

Minutes of the 08.11.2026 regular meeting/public hearing of the East Hope City Council was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Deborah Field. Council members, Joyce Butler, Michael Wilcox, Michelle Ward and Pam Brockus were present, which constitutes a quorum.

Audience Comments:

Pat Bistline asked about the fiscal year 2027 budget line items. He also asked to add decals to the city truck so that it could be identified easier. Mr. Bistline also asked about the wildfire grant program that was discussed at last month's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Council member Wilcox moved to approve the meeting minutes of 07.14.2026, council member Brockus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills/Financial Report

Council member Butler moved to approve the July bills for \$41,380.64, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. The financial reports and quarterly report were reviewed.

Public Hearing:

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Hearing

Staff presented the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget with a total of \$436,005.00. The proposed general fund budget is \$121,718 which reflects taking a 3% increase to property tax and does include new construction values. The proposed street fund budget is \$55,448 and no major improvements are planned. The proposed water fund budget is \$222,745 which does include a 3% rate increase to the base rate and the per thousand-gallon rate to cover increased o&m costs primarily to electricity, treatment supply and testing cost. The proposed water reserve fund budget is \$34,094 and has no major system upgrades planned. The park fund proposed budget is \$2000 which covers maintenance and no improvements are planned. Mayor Field opened the public hearing to testimony. Pat Bistline asked about the increase to the water fund budget. Staff explained that due to the cost increases to testing, treatment supply costs and electrical an increase of 3% was factored in the draft budget. In years past a \$.9% increase typically has been taken. No further testimony was provided, and the public hearing was closed.

Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Ordinance

Council member Butler moved to suspend reading the proposed ordinance #310 on three different days and have the title of proposed ordinance read once, council member Wilcox seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote of Wilcox, aye, Butler, aye, Brockus, aye and Ward, aye 4-0. The city clerk read the title of ordinance 310. Council member Butler moved to adopt ordinance 310, council member Brockus seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote of Wilcox, aye, Butler, aye, Brockus, aye and Ward, aye 4-0.

Old Business:

Pickleball Court Update

Gravel has been installed around the court. Some of the remaining gravel will be used to fill in the potholes in the driveway as well. MCC is in the process of obtaining the net system.

Discuss Draft Request for Qualification for Contracted City Engineer

The city council reviewed the draft Request for Qualification for Contracted City Engineer. They would like to have specific languages added regarding responding in a timely manner. Staff will check with Clare on what would be considered timely response for such things as stormwater review or response to encroachment permit applications. The city council will review this further and provide the clerk with any additional changes they would like to see prior to the September city council meeting. No decisions were made.

New Business:

Designate Backup Water Operator

The city council discussed the proposal that was received from Idaho Rural Water for backup water operator services. The city is required to have a main water operator and a backup operator per DEQ. The city sent out 3 requests to IRWA, Water systems Management, and Rob Berget (retired from Sandpoint's water system). The city did not get a response from Water Systems Management but did hear from Rob Berget. Mr. Berget only has his water distribution license not his treatment license. After reviewing this information council member Wilcox moved to contract with Idaho Rural Water for backup water operator services, council member Ward seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Woods Crushing Quote for asphalt repairs around sewer lids

The city council reviewed the quote received from Woods Crushing and Hauling Inc. for two asphalt patches around sewer manhole lids for a cost of \$5,883.40. Council discussed the quote and felt the cost was expensive. Council directed staff to prepare a formal letter to the sewer district requesting financial assistance with the repairs, since the work is related to asphalt damage around sewer lids. In the meantime, the city will use cold patch as a temporary repair until a permanent repair option is determined.

Leak Forgiveness Request 515 Pine Lane

The city council reviewed the request from Mr. Paul Daniels for leak forgiveness at 515 Pine Lane. They reviewed the criteria for the leak forgiveness program that was adopted in 2023. The city council also reviewed the email correspondence and water meter profile that was provided by staff. City council member Wilcox moved to deny the request based on the fact it did not meet all of the conditions of the leak forgiveness program. The request did not meet conditions 1 and did not meet condition 3. The applicant also had contradictions in his email correspondence. Council member Brockus seconded the motion, and it carried 4-0. Staff will send a letter to notify the applicant.

Sewell Contract

Tabled to September meeting.

Staff Report

Planning and Zoning:

No new building permits or land use applications for July.

Streets/Water:

Staff reported that the new brine sprayer will arrive next week. A new hydrant has been installed at the end of Lakeview and staff continue to trim brush along city rights of way. A new employee will begin the first part of September and will be entering the apprenticeship program to become a licensed water operator.

Clerk:

AIC fall district meeting will be held in Couer d'Alene on October 6th. ICCTFOA Conference will be held on September 23 & 24. Staff have deactivated 3 of the city's cell phones and will have a resolution ready for the September meeting to surplus them. Staff will also have a resolution to be ready to adopt the Bonner County All Hazard Multi Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan for the September meeting.

Mayor/Council:

Council member Wilcox reported on the BCATT meeting. Dufort Road on HWY 95 will be getting a signal light, work on Trestle Creek paving has run into some delays and the bridge on Colburn Culver is having delays as well.

Announcements

The next regular city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Brockus and second by Council Member Wilcox, 4-0.

Deborah Field, Mayor

Attest:

Christy Franck, City Clerk