



**CITY OF WASHOUGAL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, December 2, 2024
7:00 PM**



MEETING INFORMATION

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87432227784>

I. INVOCATION - Mike Hansen

Councilmember Ernie Suggs delivered the invocation in Mike Hansen's absence.

VIDEO II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Stuebe called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

None

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor David Stuebe and Councilmembers Michelle Wagner, David Fritz, Molly Coston, Julie Russell, Ernie Suggs, and Tia Robertson and Student Representative Emily Bishop

Staff:

David Scott, City Manager
Joe Walsh, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Robert Zeinemann, City Attorney
Daniel Layer, Finance Director/City Clerk
Wendi Steinbronn, Police Chief
Rose Jewell, Community Engagement Manager
Amanda Goulding, Assistant City Clerk & Accounting Specialist

V. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

VIDEO VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bonnie Taylor shared her concerns regarding recent sidewalk repairs on G Street.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions and resolutions. There will be no discussion on these items unless requested by Council. If discussion is requested, the item will be moved from the Consent Agenda and considered separately - after the motion has been made and passed to approve the remaining items.

Unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda as read. Suggs No objections.

A. Workshop Minutes of November 18, 2024

- B. Council Minutes of November 18, 2024**
- C. Payroll Claims of November 27, 2024, Totaling \$670,692.37**
- D. Accounts Payable of November 14-27, 2024 and September and October EFTs - Totaling \$5,898,124.32**
- E. Council Adoption: 2025 City Manager Goals**
Agenda Bill #55-2024
- F. Authorize the City Manager to Sign: Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Skamania County for Jail Services**
Agenda Bill #56-2024

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- VIDEO**
- A. Public Hearing/Resolution: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for Proposed 2025 CDBG Application for Sidewalk and Stormwater Improvements Phase 1**
Agenda Bill #57-2024

Joe Walsh presented the staff report and recommended action.

Mayor Stuebe opened the public hearing. Hearing no testimony, he closed the public hearing.

Motion: Pass and post the resolution in the usual manner.
Ernie Suggs/Molly Coston Motion Passed.

- VIDEO**
- B. Ordinance: Amending WMC 9.66 Camping in Public Spaces**
Agenda Bill #58-2024

Chief Wendi Steinbronn presented the staff report and recommended action.

Motion: Pass, post, and publish the ordinance in the usual manner.
Ernie Suggs/Molly Coston Motion Passed.

- VIDEO**
- C. Joint Resolution: Approving the Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan and placing it on April 2025 Ballot**
Agenda Bill #59-2024

David Scott presented the staff report providing the following information along with the recommended action.

- Proposed RFA Plan
 - Elements of the Plan
 - Transfer of Assets
 - Governance
 - Transition January 1, 2028
 - Organizational Structure
 - Standard of Cover
- Enhanced Services
 - 3-Person engine companies
 - No out-of-pocket expenses for ambulance service

- Property Tax Implications
 - Proposed rate
 - EMS Levy proceeds
 - Recommended coincident reduction
 - Projected tax levy
 - Current Levy Lids Lift for Fire/EMS no renewal after 2026 expiration
 - 2027 General Levy reduction
- Resolution adopts the RFA Plan and places the matter on the April 2025 Ballot
- Next Steps
 - Approve resolution this evening
 - April 22, 2025 Ballot: special election
 - May-August 2025 Transition planning
 - September 1, 2025 official effective date of RFA

Council discussion ensued regarding numerous committee meetings, the importance of voter input, unsustainability of the current model, cost drivers, transparency to voters, explanatory statement in the voters pamphlet, and JPAC's role to appoint the For and Against Committee.

Motion: Pass and post the resolution in the usual manner.

Ernie Suggs/Molly Coston Motion Passed.

D. Resolution: Expressing Intent to Reduce the General Property Tax Levy for 2026

Agenda Bill #60-2024

Daniel Layer presented the staff report and recommended action. Detailed information was provided during he RFA presentation.

Motion: Pass and post the resolution in the usual manner.

Ernie Suggs/Molly Coston Motion Passed.

E. Report of the Appointment Committee

Agenda Bill #61-2024

Mayor Stuebe and Councilmembers Coston and Wagner presented the recommendations of the Appointment Committee.

Councilmembers shared their thoughts regarding the recommendations.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Appointment Committee as presented.

Ernie Suggs/Molly Coston Motion Passed.

F. Select Mayor Pro tem

Councilmember Wagner nominated Councilmembers Molly Coston and David Fritz.

Councilmember Coston suggested David Fritz serve as a Mayor Pro Tem and withdrew her name as a nominee.

Councilmember Fritz accepted the nomination as Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion: To appoint Councilmember Fritz as Mayor Pro Tem for 2025.
Julie Russell/Ernie Suggs Motion Passed.

IX. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. CITY MANAGER

David Scott reported on the following:

- Christmas Parade on December 5th
- Contract signed for the town center construction project. Demolition of existing structure begins on December 9th
- Transportation Improvement Board Grant received for Shepherd Road near the Sandy Swimming Hole including sidewalks and bike lanes
- Scott Collin's presentation at the TIB regarding the 32nd Street railroad project
- Cancellation of the December 9th & 16th workshop and council meetings
- Phasing of the downtown improvements

B. MAYOR

Mayor Stuebe reported on the following:

- Update on the shooting in Camas
- Upcoming Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting
- Salvation Army Kettle Kick Off; trophy went to Camas
- Official cancellation of the 9th & 16th meetings since the business of 2024 is complete
- Kudos to the staff, council, and the community

C. CITY COUNCIL

Student Rep Bishop reported on Walk-n-Knock, Festival of the Trees, Stuff the Bus, and status of her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Councilmember Wagner thanked the leaders of the community and staff noting the projects and improvements throughout the city. The Hartwood Park mural for Suzanne Grover in cooperation with the Arts Commission, Parks Board, and WACA is underway. No Parks Board or Arts Commission meetings in December. Next Creative Arts District meeting is on 12/11 at 4 pm. She thanked ECCA for cleaning the trash on SR-14.

Councilmember Fritz reported on the Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Giving Tree at Tabitha Schmer's Office, UNITE Police Day Training on 12/13, and Christmas Ships at the Port.

Councilmember Robertson thanked the appointment committee and shared her bell ringing experience at Bi-Mart.

Councilmember Coston reported on her recent Meals-on-Wheels deliveries, Christmas Parade, Walk-n-Knock, Creative Arts District, Bell Ringing schedule, and gave an update on the Campanile fund raising.

Councilmember Russell discussed the ECHO meeting, Anytime Fitness's giving tree, LDS Church hygiene kits for the school district, mental health needs during the holidays, and the passing of her younger brother.

Councilmember Suggs announced the upcoming WHS concert, Festival of the Trees, Port

meeting, Christmas Ships on Saturday, Washougal School's Foundation status, meeting w/John Spencer and Rene Carroll regarding a Farmer's Market in Washougal, and complimented staff for their work in 2024.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - • Agency Enforcement and Potential Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); and Property Sale- RCW 42.30.110(1)(c): no action to follow

Mayor Stuebe announced the Executive Session at 8:38 expected to last for 10 minutes following a short restroom break until 8:52.

Rose and Daniel announced the extension of the Executive Session for an additional 5 minutes to 8:58 pm.

Regular meeting resumed at 8:58 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk