



**CITY OF PONDERAY
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
May 18th, 2026**

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

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Chief Kaufman, Planning Director Miller, Attorney Marshall, Engineer Luttmann

ABSENT: Councilmember Larkin, City Clerk Peterson

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR DISCLOSURES:

- Councilmember Mitton made a disclosure.
 - Lives on Ash Street.

AMEND AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Amber Jones, 476910 Hwy 95, Ponderay
 - Motorcycle Rally in Ponderay
 - City Council is in support of this event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Approve Bills \$_____
- 2) Approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 4th, 2026.
- 3) Acknowledge Police Report.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda Striking bills.

Councilmember Thompson/McNearney. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers Thompson, McNearney, and Mitton Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Geiger gave updates.
 - Gary Kunzeman is leaving his position with the SPOT Bus.
 - Mayor will be out June 2nd – June 14th, 2026.

CLERK:

POLICE:

- Chief Kaufman gave an update.
 - Community Assistance League Grant
 - \$2,600.00
 - One Ballistic Shield & Seven Ballistic Helmets.

STREETS, PARKS, PLANNING, & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Planning Director Miller gave updates.
 - Grant Approved for Intern Bryce
 - June 15, 2026 – August 7, 2026

- IHD
 - Radar Signs
- Starr Lane
- Oneida Drive
- Warbonnet Way
- Retreat Emails
- City Clean Up
 - Paint FOD Cement Blocks
 - Ponderay Rotary
- Planning & Zoning Commissioners positions open.
- Blackrock
- TJ Maxx
- Closed on the Harbison Homestead Property

- ****Action Item**** Century West Scope of Work and Contract Amendment, Cedar Street Drainage Project

Presentation by Planning Director Miller.

- \$70,000.00 - Engineering services

Motion to Approve Century West Scope of Work and Contract Amendment for the Cedar Street Drainage Project. Councilmember Thompson/Mitton. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers Thompson, Mitton, and McNearney Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- ****Action Item**** Century West Scope of Work and Contract Amendment, FY26 Pavement Maintenance Projects

Presentation by Planning Director Miller.

- \$70,000.00 - Engineering services

Motion to Approve Century West Scope of Work and Contract Amendment, FY26 Pavement Maintenance Projects. Councilmember Thompson/Mitton. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers Thompson, Mitton, and McNearney Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- ****Action Item**** UP26-116, Avista Corporation, Special Use Permit
 - The purpose of this review is to consider File UP26-116, Avista, Public utility Complex Facility.

No Conflicts or Disclosures.

Opened Public Hearing at 5:53 p.m.

Presentation by City Planning Director Miller.

- Presented the Planning Staff Report and Staff Recommendation.
 - Included a Slide Show.
 - Read comments in for the record.
 - ITD
 - IHD
 - Northside Water
 - Ponderay Contract Building Official, Pat Park
 - Ponderay Police
 - Panhandle Health District
 - Northside Fire District
 - Century West
 - No Public Comments

No Question/Comments by Councilmembers.

Presentation by Karen Kendall, Avista Utilities.

- Slide Show Presentation.
 - Initial Build
 - Future Build
 - Road Improvements / Paving
 - Screening / Noise Barrier
 - Nine-foot-tall brown wall with non-glare finish.
 - Trees, shrubs, and boulders.

Final Question/Comments by Council.

- Mayor Geiger
 - Height of Power Lines
- Councilmember McNearney
 - Likes the nine-foot solid wall for sound and visual effects.
- Councilmember Mitton
 - Project has progressed nicely.

No Public Comment/Questions.

Closed Public Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Motion to Approve this Application FILE UP26-116, requesting special use permit approval to develop Public Utility Complex Facility in the commercial zoning district, finding that it is in accord with the applicable sections of Ponderay City Code as enumerated in the staff report and based upon the evidence submitted up to the time the staff report was prepared and testimony received at this hearing. I further recommend the Ponderay City Council adopt the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and conditions of approval as written in the staff report or as amended. To clarify the recommended conclusion of law is that this special use permit request is in accordance with the applicable sections of Ponderay City Code and is therefore approved.

Councilmember McNearney/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers McNearney, Thompson, and Mitton Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- ****Action Item**** Independent Highway District Boundary Annexation

Presentation by Planning Director Miller.

- Community development funds to Complete Bronz Road and Craigs Court.
- Annex Bronx Road and Craigs Court into IHD Boundaries.
- 20% Resident Approval

Motion to Approve the Annexation of Bronz Road and Craigs Court (if we get the 20% approval) into Independent Highway District Boundary.

Councilmember McNearney/Thompson. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers McNearney, Thompson, and Mitton Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- ****Action Item**** Welch Comer Contract for Service, FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application

Presentation by Planning Director Miller.

Motion to Approve Welch Comer Contract for Service, FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application.

Councilmember Thompson/Mitton. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers Thompson, Mitton, and McNearney Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

- ****Action Item**** Community Development Program, Ash Street Sewer Lateral Repairs

Presentation by Planning Director Miller.

- Three Sewer laterals that need to be replaced.
 - KPSD - \$3,500.00 - \$3,600.00 per each.

Motion to Approve Community Development Program, Ash Street Sewer Lateral Repairs.

Councilmember Thompson/McNearney. Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Larkin Absent. Councilmembers Thompson, McNearney, and Mitton Voted in Favor. Motion Approved.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, CONTRACTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilmember Mitton/Thompson.

Meeting Adjourned 6:44 p.m.

City Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Peterson

Mayor Steve Geiger