

Minutes of the 01.13.2026 regular meeting of the East Hope City Council was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Deborah Field. Council members, Joyce Butler, Michael Wilcox, and Michelle Ward were present. Council member Pam Brockus was present via phone and constituted a quorum.

Audience Comments:

Marty Lowell thanked several people for calling and checking in after their accident last week on black ice. He said it meant a lot after such a traumatic event. He also stated that they had one person pull over and take pictures of the incident and they found this distressing.

Pat Bistline stated he saw the accident and wanted to get pictures of it to see what happened. He stated he couldn't tell and that there is no law against stopping and taking pictures. He also asked why city staff are visiting city residents in Sandpoint while on city time. He also asked why Cody was using the city truck on a Saturday over in Hope. Mayor Field responded that it was neighbor helping neighbor and this has already been discussed and it is not a problem.

Marty Lowell also stated that the City of Hope called and offered to use their truck to brine our streets if needed until we can replace our equipment.

Approval of Minutes

Council member Butler moved to approve the meeting minutes of 12.09.2025, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills/Financial Report

Council member Butler moved to approve the December bills for \$32,872.32, council member Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. The financial reports were reviewed.

Meeting adjourned.

Joyce Butler, who ran unopposed in the November 2025 elections, was sworn in by the city clerk.

Mayor Field convened the January 13th meeting. City council present were Joyce Butler, Michelle Ward and via phone was Pam Brockus.

New Business:

Appointment and Confirmation of New Council Member, Michael Wilcox

There were two positions up for election, in the November 2025 elections. The only candidate to file for a position was Joyce Butler, which left one seat open as of the January meeting. Mayor Field talked with former council member Michael Wilcox about staying on until the next election in 2027 and he agreed. Mayor Field appointed Michael Wilcox to fill the open position on city council. Council member Butler moved to confirm the mayor's appointment, council member Ward seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The oath of office was administered to Michael Wilcox by the city clerk.

Appoint Council President

The city council discussed what the responsibility are of the council president and if anyone wanted to volunteer for the position. Pam Brockus said she thought she could fulfill the position if no one else wanted to. Council member Ward moved to appoint Pam Brockus as council president and have her added as an account signor for the city's accounts at Columbia Bank and at Mountain West Bank, council member Wilcox seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Appoint a BCATT Representative and Alternate for City

The city council discussed this. Council member Wilcox volunteered to continue being the representative and Joyce Butler volunteered to be the alternate. City council member Butler moved to appoint council member Wilcox as the representative for BCATT and herself as the alternate, council member Brockus seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Renew Woodhawk Control SCADA Contract

The city council reviewed the SCADA contract and what their duties consist of. Council member Wilcox moved to renew the contract, council member Butler seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Confirm James A Sewell as Building Inspector

Council member Butler moved to confirm James A Sewell as the building inspector, council member Ward seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Water Capital Buy In Rate Public Hearing Update Discussion

The city will hold a public hearing to discuss and take public testimony regarding the proposed new capital buy in rate at their March 10th city council meeting.

Staff Report

Planning and Zoning:

One new building permit was received for the garage that received the variance. A total of 5 building permits were received in 2025. This is the same amount as was received in both 2023 and 2024. No new land use applications were submitted in December. The city is still waiting on Bonner County to adopt and ordinance to complete the lack of area of impact for the city.

Streets/Water:

Working on maintaining the roads when there is snow. City of Hope has volunteered to apply brine to our roads if necessary, until the city can replace their damaged equipment.

Clerk:

The clerk discussed a possible joint meeting with the Friends of the East Hope Community Park 501c3 to see what their upcoming plans were and to see if there is something the city council may need to consider during their budgeting discussions for FY2027. The AARP grant application is open and due March 4th. The need for a fee schedule workshop meeting was discussed and set for January 27th at 5:30 pm.

Mayor/Council:

Moving forward, the monthly BCATT reports will be given during this time in the future.

Announcements

The next regular city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Wilcox and second by Council Member Butler, 4-0.

Deborah Field, Mayor

Attest:

Christy Franck, City Clerk