

**MINUTES  
PAYETTE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Council Meeting  
January 5, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Payette City Council was called to order at 5:30 PM by Mayor Lopez in Council Chambers of Payette City Hall, 700 Center Avenue.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Lopez, Mike Kee, Ray Wickersham, Lori Steiniker, Kathy Patrick, Bobbie Black and Jim Franklin  
Members Absent: None  
Staff Present: Eben & Rachael Masingill, City Attorneys; Deleice Ward, Co-Library Director; Jake Hust, Water Supervisor; Kevin Petty, WWTP Supervisor; Gary Marshall, Chief of Police; Steve Castenada, Fire Chief; Jamie Couch; Streets Supervisor, Kashlee Mendiola; Administrative Assistant Sage Mitchel; Administrative Assistant and Sarah Skelly; Deputy City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lopez.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None heard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Steiniker and seconded by Franklin to approve the Regular Council minutes of 12-15-2025 with the correction to ensure the minutes reflected Councilor Franklin's motion to add an agenda item regarding the "impact area" and discussion of the item as agenda item 11.

After a unanimous voice vote by the Council, the motion CARRIED.

**APPROVAL OF PAYABLES**

A motion was made by Wickersham and seconded by Patrick to approve payables in the amount of \$326,974.31.

Ayes: Wickersham, Steiniker, Kee, Patrick, Franklin

Nays: Black

The motion CARRIED

## **ADJOURN SINE DIE**

A motion was made by Patrick and seconded by Steiniker to adjourn sine die.

After a unanimous voice vote by the Council, the motion CARRIED.

## **OATHS OF OFFICE**

Ray Wickersham took the Oath of Office as Mayor, swearing to support the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions and faithfully discharge the duties of Mayor for the City of Payette.

Councilors' Oath: Councilors also took their respective Oaths of Office.

## **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Wickersham, Mike Kee, Denise McGill, Lori Steiniker, Kathy Patrick, Jody Henderson and Jim Franklin

Mayor Wickersham reconvened the meeting, welcoming new members and expressing appreciation for public attendance.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### 1. Election of Council President

Mayor Wickersham acknowledged a potential open meeting law violation and stated that he had discussed with others that the Council President history was a rotation of every two years. Mayor Wickersham had been Council President for two years and then Councilor Patrick just served two years. Mayor Wickersham stated he had given this information to some members of the now seated City Council along with his belief that Councilor Kee would be a good selection. At which time Councilor Steiniker voiced her motion to select Council Patrick as Council President.

A motion was made by Steiniker to appoint Councilor Patrick as Council President.

Steiniker's motion died due to lack of second.

Councilor Franklin then stated I need the minutes to reflect that there was a discussion on December 11 that included Jody, Denise, Mike, yourself [Mayor Wickersham], and me where this topic was brought up. Just so that's in the minutes. And also, I'd like to thank Kathy for her service as council president. I think she did a great job. She has a wealth of knowledge and a heart for service. Mike is only going to be with us for another couple of years, and he has a lot of background in other municipalities and other functions, and I think he might bring something new to that position.

A motion was made by Franklin and seconded by McGill to elect Councilor Kee to Council President.

A voice vote by the Council:

Ayes: Franklin, McGill, Henderson, Kee  
Nays: Patrick and Steiniker  
The motion CARRIED but Council was informed that a voice vote was improper and a roll call would be necessary.

Councilor Steiniker raised an objection, alleging a prior private meeting on December 11th, 2025, which included a quorum of incoming councilors (but did not include herself and Councilor Patrick). Councilor Steiniker alleged this meeting constituted an open meeting law violation where the council presidency was discussed. She emphasized the need for transparency.

Mayor Wickersham readdressed the concern, acknowledged the potential open meeting law violation, in order to cure any potential open meeting law violation. Mayor Wickersham stated each person who was present the meeting of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as previously disclosed by Councilor Franklin, and relayed the substance of what was discussed at the meeting—which was the topic of selecting a council president. Mayor Wickersham added that he and the incoming councilors were unaware that incoming nominees were subject to open meeting laws, prior to when they were sworn into office in January of 2026. No action had taken place on the matter discussed at the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. The City Attorney advised that out of an abundance of caution, it was his opinion that an open meeting law violation may have occurred, which Mayor Wickersham cured in accordance with Idaho law. The City Attorney stated that Idaho law is not clear in the case of incoming council members but since a quorum was present and deliberating on an agenda item that would be voted on in January, it could be a violation, suggesting open disclosure as a remedy.

Councilor Steiniker requested another vote, which was advised by City Attorney to be a roll call vote. Mayor Wickersham agreed requesting a roll call vote on the matter of the election of a council president.

Ayes: Franklin, McGill, Henderson, Steiniker, Kee  
Nays: Patrick  
The motion CARRIED

## 2. Update from Payette County Regarding Progress of Ambulance Building

Ann Marie Kelso, Payette County Commissioner, along with other county officials, provided an update on the county's efforts to build an ambulance station.

## 3. Discussion on City's Purchasing Policy

Mayor Wickersham stated that Councilor Kee requested this item be included for future review and potential modification, allowing Council members time to review the existing policy.

## **DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSION REPORTS**

### 1. Building Permits & Business License Report – December 2025

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Kee inquired about the time limit for an encroachment permit concerning a storage container on Center Street, following up on a citizen's complaint. Staff will investigate.

**MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Wickersham thanked the public and voters, emphasizing his commitment to learning, teamwork, and making progress for Payette. He stated plans to engage with department heads and implement new ideas.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Steiniker and seconded by Patrick to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:03PM pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Patrick, Kee, McGill, Franklin, Henderson, Steiniker

Nays: None

The motion CARRIED

A motion was made by Kee and seconded by Steiniker to reconvene into regular session.

After a unanimous voice vote the motion CARRIED.


Council reconvened into regular session at 7:44pm with no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Kee and seconded by Patrick to adjourn.

After a unanimous voice vote by the Council, the motion CARRIED, and the Council adjourned at 7:44pm.

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

  
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Mayor Ray Wickersham

ATTEST:



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Sarah Skelly  
Deputy City Clerk

