



**CITY OF WASHOUGAL
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Monday, January 26, 2026
5:00 PM**

MEETING INFORMATION

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84697336600>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem David Fritz, Councilmembers Michelle Wagner, Marty Swofford; Tia Robertson & Ernie Suggs (ZOOM)

Mayor David Stuebe via ZOOM at 5:39 PM.

Student Representative: Jake Larzalere

Staff:

David Scott, City Manager

Joe Walsh, Community Services & Strategy Director

Daniel Layer, Finance Director/City Clerk

Mitch Kneipp, Community Development Director (ZOOM)

Zane Freschette, Police Chief (ZOOM)

Monie Holmes, Assistant Finance Director (ZOOM)

Teresa Stedman, Human Resources Director (ZOOM)

Amanda Goulding, Assistant City Clerk & Accounting Specialist

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. William Carter wished everyone a great Council year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Police: *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Innovation Fund 2026-27 NOFO — Chief Zane Freschette***

Chief Zane Feschette presented the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Innovation Fund 2026-27:

- About the Grant
- Purpose of the Request
- What is TruNarc?
- The Benefits
- Impacts on the City
- Training & Oversight
- Public Comment Opportunity

Discussion ensued with Council and Chief Zane.

B. Community Services & Strategy: 2026 Community Survey — Joe Walsh

Joe Walsh presented the **2026 Community Survey**:

- What is the Community Survey & Why is it Done?
- Standard & Tailored Questions
- Specific Projects
 - Community Branding
 - Gauging Support for a Metropolitan Parks District
 - Weighing Trade-offs between Tab Fees & 0.2% Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Sales Tax

Discussion ensued with Council, Student Representative Larzalere, Joe Walsh & David Scott.

C. City Clerk: Briefing on Council Appointment Process — Daniel Layer

Daniel Layer presented the Briefing on the **Council Appointment Process**:

- Rules of Procedure, Section 8
- Interview Questions
- Selection of the Councilmember
- Oath of Office

Discussion ensued with Council, Daniel Layer and David Scott.

Mayor Stuebe requested a time limit: 2 minutes per question.

Council requested an executive session after the last candidate is interviewed.

V. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. CITY MANAGER

David Scott deferred.

B. MAYOR

Mayor Stuebe remarked that he enjoyed hosting all that came to Olympia. Deferred report.

C. CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Wagner will attend the Arts Commission meeting on January 28 and noted plans to attend the Regional Parks meeting on February 5 via Zoom. She also reported attending meetings in Olympia, describing the experience as productive and informative. Councilmember Wagner expressed appreciation for the Mayor's leadership and advocacy on behalf of cities in Southwest Washington, noting the Mayor's strong engagement with legislators. Gratitude was also extended to city staff for their effective work in advancing projects and grant writing, and she expressed optimism regarding the progress of current legislative efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Fritz expressed appreciation for the strong community turnout at the memorial service for Councilmember Molly Coston and thanked those who organized and spoke at the event, noting it was a meaningful and touching tribute. He encouraged support for local small businesses, including Takumi Co Japanese Restaurant, noting its quality food, service, and ambiance; as well as À La Mud Ceramics Studio, a recently opened ceramics studio offering classes and studio space. Mayor Pro Tem Fritz emphasized the value of unique, creative local businesses and expressed interest in seeing similar creative outlets in the community in the future. He encouraged all to vote on the Washougal School District renewal levies. Tomorrow, he will attend the Washougal Business Association at the Puffin Café at 4 PM.

Student Representative Larzalere shared that his trip to Olympia was positive and educational, and expressed pride in the city's mayor and legislators. Appreciation was extended to staff for their strong work on projects and for effectively briefing legislators. He noted the upcoming Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Retail Competition on January 30 at Lower Columbia College, and that the high school semester is nearing completion. He also highly encouraged community members to cast their vote on the Washougal School District levies.

Councilmembers Swofford, Robertson & Suggs deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Fritz adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Monday, February 9, 2026 — Workshop at 5:00 PM & Council at 7:00 PM.

David Stuebe

Mayor

Daniel Loyer

City Clerk