

Bancroft City Council
Monday, December 8, 2025
Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and City Council for Bancroft, Idaho

Roll call showed the following council and staff members present:
Council President Eric Christensen, Jessica Vawser, Trevor Parsons, Jessica Thurman
Mayor Spencer, Clerk Swensen, Maintenance Moreland and Maintenance Page
Others in attendance: Forsgren Engineer/Aaron Swenson, Tara Nelson, Nissell Baker, Deborah Hill,
SICOG/Amanda, Attorney, Ethan Rawlins.

Call to Order: Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.
Pledge: Mayor Spencer
Prayer: Jessica Thurman

Item: 1 Agenda

Cm, Jessica Vawser motioned to approve the agenda as stated.
Cm, Trevor Parsons 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 2 Minutes

Cm, Jessica Thurman made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2025.
Cm, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 3 Accounts Payables

Cm, Jessica Vawser motioned to the pay the accounts payable for November 2025.
Cm, Jessica Thurman 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 4 SICOG/Amanda Collins

Amanda congratulated the city for receiving the \$242,000 park grant. The next step is to complete an environmental review. One of the mandatory review items is proving that the park is not in a flood plain. Clerk Swensen provided Amanda with a copy of the FEMA documents including a map showing the few remaining properties in the flood zone. The city will need to go through the state's procurement process. The city has already passed the required resolution and will get extra points for having a grant administrator listed. There are 416 compliance points that will be communicated along the way to satisfy the state and federal guidelines. They will want to communicate with city council as to what they want as we go. Amanda asked if one of the council members would be a point of contact for the council, but noted that no decisions will be made without the entire council approval. Council member Thurman volunteered to be the point of contact. Amanda would like to have the project completed and closed out within two years. The next step going forward is to complete the environmental review and submitted. The city will need to go through the procurement process which will include a lot of paperwork. Several proposals will need to be reviewed by city council. Amanda explained that is council does not agree to putting in a pickleball court it is possible to change the scope of project as long as council is able to show reason and proof of change. Cm, Thurman asked if there were any requirements for this grant. Amanda stated that yes, there were a lot of requirements that were met including letters of support, the community income survey, and multiple reports submitted by clerk Swensen.

Cm, Vawser made a motion to sign the contract and assign Cm, Thurman as a council contact.
Cm, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 5 Forsgren Engineers

Aaron stopped by to check on the progress at the 1st South drainage project before the meeting. Cm, Vawser has concerns about this project not being complete. The river rock used has created a very rough surface and will cause the residents to circle all the way around it to get to their shed. It needs to be

compacted by the resident's shop. Mayor Spencer has talked to the residents about bringing in some smaller rock which will make the surface smooth for crossing over. Cm, Vawser is also concerned about the elevation where the two gutters out in front of the old Harris residence. They seem to be higher than before the project and could cause pooling of water in that area. The engineer and Mayor Spencer will go assess the situation.

Aaron updated council on the Sewer Facility Planning Study. He has made some updates to the costs. Aaron reviewed the 3 different options including, rehabbing the existing lagoons, Mechanical Treatment plant, or do nothing. The do-nothing option is a required option when doing an FPS.

Another option they often look at is called regionalized systems which would require pumping everything out of town to another facility like Grace, Lava, or Soda. Aaron informed council that this is not feasible. The mechanical treatment option would cost approximately 12 million and the city would have to be staffed with a level 4 operator. The O&M on a mechanical plant is a substantial cost.

The general cost without any plans on rehabbing the lagoons is about 6 million dollars. The city may be able to reign in the costs once we get into the designs. If the city is able to rehab less cells, the cost will less. We can discuss whether or not we need to rehab call three cells once we get further into designs. This price includes lift station upgrades and possibly adding aeration to the system due to the black liner holding everything in and not letting anything leak into the ground. The costs generally go up as more time goes by.

Aaron informed council that the deadline for the DEQ funding is approaching and the letter of intent will need to be in. Amanda suggested that the city put in an LOI this year, but cautioned that DEQ only has 10 million dollars to invest across the state. The intent will be a demonstration of need, so the state can gather the data and see where the need is. Amanda suggested the city put in to show the need. We will discuss debt authority and figure out how the city wants to proceed. The city can gather available funding as we go. The state will look at how everyone is sitting as far as needs. There are not a lot of funding options right now. The city will need to set up meetings in the future to discuss debt authority but this doesn't have to be done in order to put in the LOI. Amanda informed council that it is competitive for funding, but we can put in for the LOI. The LOI is due the first or second week of January. Resident, Mike Ackerman asked what the cost is to put in an LOI. Aaron stated that it doesn't cost to submit an LOI.

