

City Council Meeting - Hybrid (In-Person & Online) (Wednesday, November 12, 2025)

Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Friday, November 7, 2025

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

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

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Chair Mayor, Norma L. Hernández

Council Members David Lopez; Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams; Heather Schermann;

Staff Finance Director, Brian Carleton; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia; Community Development Director, Jon Rickard; Public Works Director, Robert McAndrews; City Attorney, Eric Ferguson; Also Present: Gayle See, CPPS; Corey Davis, CPPS; Royce Davis, Jacobs; Brian Hanson, Anderson Perry & Associates

MEMBERS Monica Boyle

EXCUSED:

MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - Mr. Donald Olgy of 1124 W Pine Street in Walla Walla addressed the Council on behalf of Visit Walla Walla for the Scenic Bikeways Route. Mr. Olgy asked for Council support in the form of a letter for their application, which will be in part selected based on stakeholder participation. The application deadline is November 30, 2025. Mayor Hernández agreed to get a letter to the organization.

2. Consent Agenda.

Action (Consent): 2.01 AB 25288 - Approve Agenda for November 12, 2025

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.02 AB 25289 - Approve Council Minutes from October 28, 2025

Action (Consent): 2.03 AB 25290 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Boyle

Action (Consent): 2.04 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 Williams and the motion passed 6-0.

3. Presentations.

Information: 3.01 AB 25291 - Veterans Day Proclamation - Mayor Hernández

Mayor Hernández delivered the annual Veteran's Day Proclamation.

Information: 3.02 AB 25292 - College Place High School Scholarship Fund - Ms. See & Mr. Davis

Ms. Gayle See and Mr. Corey Davis from College Place High School presented to Council on the new CPHS Scholarship Fund which aims to raise \$12,000 by December 31 for local youth seeking higher education. Mayor Hernández previously agreed to host a fundraising goal sign in the City Hall lobby, and authorized staff to help with fundraising efforts through graphic design, on social media, and in the newsletter.

4. Public Hearings.

Procedural: 4.01 Procedure for Public Testimony

Discussion, Procedural: 4.02 AB 25293 - Fiscal Year 2026 Property Tax Levy Hearing - Mr. Carleton

Mr. Carleton gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 Property Tax Levy. Mr. Carleton explained tax increases to facilitate increased costs, and reviewed forecasted revenue sources.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Hernández opened the Public Hearing at 7:56 PM.

Testimony: None.

Council Member Cleveland made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:57 PM. Second by Council Member Williams and the motion passed 6-0.

Information: 4.03 AB 25294 - Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget Hearing - Mr. Carleton

Mr. Carleton gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Mr. Carleton reviewed key assumptions and reported the need for draw downs. Mr. Carleton reported the budget will be available in the next couple days on the website.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Hernández opened the Public Hearing at 8:34 PM.

Testimony: None.

Council Member Williams made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:35 PM. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.

5. Executive Session.

Discussion: 5.01 AB 25295 - Adjourn to Executive Session Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i) and RCW 42.30.110 (iii).
The Council adjourned to Executive Session.

Mayor Hernández opened the Executive Session at 8:31 PM.

The Council discussed potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW 42.30.110 (iii)

Mayor Hernández called the Regular Meeting back to order at 8:51 PM.

6. Action Items.

Action: 6.01 AB 25296 - Lions Park Improvements - Mr. Rickard

Mr. Rickard reviewed previous work on Lions Park and requested additional funds to complete the project.

Council Member Williams made a motion to increase the Lions Park Improvement Project contingency amount by \$180,000.00 for a total construction dollar amount not to exceed \$6,538,000.00. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 6.02 AB 25297 - Contract Amendment No. 10 for WWTP Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services - Mr. McAndrews & Mr. Davis

Mr. McAndrews presented the annual contract renewal with Jacobs for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services, and noted an increase of 16% due to increased electricity costs and staff wages at Jacobs.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Espinoza made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment No. 10 to the Agreement for Operations Maintenance and Management Services for CH2M to operate the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Second by Council Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 6.03 AB 25298- Ordinance Establishing Council & Mayor Salary Commission - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia presented to Council an Ordinance establishing a City of College Place Council & Mayor Salary Commission.

Council Member Williams made a motion to adopt Ordinance #25-010 establishing a College Place City Council Salary Commission. Second by Council Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 6.04 AB 25299 - Resolution Declaring Certain Events as Official Community Events - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia informed the Council that since 2022, cities are recommended to issue a Resolution that cites which events it financially supports for auditing purposes.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-056 which certifies Official Community Events for Fiscal Year 2026. Second by Council Member Williams and the motion passed 6-0.

7. Administrative Reports.

Information: 7.01 AB 25300 - FY 2026 LTAC Funding Recommendations to City Council - Mr. Peterson & Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia presented the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission funding recommendations outlining the publication of requests for proposals, the proposals received, the estimated Fund 130 Hotel/Motel Tax balance, and the recommendation to fund eight of the nine applications as indicated by the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission.

Information: 7.02 AB 25301 - Halloween Recap - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia reviewed the Halloween Trunk or Treat event and noted the historic attendance for a City event.

Information: 7.03 AB 25302 - 2025 Winterfest Plans - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia reviewed the plans for the upcoming Winterfest event.

8. Informational Reports - None.

9. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 9.01 Good of the Order?

Mayor Hernández requested Council be in-person at the December 9 Council Meeting for a group photo.

Council Member Williams requested a table for elected officials at the 2025 Winterfest event.

Mayor Hernández requested an update about the Comprehensive Plan process.

Action: 9.02 Conclusion - Motion to Conclude the Meeting.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to conclude the meeting at 9:22 PM. Second by Council Member Williams and, with no objection, the meeting adjourned.

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 Special City Council Meeting that occurred November 12, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.