authorize the employee to cash out 69 hours of their 109 total vacation hours. Motion seconded by Councilman Pierce. The motion carried.

Department Reports

City Council: Nothing at this time.

Police Chief Dave Fisher: Not present.

Public Works Director Larry Bybee: Streets Supervisor Matt Presnell stated that he does not believe the City should repair or replace individual sidewalks, as the City lacks the resources to address all similar situations throughout the community.

Attorney Trevor Misseldine: Nothing at this time.

City Clerk Hollye Haney: Deputy Clerk Hayden Peterson thanked the Council for allowing Brenda Aquiso, Councilwoman Rogers, and herself to attend the Annual AIC Conference.

Airport Manager Dale Thomas: Nothing at this time.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Shepherd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Pierce. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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ATTEST:

Hayden Peterson – Deputy Clerk

Diane Houser - Mayor