



**CITY OF PONDERAY  
REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**MAYOR GEIGER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Geiger, Councilmember McNearney, Councilmember Mitton, Councilmember Thompson, Councilmember Larkin

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Chief Cornelius, Deputy Clerk Van Den Berg, Planning Director Miller, Attorney Marshall (Via Zoom)

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Peterson

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR DISCLOSURES:**

**AMEND AGENDA:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1) Approve Bills \$1,927,049.22.
- 2) Approve Council Minutes from February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- 3) ~~Acknowledge the Treasurer's Report.~~ (Scratched)

***Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.***

**Councilmember Mitton/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Geiger gave updates.
  - Ice Rink
    - Kids were having fun, and it was quiet.

**CLERK:**

- Community Resource EnVision Center Presentation – Katie Begalke
  - Located at 130 McGhee Road.
  - 9 Non-Profit businesses.
  - 8 different businesses.
- **ACTION ITEM** Intermax Networks Right-of-Way Use Agreement – Caitlin Kling

**Presentation by Planning Director Miller.**

- Pass through Ponderay via the Avista Poles.
- \$25,000.00 Bond.

**Presentation by Caitlin Kling.**

- Awarded 3 capital project fund awards.
  - 2 projects in Kootenai.
  - 1 project in Selle Valley.

***Motion to Approve Intermax Networks Right-of-Way Use Agreement.***

**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

• **ACTION ITEM** Resolution 2025-02, Execution of Right-of-way Use; Telecommunications System  
**Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-02 Execution of Right-of-way Use; Telecommunications System.**  
**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

• **ACTION ITEM** 2025 Group Insurance Plan & Rate Acceptance – Autumn Taylor  
**Presentation by Autumn Taylor, Regence Blue Shield.**

- Medical – 3 Options
  - Platinum 500 - 9.47% increase
  - Gold 1500 with dependents
    - Excess in premium from the employee cost fee will be applied to dependent premium.
  - HSA 1800
    - Fund the difference to their HSA account.
    - City of Ponderay will fund the \$2.70 monthly fee to set up the Health Equity fee.
- Delta Dental – 2% increase
  - \$44.83 per month per employee / max benefit \$3,000.00.
  - Deductible goes for \$25.00 to \$50.00.
- Life Insurance
  - \$40,000.00 benefits.

***Motion to Approve 2025 Group Insurance Plan.***

**Councilmember McNearney/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

- **ACTION ITEM** Field of Dreams Loan Payoff

***Motion to Approve the Field of Dreams Loan Payoff.***

**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

- Workshop – Local Option Non-Property Hotel/Motel Tax
  - 10% for 12 years
  - Taxes shall be used for:
    - Public Safety Services and Infrastructure: Capital and Operational Expenses.
    - Capital Projects, Improvements, Extensions and Maintenance: Road, Pathways, Sidewalks, Water, Sewer and Parking.
    - Land Acquisition.
    - Public Works and Maintenance Expenses: Recreation Facilities, Parks and Maintenance.
    - Municipal and Public Transportation.
    - Public Information and Education.
    - Property Tax Relief Fund
    - Grant Contributions
    - Administration and Legal Expenses: Direct Costs to Collect and Enforce the Tax.
  - Local Option Sales Tax
    - 1% for 8 years

**POLICE:**

- Chief Cornelius gave updates.
  - Dodge Durango's
    - \$2,800.00 to revert to passenger cars.
    - Mtn Home business will give us \$18,000.00 for both.
    - Trade both vehicles in on a Ford Explorer.
      - \$46,000.00 - \$50,000.00
      - Can use equipment from Dodge's to outfit the Ford.
      - \$15,000.00 - \$18,000.00 to have them equipped.
  - Vehicle purchase plan.
    - Plan on buying two next year.
      - Trade K-9 vehicle on one.
      - K-9 funds pay for half of one.
    - Then buy one every year.
  - Chief Cornelius stated that his official retirement date is June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
    - Councilmember Mitton
      - Job description/qualifications for hiring process.

**STREET/PUBLIC WORKS:**

**PLANNING, PARKS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- City Planning Director Miller gave updates.
  - Ice Rink
    - Public community sessions closed March 2, 2025.
    - Hockey Tournament this weekend.
    - North Idaho ice group a couple private session this week.
  - Field of Dreams
    - Putting up nets this week.
    - Councilmember Thompson

- Fee schedule.
    - Looking at getting different toilet paper roll dispensers.
- McNearney Road
  - When it's dry enough, they will start construction.

- **ACTION ITEM** Resolution 2025-01, Weight Limits Restriction

**Presentation by Planning Director Miller.**

- Weight limits on the paved section of McNearney Road.

***Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-01, Weight Limits Restriction except for the gravel section of McNearney Road.***  
**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

**ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, CONTRACTS:  
 OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **ACTION ITEM** Executive Session – ID Code 74-206, Subsection 1-f.  
 f. to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for the pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

***Motion to Enter Executive Session – ID Code 74-206, Subsection 1-f.***  
**Councilmember Larkin/McNearney. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

**Entered Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.**

***Motion to Exit Executive Session – ID Code 74-206, Subsection 1-f.***  
**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. All Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.**

**Left Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.**

**Councilmember Larkin/Thompson  
 Meeting Adjourned 7:27 p.m.**

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City Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Peterson

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Mayor Steve Geiger