MINUTES OF THE CITY OF DRIGGS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 3, 2026

Pursuant to adjournment of the City Council meeting held March 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., and the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and present were: Mayor August Christensen, Council President Allison Michalski, Council Members: Miles Knowles, Jason Popilsky and Sarah Johnston; City Attorney Sam Angell, Community Development Director Doug Self, Public Works Director Jay Mazalewski, City Clerk Kreslyn Schuehler, Planning and Zoning Administrator Jade Krueger, and Assistant Planner Libby Jacobson. Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Sage Hibbert provided a background of the activities of Teton Rock Gym. She felt the new policy would provide guardrails and she encouraged the Council to adopt it.

Sherry Brady stated her son built the rock gym and she was upset the banned members did not know why they had been banned. She felt the Executive Director was "holding the climbing community hostage."

Robert Boyles suggested the Council have copies of the agenda for all in attendance and the rules for the meeting posted. He felt the city should not provide fee waivers for the Fairgrounds Will Serve and told the Council what the Rock Gym was currently paying in rent.

Nate Carey, Executive Director of Teton Valley Adaptive Sports, stated the Rock Gym had been uncooperative in returning their equipment and while he understood it was not the city's responsibility, he requested the Council take it into consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Council Minutes from 2/17/26
Claims from 2/18/26 – 3/3/26

Council Member Knowles made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

SILVER STAR PRESENTATION

Jason Nelson, with Silver Star, stated they had a plan to improve internet quality, especially in rural areas, and explained where they wanted to install fiber lines. He stated the City of Driggs was the lowest impacted area because most of the fiber installation occurred during COVID. He introduced the project team and concluded by stating the internet ability will compare to that of Downtown Los Angles.

Council Member Johnston asked how Silver Star would handle upset property owners. Mr. Nelson stated the project team would work with property owners and contractors to ensure everyone was happy with the outcome.

PUBLIC HEARING: WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS FACILITY PLANNING STUDY

Josh Beck and Tyrel Clark, from Keller Associates, presented information to the Council regarding the facility planning study. Mr. Beck stated the current and future systems were assessed and projected needs for 20 years were found to see what issues may arise as flows increase. He explained the city had 37 miles of gravity pipe, 16 lift stations, and over 19,000 feet of force main. With all of the data, the model would show the worse day in terms of use and see how the system can hold up. He stated at this time there were areas which should receive attention involving two lift stations.

Council Member Knowles questioned if the lift stations would run more effectively when Victor was off the system. Mr. Clark stated it may be the case and would have to watch the data to make sure everything remained the same.

Mr. Beck suggested the top priorities be to add generators to a few lift stations; at the Huntsman lagoons, Creekside Meadows, and Valley Center, where the population was density was higher. He concluded by stating the facility was in good shape and the deficiencies were mostly with lift stations during peak hours.

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:51pm. There were no comments and the hearing closed at 6:53pm.

Council Member Knowles made a motion to approve the agreement with Keller Associates for Driggs Water/Wastewater modeling. Council Member Michalski seconded the motion.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to adopt the 2025 Wastewater Collections Facilities Planning Study along with the recommended Capital Improvements Plan as presented in the study. Council Member Michalski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; and Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried.

WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS ON-CALL MODELING SERVICES WITH KELLER ASSOCIATES

Mr. Mazalewski explained he would like to retain the same model as above for wastewater collections to ensure there wsd capacity as development occurred. He stated this would not be a cost to the city, but a pass through to developers who are developing 25 units or more.

Council Member Michalski made a motion to provisionally approve the agreement with Keller Associates for Driggs Water/Wastewater modeling pending the city attorney's review. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; and Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried.

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH TETON VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Self stated a Joint Powers Agreement was needed if the two entities wanted to partner to fund park and recreation facilities. He explained s joint board would be formed, being a recommending body with the City Council would having the final authority.

