MINUTES OF THE CITY OF DRIGGS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 20, 2026

Pursuant to adjournment of the City Council meeting held October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., and the call of the Mayor, the Driggs City Council met **Tuesday, October 20, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was taken and present were: Council Members: Miles Knowles, Jason Popilsky via telephone, and Sarah Johnston; City Administrator Doug Self, Public Works Director Jay Mazalewski, Treasurer Maddi Manos, Planning and Zoning Administrator Jade Krueger, and City Attorney Sam Angell. Those present took part in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNITY INPUT
Carol Nokowski thanked the Council for working with the City of Victor regarding the wastewater treatment plant, but was concerned there was no other meeting scheduled and felt there was more to discuss.

Claire Vitucci felt a new climbing facility would benefit the community and encouraged the Council to allow the climbing facility to be in the City Center.

Allie Molenkoff requested the empty space in the city center be used as a multi-use space for all tenants, including the Senior Center which was running out of room to house their activities.

Anna Kirkpatrick also spoke requesting the space be shared so the Senior Center could use it.

Cindy Dender stated the space could serve a greater population and encouraged the Council to consider the option.

CONSENT AGENDA
City Council Minutes 10/6/26
Claims 10/7/26 – 10/20/26

Council Member Johnston requested to pull both items from the consent agenda.

Council Member Knowles moved to approve the Council Minutes from October 6th. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion. Council Johnston stated the discussion of the consent agenda and reading of House Bill 172 was not included in the minutes.

Council Member Johnston moved to table the Council Minutes from October 6th. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Ms. Manos requested an invoice from Forsgren Engineering for the wastewater treatment plan for approximately $94,000 be included in the claims.

Council Member Johnston moved to approve the 10/20 claims including the invoice 842 from the additional report. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

DRAFT

PRESENTATION-TETON VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT-PROPOSAL FOR DRIGGS RECREATION CENTER SPACE

John Beller, Director and President of the Teton Valley Parks and Recreation District, provided information to the Council. He stated the district had completed a viability study to determine if a climbing facility could be constructed. The district felt it could construct the facility for $350,000 and also operate and maintain it. Mr. Beller explained the process to develop the committee and what requests the Board made of that committee to determine if this project was feasible.

Ty Mack, Chair of the Climbing Gym Committee, explained the community survey results and groups that would benefit from a climbing facility. He explained the membership rates and stated the operating model worked if the capital improvements were covered by the district as proposed.

Mr. Beller explained the facility would be accessible by all and requested the Council allow the staff to work to prepare an agreement to establish a climbing facility in the city center that would be funded, developed and operated by the district.

Council Member Johnston moved to amend the agenda to hear item 5j, followed by 5b and then 5m. Council Member Knowles questioned if there was anyone in attendance for item 5a. It was confirmed there were others in attendance.

Council Member Johnston amended the motion to change the agenda to hear item 5j, 5a, 5b and 5m. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DRIGGS CITY CENTER FUTURE FACILITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES SELECTION

Mr. Self explained the north end of the building was designated for recreational use. He stated the Council should determine if there are any other needs the space could be used. He stated the staff's perspective was that the space could be used for city hall needs for expansion, as discussed in June. He stated that would include a new council chambers and office space and explained in the near future, city staff may have to be split between the two city offices on Main Street and 5th Street if the expansion in the city center did not occur.

Council Member Johnston moved to prioritize the use of the vacant space in the north end of the Driggs City Center building for an indoor climbing facility, funded, developed and operated by the Teton Valley Parks and Recreation District and direct staff to work with the rec district to negotiate and bring forward for Council approval a 4-year agreement followed by annual renewal options for the use and operation of a facility with the goal of expanding indoor recreation opportunities and meeting the community's unmet recreational needs. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion.

Council Member Knowles stated he understood the needs of staff and Seniors West of the Tetons, but felt there were solutions that could help moving forward and there was a greater benefit for a climbing gym.

Mayor Christensen questioned if a four-year agreement was the best for the city.

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DRAFT

negotiate and bring forward for Council approval a lease agreement. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion.

Mr. Self questioned if Council wanted a lease, as stated in the motion, or just an agreement with the recreation district.

Council Member Johnston moved to amend the motion to remove the word lease. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

CLEARWATER FINANCIAL AMENDMENT
Ms. Manos explained the needed amendment.

Council Member Knowles moved to authorize execution of Addendum 1 to the Master Engagement Agreement with Clearwater Financial for monthly accounting advisory and treasurer support. Council Member Johnston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

DRIGGS URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MAIN AND 1ST STREET DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY REPORT
Brad Cramer, with Perspective Planning and Consulting, presented information to the Council. He reviewed the eligibility study that was provided in the Council packet. He stated there were 15 eligibility criteria and only one needed to be met. Also, he stated, by approving the resolution for the eligibility report, it did not obligate the City Council. He reviewed the criteria points.

Mr. Cramer concluded that the area did meet more than one criterion. He stated once the Main Street District was dissolved, the total percentage of assessed valuation would be 5.1%, under the 10% limitation.

