

**FRUITLAND CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland City Council was held at Fruitland City Hall on the above date at 7:00 P.M.

1. MEETING OPENING:

PRESENT: Tom Limbaugh, Jeff Carpenter, Kari Peterson (Mayor), Cathy Yasuda, Ed Pierson.
ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Stephanie Bonney, Bill Russell, JD Huff, Matt Brock, Brandon Tarvin, Danny Little, Rick Funk, Jesse Wetzel, Stuart Grimes.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Smith, Macy Kite, Lilyann Quinn, Hadli Widman, Kailee Pahl, Corey Evan, Brandon Riddy, Jim Flannery, Madison Jillman, Ella Smith, Miles Peterson, Ei Woods, Daisy Gordillo, Nayarani Ramirez, Bianca Cisneros, Sophia Gonzalez, Ruby Gonzalesz, Kierra Klaske, Roberto Gonzalez Annie Knudson, Ted Pettet, Mason Burrup, Grace Smith, Micaela McSweeney, Jazmin Gonzalez, Aubrey Gonzalez, Lydia Olsen, Sydney Bowen, Gemmah Gallan, Kalie Pett, Zoe Ewinger.

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and roll was taken.
A quorum of the Council was present.

2. Mayors Youth Council: Mayor Peterson introduced the 2025-2026 Mayor’s Youth Council to the City Council. Councilor Pierson moved to accept the 2025-2026 Youth Council. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. **Motion carried.**

3. Approval of Minutes: Councilor Carpenter moved to approve the October 27, 2025 minutes. Second, by Councilor Limbaugh. **Motion carried.**

4. Special Event Application – Fruitland Chamber of Commerce “Christmas on Main Street”: The Council reviewed a special event permit application from the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce for “Christmas on Main Street”, to be held December 4, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fruitland Community Park and SW 3rd Street.

Annie Knudsen was present to answer questions and explained that the event’s purpose is to bring the community together with a Peace Candle lighting, tree lighting, Passport Business Walk (where citizens can win prizes by visiting local businesses), and opportunities for children to meet Santa. A fire truck and hayrides will also be part of the festivities. Councilor Pierson moved to approve the request from the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce for a special event permit for “Christmas on Main Street” and to waive the fee requirements. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. **Motion carried.**

5. Payette County Recreation District – Mesa Fields Improvements:

Ted Pettet, representing Payette County Recreation District, addressed the Council to answer questions and explained that the District plans to construct two gazebos to provide shade at the Mesa Fields. One of the gazebos would be located on City-owned property.

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He also noted that the District has been working with Payette County Road and Bridge to pave the parking lot. The proposed drainage plan would direct runoff toward the grass area, rather than into the street.

Council Decision: Councilor Pierson moved to approve the placement of the gazebos and paving, contingent upon engineer-approved drainage plans. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Motion carried.**

6. Ultralight / Paraglider / Paramotor Operations:

Mike Smith, a Fruitland resident and paramotor owner, explained to the Council that he has been using the Snake River Sports Complex park as a landing area for his paramotor. He noted that a large grassy area, such as the city park, is necessary for safe landings. A Fruitland City Ordinance Officer informed him that he would need Council permission to continue using the park for this purpose.

The City Council requested comments from Life Flight Network, which operates a medical helipad in Fruitland, and from city staff regarding the use of ultralight, paraglider, and paramotor operations within the Fruitland city limits:

- **Life Flight Network** expressed support for adhering strictly to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 103 regulations, which prohibit ultralight operations over congested areas or urban environments. They noted that any authorization for such activities must be obtained from the FAA.
- **Police Chief Huff** reported that Idaho adopts FAA rules by reference and that state law (Idaho Code §21-129) prohibits reckless or careless operation of aircraft. He advised that flying near an active medical helipad, such as one used by Life Flight, could be considered reckless and pose a safety hazard. He highlighted that violators could face both civil penalties and FAA enforcement actions.
- **Public Works Director Brock** noted that the airspace above 700 feet is classified as Class E airspace, but operations below that level are still subject to FAA Part 103. He cautioned that “congested areas” include towns, neighborhoods, and parks, and expressed concern about allowing such activities at a city park due to potential safety, property damage, and nuisance issues.

Council Decisions:

1. Councilor Limbaugh moved to deny the use of the park for paramotor activities. Second, by Councilor Pierson. **Motion carried.**
2. Councilor Limbaugh moved to prohibit all use of ultralight vehicles in city parks. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Motion carried.**

7. Citizens Requests-No Comments were heard.

8. Proposed Area of Impact Boundary Review:

The City Council reviewed Payette County’s proposed new Area of Impact boundaries for the City of Fruitland.

