

Minutes of the 05.13.2025 regular meeting of the East Hope City Council.

The Regular Meeting of the East Hope City Council was called to order at 5:30 pm by Council President, Don Wells. Council members Joyce Butler, Pam Brockus, and Michael Wilcox were present and constituted a quorum. Mayor Field was absent.

#### Audience Comments:

Bob Turnbull asked if the city council had done any research regarding accessory dwelling units. He also stated that East Hope is surrounded by cities that allow accessory dwelling units, and that the city could review their ordinances. Ley Anne Merica asked about low density.

#### Approval of Minutes

Council member Butler moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 04/8/2025, council member Brockus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

#### Approval of Bills/Financial Report

Council member Butler moved to approve the April bills for \$33,801.18, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. The financial reports were reviewed.

#### Public Hearings:

None

#### Old Business

##### Accessory Dwelling Unit Discussion

The city council reviewed what would be affected by allowing accessory dwelling units and what the steps were to amend our codes. They also reviewed the estimated timeline and associated costs. At this time council member Butler moved to table discussions on accessory dwelling units due to financial constraints with the budget, council member Wilcox seconded the motion, and it carried 3-1. Council member Brockus felt accessory dwelling units should not be allowed in the city due to the impact they would have on it.

#### Area of Impact and Letter to Bonner County

The city council reviewed the joint letter from Hope and East Hope to be sent to the Bonner County Commissioners and Planning Director for the newly proposed area of impact boundaries along with the map. Council member Wilcox moved to approve the letter and the map, council member Brockus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

#### Draft Memorandum of Understanding with "Friends of the East Hope Community Park"

The city council reviewed the attorney's revised memorandum of understanding. Council member Wilcox moved to approve the revised memorandum of understanding and have it signed with a one-year effective period and a 30-day written termination clause. Council member Brockus seconded the motion, and it carried 4-0.

#### New Business

##### Water System Connection Study with Keller Associates

The city council reviewed the work order that Keller presented for the water system connection study to evaluate the new water hook-up rate. Council member Butler moved to approve the work order, council member Brockus seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

#### Draft Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Discussion

Staff discussed with the council that minor changes were made to the draft budget after finally receiving the budget manual from the Association of Idaho Cities. They showed a slightly higher amount to the revenue sharing than staff projected by \$1,500. Staff and the city council discussed the street fund and the lack of funding for it. Staff provided the steps that would be involved in a permanent override levy for dedicated street dollars. Currently East Hope has one of

the lowest levy rates in Idaho. Out of 191 cities our levy rate is the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest. With the projected draft street budget showing only \$53,000 in revenue and \$27,000 in expenditures for salary or 2.5 days a week to maintain city streets, that doesn't leave much to repair our roads. The street fund is responsible for paving, chip sealing, snow plowing, signage, rights of ways, stormwater etc. and one bad snow year could be catastrophic. The city council would like to hold a town hall meeting to discuss this with the residents of East Hope and hopefully receive some feedback on a potential override levy which requires a supermajority to pass. A town hall meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm and information will be sent out prior to the meeting through direct email, social media and our website.

#### Park Clean-up Event and Ice Cream Social Event Discussion

The city council discussed the need for a park clean-up to help get rid of all the weeds in the flower beds. They also discussed combining it with an ice cream social. As the discussion went on, council member Butler moved to hold the park clean up on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day, from 8 to noon with coffee, pastries and cookies for those that participate. Council member Brockus seconded. A park clean-up/pastries and cookies social event was scheduled.

#### Staff Report

##### Planning and Zoning

No new building permits were filed for April. One new land use application for a variance on Ellisport Street was filed. The variance request is for a reduced setback for a residence and garage. The application will be considered at a public hearing tentatively in June.

##### Streets/Water

Cody reported that they have been working on replacing the stormwater drain line and installing a catch basin on Lookout Blvd just east of Cedar Street. This project should be done soon.

##### Clerk

A dog barking complaint on Spring Street was received. They were told to contact the Bonner County Sheriff's Office since the city deferred to the state code title 18-5901 public nuisance law. The city is currently working with Avista on the franchise agreement renewal and a draft should be ready for the June meeting. The fiscal year 2024 audit should be complete and ready for approval at the June meeting as well.

#### Announcements

The next regular city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. It was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Wilcox and seconded by Council Member Brockus.

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Don Wells, Council President

Attest:

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Christy Franck, City Clerk