John Beller, Board Member for the Teton Valley Parks and Recreation District, stated if the city wanted to work with the recreation district a joint agreement would need to be in place.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to authorize execution of the Joint Powers Agreement with the Teton Valley Parks and Recreation District as presented. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; and Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried.

AMENDING THE RECREATION CENTER RENTING AND USE POLICY

Mr. Self stated the resolution had been reviewed by the city attorney.

Council Member Knowles asked how the ordinance would work since the Joint Powers Agreement with the Recreation District was just approved. Mr. Self stated it was hard to tell until a discussion was had with the district, but suggested the city move away from a landlord/tenant situation. He felt it would take 3-4 months to work out the partnership with the district and until then, this resolution would be in place immediately.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to adopt Resolution 440-26, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Driggs, Idaho, amending City Policy for renting and use of the Driggs Recreation Center previously established by Resolution No. 267-11, modifying lease term and rent schedule policies; adding Driggs Recreation tenant requirements to ensure accessibility, non-discrimination, fair access and due process; and establishing an effective date. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion.

Mr. Self stated the city attorney disagreed with section 7.B.g. Council Member Michalski questioned if the Council acted out of the advice of the attorney if it would make them liable. Mr. Angell stated it did not make the Council personally liable. Council Member Michalski stated she was still unable to support the revised resolution and felt there were parts that were vague. She further stated she felt it was overreaching for a landlord to require and supervise a tenant. Council Member Knowles stated he too was concerned with the requirements of supervision.

Council Member Johnston felt it was important for the city to pay attention to what was happening on their property and make sure it went with goals and values.

Mr. Angell explained his concerns stating Section 7.B.g affected something that had happened in the past, and did not think the city should require a tenant to go back and change something that happened earlier.

Council Member Johston felt the Council should keep in mind the comments that had been received. Council Member Michalski agreed, but further stated it did not mean it was appropriate for the city to move forward in this manner.

A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, nay; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, nay; Council Member Johnston, aye; Mayor August Christensen, aye. The motion passed.

TRIBUTARY COTTAGE COURT ZONE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Jade Krueger, Planning and Zoning Administrator, reminded Council the zone change was approved in July. She further stated the site development was also reviewed and approved. She reviewed the conditions of the zone change and stated they were included in the Development Agreement.

Council Member Knowles made a motion to approve execution of the development agreement for the Tributary Cottage Court Zone Change (ZC25-1) and Site Development (SD25-2). Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, abstained. The motion carried.

Council Member Knowles made a motion to waive the rules for adopting an ordinance and read by title only. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, abstained. The motion carried.

Council Member Knowles made a motion to approve Ordinance 496-26 to rezone Lot 1 of Block 5 Valley Centre II to RM-2 Residential Multi-family. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. Council Member Knowles read the title. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

WATER AND SEWER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS BATHROOMS WILL SERVE

John Smaellie, Fair Board Chair, stated this request was for a concession and restroom building. He understood it was a big ask to waive the fees, but he felt both the county and city would benefit mutually from the development. He also requested the ERUs be reduced as the service would only be used 30-45 days out of the year.

Mr. Smaellie stated they were not willing to be annexed at this time and felt it would be more appropriate at the time of a future expansion. He stated they were trying to get the project done before the summer season began and felt annexation would take longer than they had time for.

Council Member Johnston questioned if the city had any recourse if the annexation did not happen at this time. Mr. Mazalewski stated the annexation would give the city control over any future expansion and allowed the county to pay in city rates and fees. He further stated anyone who connects to the system consented to annexation at any time.

Mr. Mazalewski stated connection fees helped fund capacity for both the wastewater and water facilities. He stated if the Fair Board signed the connection paperwork, they would be consenting to annexation at any time.

Council Member Michalski questioned why the fair board would not be in agreement of annexation. Mr. Smaellie stated the annexation would trigger a zone change and the city also had a noise ordinance that did not align with their events. He felt like there should be several work sessions between the fair board, the county, and the city before moving forward.

