

**FRUITLAND CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland City Council was held at Fruitland City Hall on the above date at 5:00 P.M.

1. MEETING OPENING:

PRESENT: Tom Limbaugh, Jeff Carpenter, Kari Peterson (Mayor), Cathy Yasuda, Ed Pierson.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Fitzer, Scott Crimin, Matt Brock, Danny Little, Brandon Tarvin, Rick Funk, Jesse Wetzel, Stuart Grimes.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lindsey Bratcher, Ken Bishop, Anne Marie Kelso, Jenniffer Riebe, Taylor Dunn.

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. and roll was taken.

A quorum of the Council was present.

2. 5:00-7:00 P.M.- PAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP:

A workshop was held with the Payette County Commissioners to discuss the future plans of the Payette County Ambulance District. Staff presented an overview of the District's operational and financial status and reviewed the City of Fruitland's role as the managing agency, including providing administrative, financial, and human resources support.

A financial update was provided outlining current assets, liabilities, and trends within the Paramedics Fund. Staff noted that the fund has experienced a gradual decline in net position in recent years, primarily due to expenditures increasing at a faster rate than revenues.

Staff also outlined the legal, regulatory, financial, and operational requirements that would need to be addressed if Payette County or the Ambulance District were to assume direct management in the future. The importance of maintaining uninterrupted emergency medical services (EMS) for the community was emphasized throughout the discussion.

It was agreed that the long-term goal for both the City and the County is for the Ambulance District to become self-sustaining. Any potential transition in management would require several years of careful planning and coordination, with the primary objective being to ensure uninterrupted EMS services for the community.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilor Carpenter moved to approve the February 23, 2026 City Council meeting minutes. Second, by Councilor Limbaugh. Motion carried.

4. IDAHO POWER- LOCAL UPDATES:

Taylor Dunn, representing Idaho Power, presented an update to the Council regarding ongoing projects and services.

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5. DONATION REQUEST- PAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

City Council reviewed a donation request from the Payette Chamber of Commerce for their annual “Boomerang” Dinner and Auction. The event serves as the Chamber’s largest annual fundraiser and supports programs and advocacy for local businesses. The Chamber is requesting donations or sponsorships to assist with the event. **Council Decision:** Councilor Pierson moved to deny the donation request. Second, by Councilor Limbaugh. Motion carried.

6. CITIZEN REQUESTS:

No comments were heard.

7. AMBULANCE LEVY OVERRIDE OUTREACH DISCUSSION:

EMS Chief Rick Funk requested Council guidance regarding public outreach efforts related to the proposed ambulance levy override. Proposed outreach options include informational mailers to residents (estimated cost approximately \$7,500), social media promotion, a public engagement podcast (\$1,250), and a short informational video (\$3,500). Based on recommendations from Clearwater Financial and prior campaign data, mailers and social media outreach were identified as the most effective methods. Council discussed the outreach options and associated costs. **Council Decision:** Councilor Pierson moved to approve the approximate \$7,500.00 for mailers and \$100.00 per week for social media promotion between now and the elections with funds to be used from State Revenue Sharing. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. Motion carried.

8. ORCHARD HEIGHTS RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION:

Staff presented a request for Council consideration to waive water and sewer capacity fees in exchange for right-of-way dedication from three landowners located between the City limits and the Orchard Heights project area. The right-of-way would support future infrastructure and connectivity and would ultimately be dedicated to the City. Staff reported that obtaining formal appraisals for the properties would be significantly more expensive than anticipated and proposed the fee waiver as a more cost-effective alternative. The proposal would waive approximately \$8,000 in capacity fees per property, for a total potential waiver of \$24,000 if all three landowners agree to dedicate the right-of-way. Staff also recommended authorizing Mason & Associates to prepare the necessary legal descriptions for the right-of-way at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

Council Decision: Councilor Pierson moved to approve the request and authorize negotiations for right-of-way dedication. Second, by Councilor Carpner. Motion carried.

9. PAYETTE RIVER SPORTS COMPLEX- LANDSCAPE COST ESTIMATE- PHASE 1- REQUEST FOR BIDS:

Council reviewed the conceptual master plan and phased cost estimates for the proposed Payette River Sports Complex. The project includes amenities such as walking paths, playground areas, pickleball and tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, a pump track, putting green, pavilion, parking improvements, lighting, landscaping, and irrigation. Estimated costs were presented in four phases: Phase 1 – approximately \$1,015,335.83; Phase 2 – approximately

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\$157,231.22; Phase 3 – approximately \$704,583.87; and Phase 4 – approximately \$313,010.03. Council discussed the proposed improvements and the phased development approach.

Council Decision: Councilor Pierson moved to proceed with the bid process for Phase 1, focusing on pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts, a putting green, and a walking path from the parking lot to the courts. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. Motion carried.

10. CONSENT AGENDA:

10.1. **February 2026 Department Activity Reports:** The February 2026 Department Activity Reports were reviewed and discussed in detail with each department head. Councilor Carpenter moved to approve the reports. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. Motion carried.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT- FEBRUARY 2026 BILLS:

The February 2026 Bills were presented by City Treasurer, Suzanne Percy. Councilor Carpenter moved to approve the February 2026 Bills. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Pierson moved to adjourn. Second, by Councilor Carpneter. **Motion carried at 7:42 P.M.**

Prepared by: Suzanne Percy
Date Approved: March 23, 2026

City of Fruitland, ID

Kari Peterson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne Percy, City Clerk