Mayor Christensen questioned when the Main Street District would sunset. Mr. Cramer stated it was scheduled for 2028, but the Urban Renewal District had discussed doing so in 2027.

Council Member Johnston questioned if the blocks within the district had easements to access the interior lots. Mr. Cramer stated he was not aware of any easements. Council Member Johnston questioned if that would change eligibility. Mr. Cramer reminded Council only one criterion needed to be met for eligibility.

Council Member Johnston stated the intersection of Little Avenue and Main Street regularly backs up into other intersections and wondered if it would affect the criteria. Mr. Cramer stated it would not, but may need to be addressed within a specific proposed project.

Council Member Johnston moved to approve Resolution 446-26 and read the title. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

DRAFT

5TH STREET AND JOHNSON AVENUE DESIGN ISSUES

Mr. Mazalewski stated negotiations with one of the ditch users was unsuccessful, and therefore, the irrigation culverts and ditch would be installed in the original location and the paving would not take place around the corner. He presented the design options that were drafted with the help of the ditch user, the city engineers, and himself. He reviewed all 5 options with Council.

Council Member Johnston asked clarify questions regarding a few of the options, which Mr. Mazalewski answered.

Mr. Mazalewski explained the ditch user had an issue on Ruby Avenue, which involved stormwater discharge. He stated this discharge went to a detention facility that was designed to handle a 100-year flood. He explained it was in the city's right of way and the City Attorney did not feel it remained an issue.

Mr. Angell talked about the concerns from Ben Christensen regarding the corral. He stated, after coming to an agreement with the property owners, the city paid to move the corral and rebuilt a portion of the fence to keep cattle out of the right of way. He stated this was done according to the abilities of the city, under the state statutes, and therefore, there was no further issue that needed to be resolved.

Mr. Mazalewski stated he would work with the engineers to figure out which options were the most feasible and bring it back to Council.

Ben Christensen asked to present a proposal for a fence all along Johnson Avenue stating the current fence was not working. Mayor Christensen felt the Council already made a decision about the fencing. Mr. Christensen disagreed and stated he had a lot to offer if the city would work with him.

Council Member Johnston moved to waive the rules and listen to Mr. Christensen.

Council Member Knowles stated he received all of the information from Mr. Christensen and did not want to revisit old information, but was willing to hear any new information. Council Member Popilsky stated he appreciated all information sent, did not have additional questions, and only wanted to hear information that had not been received in the emails. Mr. Christensen showed the Council one photo regarding the fence. He suggested the city pay $16,000 to cover the cost of the fence along the entire Johnson Avenue, the corral demo and rebuild, and then he would work with the city to make a design work. Mr. Christensen stated he would pursue rights as ditch user/owners if the City didn't want to discuss his issues.

CONSENT FOR WASTEWATER WILL SERVE LETTERS ISSUED BY THE CITY OF VICTOR

Mr. Mazalewski requested guidance from Council on how to handled the requests for consent to connect. He stated the City of Victor was going to administratively approve requests from Driggs. He further questioned at what level of the planning process should requests be sent and received.

Council Member Johnston felt the city should ask Victor and see if the cities could agree to a mutual waiver of the current agreement regarding the consent to connect. She asked how Victor

DRAFT

received the information from the previous meetings and how many more ERUs could be allowed from Victor before the lift station exceeds its capacity. Mr. Mazalewski explained the modeling states that the average daily flows had capacity, but would hit capacity on the highest usage day at the highest peak hour. She then asked how many ERUs could come into the treatment plant or the trunkline before it reached capacity, and how it was monitored.

Council Member Johnston moved to approve the consent to connect request from Victor for the developments noted in the staff report. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion.

Mr. Mazalewski explained he would like to discuss the timeline for consent be discussed with the Planning Director, but felt when a development was at the concept approval level, consent should be requested. He suggested Council approve a certain level of administrative approval until a mutual waiver could be developed.

Council Member Knowles was concerned this process, to get approval from each city, may hold things up and was in favor of moving forward to waive the consent requirement.

Council Member Johnston requested instead of a consent to connect, notification between the cities be required with any will serves or developments of 10 ERUs or more.

A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

Council Member Johnston moved to approve the IGA with Teton County regarding Public Safety Impact Fees and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

Council Member Johnston moved to waive the rules, consider thrice read and adopt by title only. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

Council Member Johnston moved to adopt Ordinance 506-26, an amendment to Title 8, Chapter 3: Development Impact Fees (Public Safety) and read the title. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

TRIBUTARY PUD PRIMROSE AND FRONT STREET EASEMENTS

Ms. Krueger explained that within in the Development Agreement there was a requirement for the city and Tributary to establish easements. She reviewed where the easements would be located.