Council Member Johnston stated facilities should plan for maximum day use and if it was not used every day, it had no effect on the cost. Mr. Mazalewski agreed, stating the ERUs were based on an average day, not a maximum day, so the cost was already reduced.

Council Member Knowles made a motion to approve a water and sewer will serve for the Teton County Fairground property RP05N45E237200 with the following conditions:

a. The approval is for a maximum of 9 EDUs
b. A water and sewer connection application signed by the Board of County Commissioners be provided
c. Updated engineering plans will be submitted to the city
d. Parcel will be annexed into the city within 6-months
e. 1.5 fee multiplier will be waived
f. The project will comply with the Water Source Capacity Mitigation requirements
g. The approval will expire two years from the approval if connections have not been made.

Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion.

Council Member Michalski stated she could not justify the waiver of fees to the residents of Driggs if there was no desire to be annexed.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to approve a water and sewer will serve for the Teton County Fairground property RP05N45E237200 with the following conditions:

a. The approval is for a maximum of 9 EDUs
b. A water and sewer connection application signed by the Board of County Commissioners be provided
c. Updated engineering plans will be submitted to the city
d. 1.5 fee multiplier will be waived if the parcel is annexed into the city within 6-months
e. The project will comply with the Water Source Capacity Mitigation requirements
f. The approval will expire two years from the approval if connections have not been made.

There was no second and the motion died.

Council Member Michalski questioned what the city could do if the applicant did not want to be annexed. Mr. Mazalewski stated they won't be allowed to connect without consent to annexation. Council Member Michalski further stated she wanted to table the application until the Fair Board could modify the request. Ms. Krueger explained a rezone and application process and stated it did not have to be burdensome.

Council Member Knowles stated if the will serve letter was approved with the conditions, the county would have the ability to move forward and work through some of the issues. If it was denied, they would not be able to do anything.

A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, nay; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, abstained. The motion carried.

LETTER TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING JUVENILE CURFEW ORDINANCE

Council Member Johnston stated this was important to her personally. She was opposed to the county ordinance and asked the Council to approve the letter to the Board of County Commissioners to opposed the amended ordinance.

Council Member Michalski felt this should have been a collaborative effort and had legal concerns with some of the language in the proposed letter. Council Member Knowles agreed the letter needed revisions.

Council Member Johnston stated she was appalled that the Teton County Sheriff used an example of needing this ordinance to help when minors meet with adults for relations. She stated the minor was the victim, but felt the County had passed an ordinance to convict the minor of a crime.

Council Member Michalski felt the most expeditions way would be for the city to pass a resolution against the County ordinance. Council agreed to send a letter, but wanted to make revisions.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

JOINT TETON VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mayor Christensen explained this would begin the makeup of a new committee to the recreation district.

Council Member Johnston made a motion to ratify the appointment of the Bryce Broderick to the Joint Parks and Recreation District Board. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Council had a brief recess from 8:31 - 8:33pm.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Council Member Michalski made a motion to appoint Doug Self as the new City Administrator. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; and Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION REGARDING NORTH ROSS PARKS CONCEPT

Ms. Krueger stated there was potential for a future park plan north of Ross Avenue, but in the interim she proposed this plan given the amount of development in the area. She stated they had worked with the school district and the canal company to incorporate a trail system. There was a potential land donation of 2.5 acres and wanted to give the Council a general update of what staff had been pursuing in this area.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Christensen stated she went to Boise to testify against Bill 583 for Short Term Rental Regulations. She stated if this were to pass, there would be no permitting for short term rentals in the state of Idaho. She further reminded the Council about the AIC Training being held in Idaho Falls on April 21st.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Johnston moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho State Code 74-206 for legal reasons. Council Member Michalski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Michalski, aye; Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 8:54pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnston moved to adjourn. Council Member Popilsky seconded. The motion carried unanimously with the meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

ATTEST:

Kreslyn Schuehler, City Clerk

August Christensen, Mayor