

CITY OF LYNDEN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING



February 18, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Korthuis called to order the February 18, 2025 regular session of the Lynden City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the city council chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilors Gary Bode, Lee Beld, Gary Vis, Brent Lenssen, Nick Laninga, Kyle Strengtholt, and Mark Wohlrab.

Members absent: None

Staff present: Police Chief Steve Taylor, Public Works Director Jon Hutchings, and City Clerk Pam Brown.

OATH OF OFFICE – Randy Humphreys promotion to Police Lieutenant.

SUMMARY REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Wohlrab moved and Councilor Lenssen seconded, to approve the February 3, 2025 regular council minutes. Motion approved on 7-0 vote.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Cynthia Ripke-Kutsagoitz, Lynden

- Community outreach re: VFW National Art Contest
- Lynden Library flyers in other languages
- Costs and construction of local housing

James Obermayer, Lynden

- Proposal from Lions Club of Lynden to create a process through the city in which newly constructed streets would be named after the fallen military veterans since World War I.



2. CONSENT

Mowing Lease Agreements (2025-2026)

Bids were solicited in November 2024 for a leasing opportunity of City owned property to cut and remove field grass at:

- 8600 Benson Rd (4.95 acres)
- West Lynden Detention Pond (13 acres)
- Heritage Park (1.6 acres)

One response was received from Bouma Farms Inc., for West Lynden Detention Pond property. The City reached out to the previous tenants of the other two properties who agreed to renew the lease for 2025-2026.

Pacific Surveying & Engineering Contract, Supplement No. 2

The scope of work for this contract supplement is to prepare final construction contract documents and assist the City with Construction Management for the Guide Meridian Water Main Extension project to be constructed in 2025. The Public Works Committee reviewed the supplement at their meeting on February 5, 2025, and recommended that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

Approve Right-Of-Way Plan for Bradley Road Improvements Project No. 2020-15

The Bradley Road Improvements Project No. 202-15 will widen the roadway and construct a ten-foot shared use path from Eastwood Way to Line Road. Council approval of the Right-of-Way plan is required to proceed with negotiations with property owners. The plan shows the proposed street design, affected parcels, amount of property (right-of-way) needed, and the type of acquisition (some areas are easements). The Public Works Committee reviewed the Right-of-Way plan and possession and use process at their meeting on February 5th and recommended approval by Council.

Parks Department – Maintenance Shop Addition Project Contract

The Parks Department proposed and reviewed the ability to complete the Maintenance Shop Addition Project that includes new office space for staff. HP Contracting LLC responded with a proposal for the small works project. The Administration, Public Works, and Parks Departments reviewed the updated proposal and drafted a small works project contract. The Parks Committee recommended forwarding it to full council for approval.

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3. PUBLIC HEARING – None.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. REPORTS

Councilor Bode, Public Works Committee, reviewed the draft public works meeting minutes.

Councilor Strengholt, Finance Committee, reported the discussion of the following:

- Reviewed OT
- Reviewed Sales Tax receipts – under budget and well behind 2022 and 2023
- Reviewed Claims – Finance is now publishing this information in the council packet
- Reviewed Berthusen Park Agreement
- Discussed General Fund balance

Councilor Vis reported that the Parks Committee minutes have not been included in the council packet.

Councilor Wohlrab, Public Safety Committee, reported the discussion of the following:

- Lynden School District Superintendent, David VanderYacht provided an overview of the School District's discussions around implementation of school impact fees
- Fire Department reported slight increase in number of calls
- Police Department reported slight increase in number of calls
- Police Officer trainee will soon be on solo patrol

Councilor Lenssen asked Council to consider the issues around the city's private streets both current and possibly future construction. He asks that council members provide feedback at the council work session scheduled February 27th. He would also like to include discussion on the city's street naming policy.

Councilor Lenssen will now only be available until 4:30 pm for the currently scheduled Public Works Committee meeting.

Councilor Vis asks that members of Council be willing to be open and candid concerning the private street issues.

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Councilor Wohlrab and Councilor Beld provided support for the Lion's Club proposal, provided during the public comment session, for the naming of city streets.

Payroll and Claims Reports – January 2025

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not hold an executive session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

February 18, 2025 regular session of the Lynden city council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Pamela Brown, City Clerk

Scott Korthuis, Mayor