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The Council recommended adjusting the eastern boundary of the Area of Impact to extend to Elmore Road, from NW 2nd Avenue to NE 16th Street, to better align with existing city limits and future annexation potential. The Council noted that parcels east of the Sand Hollow Drain are likely to be annexed within the next five years and that elevation or sewer lift station requirements should not preclude annexation.

The Council also emphasized that Idaho Code §67-6526(4)(b) states that “an area of impact boundary shall not divide county-recognized parcels of land.” It was observed that the County’s proposed map divides several parcels and would need adjustment to comply with Idaho Code.

Boundaries to the north, south, and west were considered acceptable, with the understanding that they may be revisited as annexation occurs in the future. **Council Decision:** Councilor Pierson moved to instruct City Administrator Stuart Grimes to draft a letter reflecting these comments. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Motion carried.**

9. GRANT APPLICATIONS:

9.1. LHTAC Grant Applications: Public Works Director Matt Brock informed the Council that he attended two information sessions regarding funding opportunities through the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC). He requested approval to pursue up to four eligible grant programs:

- **Local Rural Highway Investment Program – Sign Project:** Replace or upgrade regulatory signs within city limits; funding up to \$30,000; application due December 2, 2025.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program – Non-Infrastructure:** A \$50,000 school zone enforcement reimbursement grant (7.34% match), to be submitted on behalf of the Police Department with letters of support from Fruitland School District, Southwest District Health, and Treasure Valley Classical Academy; due January 18, 2026.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program – Infrastructure:** Pedestrian and sidewalk improvements, crossings, or replacement of non-compliant pathways; funding up to \$500,000 (7.34% match); applications due January 5 and January 15, 2026.
- **Local Highway Safety Improvement Program:** Projects aimed at reducing serious injury and fatal crashes; funding up to \$2 million (7.34% match); due January 29, 2026.

Matt requested Council authorization for the City’s participation so that required signatures from the Mayor can be submitted within the respective deadlines. **Council Decision:** Councilor Pierson moved to approve the grant participation and authorized signatures from the Mayor. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. **Motion carried.**

9.2. Idaho Department of Lands Grant Award:

Fire Chief Brandon Tarvin announced that the Fruitland Fire Department has been awarded the 2025 Idaho Department of Lands Grant in the amount of \$4,292, with a 10%

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local match, to upgrade the department's wildland personal protective equipment (excluding helmets). He requested City Council and Mayor approval to move forward with implementation of the grant, which will enhance firefighter safety and readiness during wildland operations. **Council Decision:** Councilor Carpenter moved to accept the grant and match requirement of 10%. Second, by Councilor Pierson. **Motion carried.**

10. CONSENT AGENDA:

City Engineer Reports/Updates: The Transportation and Water & Sewer Engineer Reports were reviewed and discussed in detail with City Engineer Bill Russell. Councilor Limbaugh moved to approve the reports. Second, by Councilor Yasuda. **Motion carried.**

October 2025 Department Activity Reports: The October 2025 Department Activity Reports were reviewed and discussed in detail with each department head. Councilor Pierson moved to approve the reports. Second, by Councilor Limbaugh. **Motion carried.**

11. Fruitland Fire Department- Live Drill and Controlled Burn Request: Fire Chief Brandon Tarvin submitted a request for approval to conduct a live training drill—and potentially a live burn—at 400 NW 9th Street, a property owned by Mr. Casey Jones that is slated for demolition. The property owner has granted permission for the Fruitland Fire Department to use the structure for training. Pending completion of all required permits and documentation, the department may include a controlled burn as part of the exercise to provide valuable hands-on training for personnel in a safe, controlled environment. **Council Decision:** Councilor Pierson moved to approve the request. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Motion carried.**

12. Treasurer's Report- October 2025 Bills: The October 2025 Bills were presented by City Treasurer, Suzanne Percy. Councilor Pierson moved to approve the October 2025 Bills. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Motion carried.**

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Pierson moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code section 74-206(1)(f)- Potential Litigation. Second, by Councilor Carpenter. **Roll call vote: Limbaugh, aye. Carpenter, aye. Yasuda, aye. Pierson, aye. Motion carried at 8:11 P.M.**

Regular session was resumed at 8:44 P.M.

14. Adjournment: Councilor Pierson moved to adjourn. Second, by Councilor Pierson. **Motion carried at 8:44 P.M.**

Prepared by: Suzanne Percy
Date Approved: November 24, 2025

City of Fruitland, ID

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Kari Peterson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne Percy, City Clerk