Cm, Eric Christensen made a motion to put in for the LOI.

Cm, Trevor Parsons 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Aaron will get the paperwork ready and send it back when it is complete.

Item: 6 Tara Nelson- Lund Road Safety Concerns

Tara has concerns about vehicles speeding as they come into town off of Lund Road. The speed limit is currently 25 mph but vehicles and trucks are going 40 to 55 mph. Tara told council about several situations she and her neighbors have witnessed. Tara is worried that someone is going to get hurt if something is not done. Kids are crossing the road from the school and from the church to get to the store. Deborah Hill suggested putting up additional signage to slow traffic more gradually as they come into town from Lund Road.

Tara is concerned that grain trucks are going at least 40 MPH and are also using their Jake Breaks to slow down instead of shifting down. Tara commented that most towns have a compression brake prohibited sign and codes in place for this issue.

Tara feels like the only thing that is going to work is for citations to be issued.

Resident, Nissel Baker had a high school boy pass her going very fast as she slowed down to enter city limits. Nissel followed him to the local school. Tara is worried that kids playing on the school football field will get hit chasing a ball into the road eventually.

Cm, Eric Christensen suggested putting a dip across the road.

Cm, Trevor Parsons suggested working with the county and installing more signs to gradually slow the traffic coming off of Lund Road.

Council discussed re-installing the speed bumps but concluded they are not the correct type of speed bump for that road or condition.

Tara asked if there is any reason why our county police officers cannot patrol these streets. Council explained that they do patrol Bancroft streets, but cannot set designated time here due to not having a contract. A contract could be upwards of 80k. Mayor Spencer commented that the deputies go through Bancroft but do not spend a lot of time here, due to the having a large area to cover.

Mayor Spencer will contact the county about installing a reduced speed ahead sign and the city will put in a 25 MPH sign in city limits.

Tara asked if it would help to contact the grainery regarding the excessive use of jake brakes and speeding. Council explained that trucks going there are privately owned and not the responsibility of the business owner.

Cm, Vawser suggested Tara do a citizen citation to get the counties attention.

Nissell stated that she has done this several times and is aware of how it works.

Nissell asked if the city could declare the section of road by the football field a school zone.

Deborah Hill stated that the kids are using the streets for PE class and the streets are not safe.

Nissell Baker commented that the teenagers are doing 40 mph through town and the city needs to reduce the speed in school zones for the safety of the kids.

Maintenance workers stated that they just got the new 25 mph signs in the last couple days and will get them put up. Council will further discuss signage and lowering speed in school zones.

Item: 7 Building Permits

Jake Barfuss-Shed

Jake wants to put a portable shed in his back yard. Jake has located the gas and sewer lines. With the new gate he will be 6 feet from the fence instead of 8. Jake will get permission from his neighbor for the fence distance if needed. Council would like to table the permit and make sure the neighbor has approved the distance from the fence.

William Chacon-Building Permit

Council reviewed and discussed the floor plans submitted by Servpro Company.

Mayor Spencer spoke with Servpro regarding the renovation plans.

Cm, Jessica Vawser motioned to approve the building permit contingent upon fees being paid in full.

Cp, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 8 Amend Title 5 Relating to Livestock-Repeal Sections Relating to Existing Uses and the Grandfather Clause; Provide for the Publication by Summary and Dispense with reading on three separate occasions, Providing an effective date.

Cm, Jessie Vawser would like to clarify that this amendment will remove the grandfather clause and no longer allow bee hives. The city attorney stated that this amendment will remove previously existing uses that have allowed animals in restricted zones due to the grandfather clause. Bee hives will not be allowed going forward. Cm, Vawser asked about the section discussing poultry and commented that the city has a chicken ordinance that allows 15 chickens and no roosters. Cm, Parsons suggested leaving poultry in and just referencing the chicken ordinance.

