City Council Meeting - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, September 23, 2025)
Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Friday, September 19, 2025

1. Opening Items.
Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mayor -	Norma L. Hernández
Council Members –	David Lopez; Tito Espinoza; Loren Peterson; Heather Schermann;
Staff-	City Attorney, Eric Ferguson; Community Development Director, Jon Rickard; Senior Planner, Michael Maret; Finance Director, Brian Carleton; HR Manager, Shawn Doering; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia; Senior Planner, Michael Maret; Capital Facility Director, Mike Holden;
Also Present -	Spencer Montgomer, J-U-B Engineers; E. David Lopez, Council Candidate; John Haid; Council Candidate; Jordan Green, Council Candidate;
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Michael Cleveland; Melodie Williams; Monica Boyle
MEMBERS ABSENT:	

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None.

2. Consent Agenda.
Action (Consent): 2.01 AB 25232 - Approve Agenda for September 23, 2025.
Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.02 AB 25233 - Approve Council Minutes from September 9, 2025.
Action (Consent): 2.03 AB 25234 - Appointment Confirmation of Lindsey Skie to the Historic Preservation Commission.
Action (Consent): 2.04 AB 25235 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Boyle
Action (Consent): 2.05 AB 25236 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Cleveland
Action (Consent): 2.06 AB 25247 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Williams
Action (Consent): 2.07 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.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Second by Council Member Peterson and the motion passed 4-0.

3. Presentations.
Discussion, Information: 3.01 AB 25237 - Week Without Driving Proclamation - Mayor Hernández
Mayor Hernández delivered the Week Without Driving Proclamation. Attendee Vicki Ostrander spoke on behalf of ACAC and commended ADA and bicycle options in the Walla Walla Valley.

Discussion, Information: 3.02 AB 25238 - Walla Walla County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan - Ms. Jackle & Ms. Finkes
Ms. Jackle and Ms. Finkes reviewed with Council the legislative requirements for fulfilling obligations for the 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan, discussed the homeless housing crisis response system, and provided the draft 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan. Ms. Jackle requested someone on Council serve on their Committee, which is also a requirement, and Council Member Espinoza agreed to serve on the committee.

Discussion Ensued.

Discussion, Information: 3.03 AB 25239 - Council and Mayor Salaries - Ms. Garcia
Ms. Garcia provided a brief overview of Council and Mayor Salary updates, and discussed the process for creating a Salary Commission for elected officials.

Discussion Ensued.

Discussion, Information: 3.04 AB 25240 - 2026 Preliminary Budget Revenues - Mr. Carleton
Mr. Carleton presented the 2026 Preliminary Budget Revenues, citing revenue concerns and outlining major revenue sources.

Discussion Ensued.

4. Public Hearings.
Procedural: 4.01 Procedure for Public Testimony
Procedural: 4.02 AB 25241 - De-Annexation - Blue Mountain Resources LLC, 329 SW 12th St - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard informed the Council that Blue Mountain Resources LLC has acquired the property at 329 SW 12th Street which currently has a zoning of Single Family Residential, but wishes to continue operating as a farm without the pressure to develop the land. This was first introduced at the August 26, 2025 Council Meeting.

Discussion Ensued.

Mayor Hernández opened the Public Hearing at 8:30 PM.

Testimony: Mr. Frazer Moore and Ms. Amanda Martina of Blue Mountain Land Trust provided background information about the farm and reinforced the desire to continue using the property for agricultural purposes.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:29 PM. Second by Council Member Peterson and the motion passed 4-0.

Procedural: 4.03 AB 25242 - Annexation - Handely Daniel Lynn Trust - 325 NE Della Ave - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard reviewed with Council a property within city limits, located at 325 NE Della Avenue, which has requested to be annexed into the City and will be zoned as Single Family Residential. The property owner intends to build a duplex on the property. This was also first introduced at the August 26, 2025 Council Meeting.

Mayor Hernández opened the Public Hearing at 8:42 PM.

Testimony: None.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:44 PM. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 4-0.

5. Action Items.
Action: 5.01 AB 25243 - De-Annexation - Blue Mountain Resources LLC, 329 SW 12th St - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard referred to the previous De-Annexation discussion and recommended that Council pass the Ordinance as presented.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-007, an ordinance of the City of College Place, Washington, providing for the de-annexation of certain agricultural property located within the territorial limits of the City of College Place, and more particularly shown in Exhibit A of the ordinance. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 4-0.

Action: 5.02 AB 25244 - Annexation - Handely Daniel Lynn Trust - 325 NE Della Ave - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard referred to the previous Annexation discussion and recommended that Council pass the Ordinance as presented.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-008, an ordinance of the City of College Place, Washington, providing for the annexation of certain property located

within the territorial limits of Walla Walla County, and more particularly shown in Exhibit A of the ordinance. Second by Council Member Peterson and the motion passed 4-0.

Action: 5.03 AB 25245 - SE 8th Street Birch to Larch Sidewalk Project - Mr. Holden
Mr. Holden described challenges to the 8th Street Sidewalk Project and the timeline. Mr. Holden stated there were 8 bidders, and ESF Solutions was selected to complete the project, which will provide safe passage to Lions Park.

Council Member Espinoza made a motion to award the SE 8th Street Birch to Larch Sidewalk Project to ESF Solutions in the amount of $347,222.00 with a 20% contingency for a total contract amount of $416,666.40 and authorized the Public Works Director or Designee to sign Notice of Intent to Award and all project contract documents, and approve any additional work within the 20% contingency. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 4-0.

Action: 5.04 AB 25246 - JUB Contract Amendment for 6th St and Birch Ave. Project - Mr. Holden
Mr. Holden updated Council on changes to the 6th Street and Birch Avenue Project which has grown in scope and cost. Mr. Holden believes College Place inspectors will provide much of the project oversight and inspections, hopefully bringing the total project cost down in the end.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to approve contract amendment with JUB Engineering for the 6th Street and Birch Avenue Improvements Project, increasing the current authorized contract by $530,000 from $197,000 to $727,000.00, and authorizing the Public Works Director or Designee to sign contract documents. Second by Council Member Peterson and the motion passed 4-0.

6. Administrative Reports - None.

7. Informational Reports.
Information: 7.01 CPPD Monthly Report
Information: 7.02 Community Development Department Monthly Report

8. Closing Items.
Discussion, Information: 8.01 Good of the Order?

Action: 8.02 Conclusion - Motion to Conclude the Meeting.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to conclude the meeting at 8:59 PM. Second by Council Member Schermann 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 September 23, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.