

City Council Meeting - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, January 14, 2025)

Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Friday, January 10, 2025

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mayor - Norma L. Hernández

Council Members – Paul Jessup; Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams; Heather Schermann; Monica Boyle

Staff- City Administrator, Mike Rizzitiello; Finance Director, Brian Carleton; City Attorney, Rea Culwell; Public Works Director, Robert McAndrews; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia;

Also Present - Zach Ratkai, Angie Peters

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None.

2. Consent Agenda.

Action (Consent): 2.01 AB 25001 - Approve Agenda for January 14, 2025.

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.02 AB 25002 - Approve Council Minutes from December 10, 2024.

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.03 AB 25003 - Approve Council Workshop Minutes from January 7, 2025.

Action (Consent): 2.04 AB 25004 - Rescheduling of November 11, 2025 Council Meeting.

Action (Consent): 2.05 AB 25005 - Cancellation of June 3 Council Workshop.

Action (Consent): 2.06 AB 25006 - 2025 Council and Commission Schedules.

Action (Consent): 2.07 AB 25007 - 2025 Confirmation of Re-appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Action (Consent): 2.08 AB 25008 - Appointment Confirmation of Michael Laizure to the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission.

Action (Consent): 2.09 AB 25009 - Appointment Confirmation of Victor Valerio to the Planning Commission.

Action (Consent): 2.10 AB 25010 - Appointment Confirmation of Brandon Stepper to the Planning Commission.

Action (Consent): 2.11 Approve Consent Agenda - Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Council by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through previous review either during the budget process, at a workshop, or by subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Council Members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Council Member.

Mayor Hernández thanked all volunteers for their admirable service.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 7-0.

3. Presentations.

Information: 3.01 AB 25011 - Martin Luther King Jr Day Proclamation - Mayor Hernández

Mayor Hernández delivered the annual Martin Luther King Jr Day Proclamation to Council and encouraged all residents to reflect on Dr. King's teachings and seek to put them into action through service to our community.

4. Public Hearings - None.

Procedural: 4.01 Procedure for Public Testimony- None.

5. Action Items.

Action: 5.01 AB 25012 - Adoption of FY 2025 to 2035 Strategic Plan - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello described the process the Council and community went through to arrive at the 5 priority areas that will inform the next ten years of City progress and work. Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed with Council the final Strategic Plan completed by Sageland Strategic and presented at the 1/7/2025 Council Workshop.

Council Member Jessup made a motion to adopt Ordinance 25-001 which adopts the FY 2025 to 2035 Strategic Plan and permits this document to replace the hyperlinked plan in CPMC 2.10.10. Second by Member Cleveland and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.02 AB 25013 - Contract Amendment for Post Office Crosswalk Engineering - Mr. McAndrews

Mr. McAndrews informed the Council of a delay to the Post Office Crosswalk Engineering Project after the City was made aware that aspects of the WSDOT funding needed additional review and approval before funding could be obligated and eligible for reimbursement as well as changes to and challenges with the project. Mr. McAndrews predicted the project will be complete by third week of January. Mr. Rizzitiello described efforts the City is taking to mitigate similar issues in the future. Mayor Hernández commended the Public Works department for their diligence and the improved safety of the street with the addition of the crosswalk.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Espinoza made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director or designee to sign Authorization for Contract Amendment increasing the authorized fee for the Post Office Crosswalk Project by \$30,4000 bringing the new total to \$69,030. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.03 AB 25014 - Resolution to Accept State Department of Health Consolidation Feasibility Study Grant - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council of the City being awarded a Consolidation Feasibility Study Grant which will determine potential solutions to consolidating multiple irrigation districts within the City. Mr. Rizzitiello described the challenges with private roads and private utilities, and noted that the Villages of Garrison Creek were not built to City standards. Mr. McAndrews reassured Council that future phases will be built to code.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Cleveland made a motion to accept Resolution 25-001 which permits the City Administrator to sign State Department of Health Contract #GVL30999-0 Consolidation Feasibility Study. Second by Member Espinoza and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.04 AB 25015 - Resolution to Award Architectural Design Agreement to Design West Architects for Lions Park Community Center Replacement Structure. - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed with Council the previously presented Architectural Design Agreement with Design West. Mr. Rizzitiello stated the County was the first investor in the project and reviewed project scope, concept, funding, and timeline. Council Member Cleveland requested the City investigate storage. Mr. Rizzitiello agreed but indicated the high water table at Lions Park will likely make having a basement in that structure impossible.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to accept Resolution 25-002 which permits the City Administrator to sign agreement with Design West Architects for Architectural Design Services for the replacement Lions park Community Center Building. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.05 AB 25016 - Blue Mountain Humane Society Contract - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello presented to Council the proposed 2025 Blue Mountain Humane Society Contract and specified changes made to the contract since the 1/7/2025 Council Workshop including requesting an annual contract update as opposed to allowing another seven years until the next update. Mayor Hernández reinforced the work and