Resident, Nissell Baker asked council if this amendment will make it so the city cannot allow a case-by-case permit for certain circumstances. Mayor Spencer explained that this amendment will remove the grandfather clause that has allowed people to have unauthorized animals in zones that do not allow them going forward. Nissell asked council why someone with a smaller lot is allowed to have 15 chickens. Cm, Jessie Vawser explained that the code states that if the animals become a nuisance for neighbors the city has the right to put restrictions on the owner. Resident Baker asked why the current chicken ordinance isn't written to allow so many chickens per square foot of land. Nissell commented that it is animal

cruelty if chickens are contained in small containers on small lots because they are not being properly cared for. Nissell commented that she has a larger lot than most people in Bancroft but is limited to the number of chickens she can have due to city code. Cm, Parsons mentioned that chickens were not an issue when the code was implemented but due to covid restrictions and hardship to buy eggs, the city passed the ordinance quickly to allow residents a way to produce eggs. Mayor Spencer suggested that Nissell submit a Special Use application to the city for council review. The city attorney advised the city to leave poultry in the new code and just reference the existing chicken ordinance. These codes can be easily updated as needed. The attorney will make the wording changes and send the revised copy when completed.

Cm, Eric Christensen read the new ordinance in full. The city will publish the title summary and have copies available for review.

The city attorney informed council that the city has jurisdiction to define the speed limit in the school zones and pass a compression brakes ordinance if they chose.

Cm, Trevor Parsons made a motion to approve the amended code Title 5

Cm, Jessica Vawser 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Roll Call Vote Showed the Following:

Trevor Parsons = YES

Jessica Vawser = YES

Eric Christensen = YES

Jessica Thurman = YES

Item: 9 Review Bids for Electrical Panel Repairs

Mayor Spencer advised council that Perk's Electric has not turned in an estimate on the electrical panel and the other company was not comfortable with bidding the job. Bear River Electric is the only company that submitted a bid.

Resident, Mike Ackerman asked if this is an industrial control panel with contactors and relays. Mayor Spencer explained that it is has wireless remote that notifies the city of water levels. Cm, Parsons would like to have another bid. Mayor Spencer suggested waiting to see if Perk's will submit a bid.

Item: 10 Council & Staff Reports

Mayor Spencer commented that he was pleased with the attendance for the Lighting of Teuscher Square. The high school kids that helped and wore costumes had a lot of fun and want to help again next year. The polar bear costume got a broken zipper and will need repairs. Clerk Swensen will take it to a seamstress this week. Caribou Memorial did a great job fund raising for the fire department. Donations for burgers and hot dogs totaled \$653.00.

Item: 11 Estimate Review-2009 Chevy Truck

Mayor Spencer asked if council had a chance to review the three bids sent to their emails. The insurance company has sent a check for their estimated cost of repairs. If the repair cost is more than the reimbursement check, the insurance will then work with the autobody shop on the difference. Cm, Parsons asked council what they thought about using the money from the insurance company to purchase a new truck due to possible mechanical issues in the future. Council looked over the estimates and asked maintenance if lights are on the dash. Maintenance stated that most of the lights are on. Council will continue discussing if they want to repair the truck or purchase a different one after talking more the insurance company about possible mechanical issues. Mayor Spencer asked if the red utility truck is still running. Maintenance stated that it will run but is also running rough. Cm, Parsons suggested talking to the individual about covering more of the costs since the truck has mechanical issues now. Cm, Parsons suggested getting maintenance a newer crew crab so water samples etc. can be put in the back and heated.

Mayor Spencer informed council that the estimate for demo and reconstruction of Potter shop is high and not currently feasible. SICOG has recommended the city wait for a larger grant opportunity that will cover more of the cost. The city will continue to look for grants.

Cm, Vawser asked maintenance to throw away old decorations and garbage in the Potter Shop to keep rodents away. Mayor Spencer asked maintenance to throw away the old fridges, stoves, and scrap metal.

Cm, Vawser asked about several utility accounts and their status. Clerk Swensen informed council that for the most part, utility accounts are in good shape. Council discussed options for collecting the unpaid balance on a few accounts.

Maintenance worker Moreland is concerned about the noise coming from the pumps at the lift station.

Adjournment

Cm, Jessica Vawser made a motion to adjourn the regular council meeting and enter Executive Session, Idaho Code 74-206 (f) To Communicate with legal counsel regarding litigation.

Cp, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

A roll call vote was taken to enter Executive Session. All in Favor = Yes.

Jessie Vawser = YES, Eric Christensen = YES, Jessica Thurman = YES, Trevor Parsons = YES

Cm, Jessica Vawser made a motion to end executive session and enter back into the regular meeting.

Cp, Eric Christensen 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment

Cm, Trevor Parsons made a motion to end regular council meeting.

Cm, Jessica Vawser 2nd the motion. Motion passed 4-0.



Recorded by: ds
City Clerk /Debbie Swensen

1/12/2026
Date Accepted by Council


Mayor, LuCus H. Spencer