Council Member Johnston moved to approve the Primrose Utility Easement and Front Street easement for the northern section of Tributary and authorize the mayor to execute. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF DECISION-ZONE CHANGE FOR PRICE FAMILY
Council Member Johnston stated she would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest. There was no quorum and the item will move to a future agenda**.**

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING NORTH SUITE LEASE WITH WATER DOG GEAR
Council Member Johnston moved to authorize execution of the Industrial Building North Suite showroom with Water Dog Gear, LLC, as presented. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING EAST WAREHOUSE LEASE WITH APEX PRIVATE CHEF
Council Member Knowles moved to authorize execution of the amended lease with Apex Private Chef Service as presented. Council Member Johnston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT 5339 GRANT-TARGHEE SHUTTLE BUS PURCHASE
The grant was to purchase two replacement buses for the shuttle services. Grand Targhee Resort would provide the 20% match and before execution, those funds would be received by the city.

Council Member Knowles moved to authorize execution of the ITD 5339 Rural Funding Agreement to receive funding for the purchase of two replacement Grand Targhee shuttle buses. Council Member Johnston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
Mayor Christensen explained there was a 2-term limit, but there were no other applicants interested at this time. She stated that staff highly recommended reappointment of Mr. O'Donnell.

Council Member Johnston asked that Council be made aware of the committee openings. Mayor Christensen explained the ways in which the city advertised for the opening, including the newsletter. Council Member Johnston requested a separate email be sent to Council. It was decided that committee openings would be discussed under the Mayor's Updates.

Council Member Johnston asked the attorney if there were any concerns in re-appointing this individual for a third term. Ms. Krueger stated the bylaws state a member can be re-appointed for a third term with the Council's approval.

Council Member Johnston moved to appoint Quincy O'Donnell to a third 3-year term for the Design Review Advisory Committee. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

DRAFT

WILL SERVE FOR TETON COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

Council Member Johnston moved to approve the Sewer Will-Serve for the Teton County Transfer Station at 1088 Cemetery Road with the following conditions: the approval is for a maximum of 3 EDU's. Council Member Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

Council took a brief recess from 8:23pm-8:26pm.

MEETING LENGTH REQUEST FROM COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSTON

Council Member Johnston requested the meetings be shorter. She stated she had a safety issue after one meeting and also believed when meetings were long, the decision-making efforts were harder. She suggested the Council meet earlier or more often.

Council Member Knowles questioned what Council Member Johnston's expectations of meetings were when she ran for election and felt most meetings were kept within a 3-hour window. He also stated he was not in favor of more meetings, but could meet earlier if it worked for staff and other Council Members.

Council Member Popilsky stated he was not in favor of changing the meeting time as it allowed more public to attend. He also stated he felt it was his duty to attend meetings as long as it took to get the work done. He also volunteered to walk or drive Council Member Johnston home after the meetings.

Mayor Christensen suggested Council Members ask staff general questions prior to the meetings to shorten some of the discussion. She also suggested more committees could be created where a few Council Members could be involved to recommend bigger decisions to the full body.

Council Member Knowles questioned if this discussion could be had over email, since it related to scheduling. Mr. Angell stated he would research it and let them know.

Council Member Johnston suggested scheduling executive session prior to the general meeting, at 5:30pm. She also suggested using the consent agenda more to include leases, grant agreement and more straightforward items.

Mayor Christensen felt the Council should continue the discussion one the full council was present.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT-VICTOR SERVICE AGREEMENT OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. Self explained the city Mayors and City staff had determined the best course of action would be to move forward with drafting a customer agreement. He stated a draft would be sent to the City of Victor for their comments. Mayor Christensen stated she has been working with Mayor Muncaster about the processes and facilitators.

Council Member Johnston stated she would like to have a joint meeting with Victor, and not just have the draft sent to them. Mayor Christensen suggested instead of a joint meeting, maybe a few

DRAFT

Council Members and/or staff could attend their meeting to present it and answer questions. Mr. Self stated he would provide Victor with both options and see what Victor preferred.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATES
Mayor Christensen stated she was participating in the Mayor's Walking Challenge. She explained the wastewater treatment plant funding survey for the community that was being developed by Atlas Strategies.

Council Member Johnston questioned the requirements for the open positions on the committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Council Member Knowles moved to go into Executive Session at 8:55pm pursuant to Idaho State Code 74-206 for legal reasons. Council Member Popilsky seconded the motion.

Council Member Johnston amended the motion to include subsections b and f.

Mayor Christensen asked for clarification as to what were subsections b and f. Council Member Johnston stated they were for complaints and legal reasons, respectively. Mayor Christensen questioned if Council could enter into session without subsection b on the agenda. Mr. Angell stated as long as the motion included the subsections of the topics discussed, he felt it wouldn't violate the open meeting law.

Council Member Knowles moved to go into Executive Session at 7:53pm pursuant to Idaho State Code 74-206 for complaints and legal. Council Member Johnston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Council Member Knowles, aye; Council Member Popilsky, aye; Council Member Johnston, aye. The motion passed.

Council came out of Executive Session at 9:32pm.

ADJOURNMENT
Council Member Knowles moved to adjourn. Council Member Johnston seconded. The motion carried unanimously with the meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

ATTEST:

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Kreslyn Schuehler, City Clerk August Christensen, Mayor

DRAFT