necessity of the City's partnership with BMHS. Council Member Williams requested the City explore emergency management procedures with BMHS.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Boyle made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to sign the 2025 contract with the Blue Mountain Humane Society for a one-year term. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.06 AB 25017 - Blue Mountain Action Council Low-Income Discount Program Screening - Mr. Carleton
Mr. Carleton informed the Council of changes to the Low-Income Discount Program Screening with Blue Mountain Action Council since the 1/7/2025 Council Workshop. Mr. Carleton described how the City handling the sensitive information will incur more cost for the City. Mr. Rizzitiello agreed to follow up with BMAC at the end of the year for data on the success of the program. Mayor Hernández commended BMAC for their efforts and service, and requested a representative from both BMAC and Blue Mountain Humane Society be present for the follow up conversation and contract.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Cleveland made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to sign the BMAC contract for 2025. Second by Member Schermann and the motion passed 7-0.

Action: 5.07 AB 25018 - Utility Discount Code - Mr. Carleton
Mr. Carleton expressed the City's desire to increase program participation from 125% of the poverty line to 150%, thereby allowing more households to be eligible for the program. Mr. Carleton identified that social media and the newsletter will be the primary modes of communication with the public and will encourage households that are falling behind on their utility bills to apply for the program.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Cleveland made a motion to approve Ordinance 25-002 updating the Utility Discount Program. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 7-0.

6. Administrative Reports.

Information: 6.01 AB 25019 - Economic Development Flyers for FY 2025 - Mr. Rizzitiello
Mr. Rizzitiello presented four Economic Development Data Marketing flyers to the Commission which, if approved by Council, will be distributed to desirable businesses at upcoming conferences. The flyers highlighted College Place as a whole, the Downtown District, the Meadowbrook and Stone Creek District, and the Myra Road District. Mr. Rizzitiello described projects that are predicted to be impacted by state funding.

Discussion Ensued.

Information: 6.02 AB 25020 - Resolution of Support for Records Index Relating to Departments - Ms. Culwell
Ms. Culwell informed the Council of the City's efforts to mitigate risk through legislation declaring the creation of any and all indexes to be unduly burdensome.

Discussion Ensued.

Information: 6.04 AB 25021 - Indigent Defense Service - Proposed Contract with Ponti Law, LLC - Ms. Culwell

Ms. Culwell informed the Council that Lemons Law was contracted to provide indigent criminal defense services to the City and has decided not to renew the agreement. Mr. Rizzitiello contacted Ponti Law who delivered a proposal. Ms. Culwell stated that information since the agenda item was created which will be reviewed and presented to Council at the next Council meeting. Council Member Williams requested the City explore other legal help such as paralegals and new law students.

Discussion Ensued.

7. Informational Reports - Mayor Hernández informed the Council of upcoming Association of Washington Cities trainings the Council Members are eligible for and encouraged Council to go to trainings if possible.

8. Executive Session - None.

9. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 9.01 Good of the Order?

Council Member Jessup commended Mayor Hernández for connecting with school systems and attending College Place Public School's math symposium.

Action: 9.02 Conclusion - Motion to Conclude the Meeting.

Council Member Boyle made a motion to conclude the meeting at 8:31 PM. Second by Member Cleveland and with no objection, the meeting concluded.

Approved:

Signed by:

Norma L. Hernández

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Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:

Signed by:

Maryelizabeth Garcia

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Maryelizabeth E. Garcia – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council meeting that occurred January 14, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.